



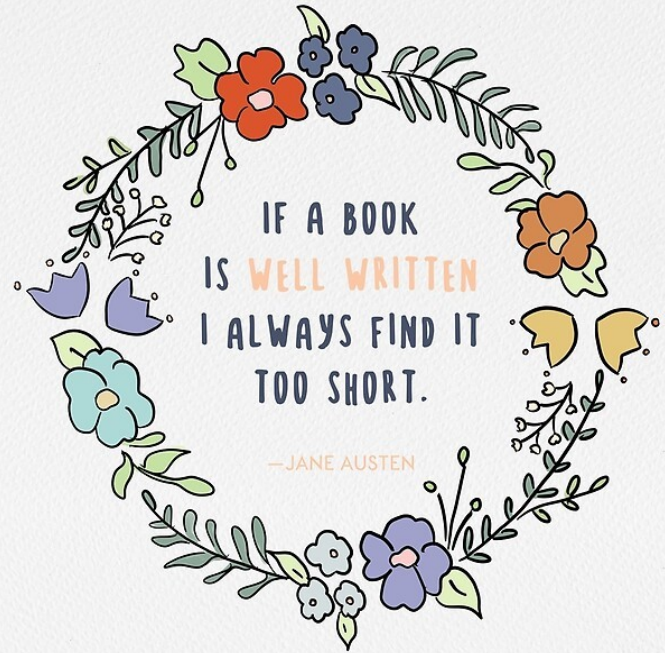
# Reading Newsletter

2021/2022 Issue 3

Can you believe how quickly this year is going? We are already in November! This month, we have carried out a children's reading survey to see what your views about reading are. Thank you to those of you who responded to the survey.

Key Stage 2 attended a virtual event with Alex T. Smith courtesy of the Kibworth Book Shop and Macmillan Children's Books. Alex T. Smith is the creator of Winston, a plucky, homeless young mouse, who first appears in his book *How Winston Delivered Christmas*, a heart-warming tale of bravery, kindness and unlikely friendships. We had a great session with him- thank you Alex!

Miss C :)



## Reading before and after lockdown

The National Literacy Trust recently carried out a study to see how the COVID 19 lockdown affected young people's reading. Here are some of the key findings:

1. Children are reading and enjoying reading more (47.8% pre-lockdown—55.9% post)
2. Children are reading more adventure, comedy and real-life stories.
3. Reading has supported children's mental health with 60% of children saying that it helped them to feel better during lockdown.

The above proves that reading really does rock!

# Author of the Month

# Alex T Smith

On Tuesday 9th November, KS2 met author and illustrator Alex T Smith and his trusty companion, Coco the Dog, in an online event on zoom organised by the wonderful Kibworth Bookshop. Alex is the author and illustrator of *Claude*, the extraordinary dog with an extraordinary life. However, on Tuesday, he got us into the Christmas spirit by inviting us to meet Winston. Winston is a homeless young mouse who is brave and kind and goes on some pretty cool adventures. We were lucky enough to hear a reading of Winston's latest adventure *How Winston Came Home for Christmas*.



*How Winston Came Home for Christmas* is a Christmas mystery written in 24-and-a-half chapters. It is a bit like an advent calendar in book form- there is one chapter to read every day of December in the lead up to Christmas. Each chapter has its very own festive activity for the family to enjoy together: crafting decorations; making Christmas food; discovering Christmas traditions from around the world and more.

The Kibworth Book Shop are offering all Kibworth Primary School children a **£2 discount** on Alex's new book by using the code **WINSTONXMAS21** when buying the books online. (Get in quick! The code expires on 23rd November).

## An Interview with Alex T Smith

### How long have you been writing for?

Ever since I could hold a pencil I have been writing stories or drawing pictures.

### What encouraged you to begin writing stories?

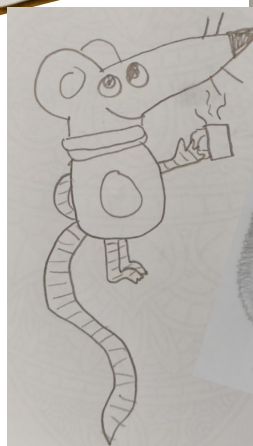
Every day, when I went to school, my Grandad would write me a story to read when I got home. He did this every day for four years. My favourite story he wrote me was actually a series of stories written in one of my favourite notebooks.

### What was your favourite book as a child?

The book I loved the most was *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*. I loved the illustrations in this book, but my favourite part in it is the fact that the little girl in the story went out for supper to a café in her pyjamas- how exciting and extra-ordinary!



We had a go at illustrating our very own Winston's!



# Recommended Read

This month I am recommending picture books for all phases. Picture books are fantastic reads: they often have fantastic morals; are always beautifully illustrated and are an enjoyment to read. What's more is that they offer the same level of challenge and story telling as chaptered novels!

