



Autumn 2

2022



# Preston Primary Reading Matters

Welcome to our festive edition of 'Reading Matters', a whole school newsletter dedicated to our love of reading. As the festive season is in full swing, we know many of our families like to buy a book for Christmas. In this edition we will be recommending some popular Christmas books that you might like to buy or borrow from a local library. Staff and children have been talking about their favourite festive books and we are excited to share these with you. Thank you to Evie in Swifts for personally writing a recommendation.

There is no greater gift at Christmas than the gift of a book. While Santa is busy reading your lists, I wonder what you will be reading this Christmas?



## Mrs Bastin

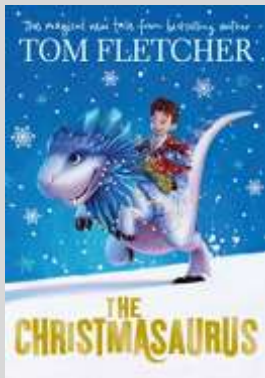
I would like to recommend the book '**Dear Santasaur**' written by **Chae Strathie** and illustrated by **Nicola O'Byrne**. I love this book because I love dinosaurs! This story is about a little boy called Max who has a T-Rex dinosaur friend at the museum, and they write letters and e-mails to each other. Max would like to know if Santa delivers presents to dinosaurs and his T-Rex friend wishes he could ride in Santa's sleigh. I like the character Max because he has a wonderful imagination, I also like reading all the letters that they write to one another. One day Max gets a special letter inviting him to a Roar-Some party! If you enjoy this book there are others in the series.



## Miss Rushworth

I would like to recommend this book by **Jonathan Emmett and Poly Bernatene** called, '**The Santa Trap**' and give it 10/10.

It is about a beastly boy called Bradley Bartleby, who is very ungrateful and greedy. He tries to spoil Christmas by setting traps for Santa when he doesn't get everything he wants. I love the ending of this book, as Santa teaches Bradley a very important lesson. It is also very funny as we see Bradley's plans go horribly wrong. I would say it is a good story to be shared by anyone, or to read independently from about year 3 upwards. I hope you will enjoy this book as much as I do!



### **Recommendation by Evie in Swifts**

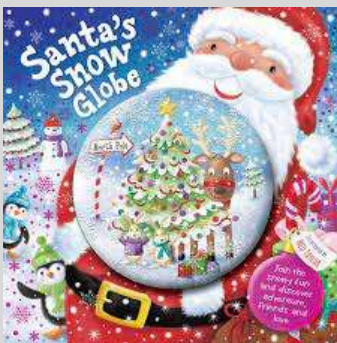
#### **The Christmasaurus – Tom Fletcher**

I enjoyed this book because it's festive and makes me excited for Christmas. I thought it was very exciting and makes you want to read more!

I recommend this book because it's funny, a bit silly and it's got some great characters. My favourite character is the Christmasaurus and this is my favourite Christmas book!

### **Recommendation by Snowy Owls**

This is one of our favourite stories. The Christmasaurus wants more than anything to be able to fly and help pull Santa's sleigh across the sky. But flying turns out to be a lot harder than he thought!

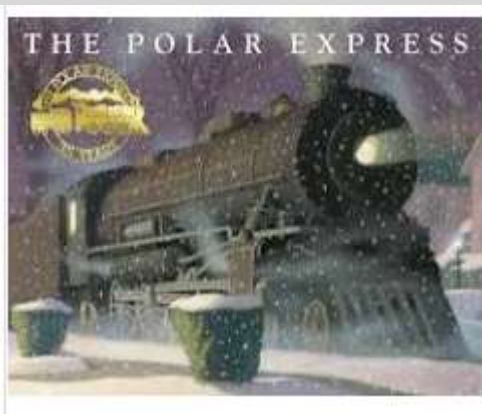


### **Recommendation by Barn Owls**

#### **Santa's Snow Globe – by Ned Taylor**

It's fun and squishy! Say the Barn Owl children!

All our children have enjoyed this book. It's an adventure about Santa getting hurt and can't deliver the presents. Can his friends help him? Can they save Christmas?



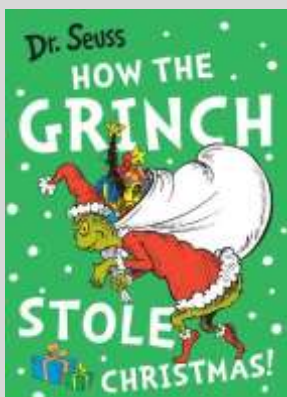
### **Class recommendation: Woodpeckers and Sparrows**

#### **'The Polar Express' by Chris Van Allsburg**

Woodpeckers decided their favourite Christmas story is The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. They like the illustrations in the book, as well as the story. They like how the film version is the same as the book too.

Sparrows love this book because it gets them excited for Christmas. The book is about a boy who is awake on Christmas eve night. All of a sudden, a train pulls up beside his house. He decides to creep downstairs and out of the front door...

We think it has great descriptions that enable us to imagine what it would really be like to be on the Polar Express. We also think the adventure the children go on seems so exciting; we want to go on the train with the characters!



### **Mr Mealy**

#### **'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' by Dr. Seuss**

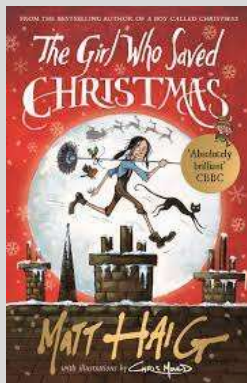
I personally love this book for many reasons but what I enjoy most is reading it to my son and the children in Swifts. Not only is this book fun to read because of how silly the Grinch is, the rhythm and rhyming that Dr Seuss does so well, but it's message that Christmas is more than just the gifts we give and receive is always a brilliant take away from the story.



**Class recommendation: Eagles**

**'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson**

We like the Stickman story. We find it very funny and heart-warming. This book is great for younger children. Stickman has a stick wife and three stick children. One day Stickman goes out of his family tree. He has a very unexpected journey. He sees lots of different sights, including children who throw him in a river and a swan who puts him in the nest.

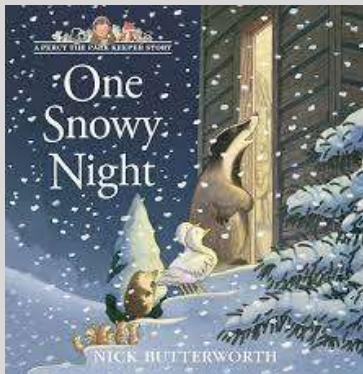


**Class recommendation: Hawks**

**'The Girl Who Saved Christmas' by Matt Haig**

It was Christmas Eve, and all was not well. Amelia Wishart was trapped in Mr Creepers work house. Santa must find her with the help of eight reindeers, some elves, the queen, and Charles Dickens. The search begins...

We like the way the author Matt Haig describes the scenes. You can really imagine being there. You never know what will happen next!