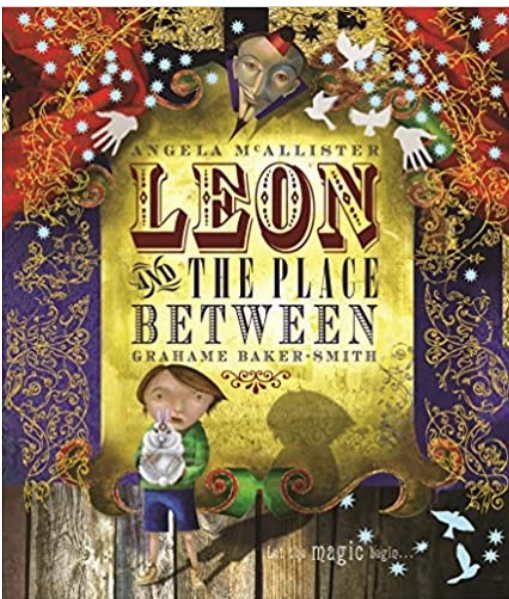
## EYFS/KS1



### After the Fall—Dan Santa

After the fall, Humpty Dumpty is a broken egg. Life is tough: he's so afraid of heights, he can't even bear to climb onto his bed, or reach his favourite cereal on the top shelf at the supermarket. But one day, fuelled by his passion for bird-watching, he decides to conquer his fears and something amazing happens...

## KS2



### Leon and the Place Between- Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith

Wanting to prove to his brothers and sister that magic really exists, Leon volunteers to be in Abdul Kazam's magic show and gets transported to a mysterious world. Filled with rabbits, doves, playing cards and magician's assistants - among other things - if a magician can make it disappear, it will end up in the Place Between!

When Leon returns, not only do his brothers and sister believe, but we do too. .

## UKS2

### Shackleton's Journey—William Grill

Shackleton's Journey is a unique visual re-telling of Ernest Shackleton's landmark expedition crossing the Antarctic from one pole to the other. William Grill's impeccably researched and informative illustrations celebrate the 100th anniversary since the historic exploration by Shackleton and his crew on Endurance .



# Top Tips for Kids

## FROM MISS C

### Spend some time looking at books

There are lots of great books out there, but how do you know what's out there if you don't have a look? Whilst supermarkets have lots of stories, they often have the same authors such as David Walliams and JK Rowling. These are both fantastic authors (in fact, Harry Potter is one of my favourite book series ever!!!); however, there are so many other fantastic authors and illustrators out there!

### Where should I be looking for books?

1. Our school library has **lots** of new books on the book shelves and **lots** of amazing authors—take a look and see what there is. If you aren't sure, there are lots of teachers around to ask!
2. The Kibworth Book Shop! We are very lucky to have a book shop in the village that look after us so well at school. Every week they donate a £5 book voucher for our reading raffle, keep us up to date with author events and offer discount codes. Pop in for a quick look and speak to the staff there to help you choose a book.



3. Amazon. Amazon is great for books. You have the choice of paperback, hardback, audio-books or even Kindle books. They often have the latest book charts up too to tell you what books and authors are popular at the minute.



4. The Reader Teacher. [The Reader Teacher | Children's Books | Reads, Reviews & Recommendations](#) I've mentioned him before already in our reading newsletters but I cannot recommend him enough! The Reader Teacher has **so** many books that he recommends and each month he releases a YouTube video to tell you all about the latest up-and-coming books.

# The Reader Teacher

Reads, Reviews & Recommendations!



# TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS



## A Guide to Book Chat

Research indicates that parents who regularly read with their children at home lay solid foundations for language and literacy development. It's a precious time for you both to relax, share your thoughts and feelings, have fun and chat together. Whilst sharing books, your child has your undivided attention, and the conversation, connection and enjoyment they experience is invaluable.

To promote children's pleasure in reading and foster the habit, we need to read **to** children and **with** them and to **talk** to them about books. These conversations are crucial as they help children to engage and think deeply.

### There are several ways to prompt book chat, these are our Top Tips.

Watch and listen carefully to follow their interests

**Observe and respond:** Pay attention to what captures your child's attention and build on their interests, for example, 'Oh, you've spotted the...!'.  
**Leave pauses:** So they can look closely and think, this will lead to comments on the pictures or questions. Respond to their lead and let the book chat flow.

Invite your child to get involved

**Pose questions:** Open questions encourage thinking and discussion, such as, 'How do you think the boy is feeling?'. Try to avoid closed questions, such as 'What colour is that?'; these have a single answer and don't keep the conversation going.  
**Draw attention to illustrations:** Encourage your child to notice details in the pictures and think what they might mean, for example, 'Look! What's that hiding, what do you think it might be?'.

Wonder and connect to your lives

**Ponder and wonder:** Encourage your child to think about what might happen, using phrases such as, 'I wonder if/ whether /who/ why/ what ...?'.  
**Make personal connections:** Picture storybooks not only allow children to empathise with the experiences of fictional characters but enable them to make sense of events in their own lives. Talk about connections, for example, 'That reminds me of when...?'.  
**Comment on your feelings:** By sharing your emotional response to a character or something that's happened you encourage your child to do the same, helping them engage and learn to express their emotions.

Share your emotional responses!

Keep it light and enjoyable!

**Your combined pleasure counts:** Bring the story to life with facial expression, actions and sounds, encouraging your child to join in! Do offer information to help with unfamiliar words, such as 'That's the hencoop, it's where the hens live', but keep the focus on fun.



Book chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure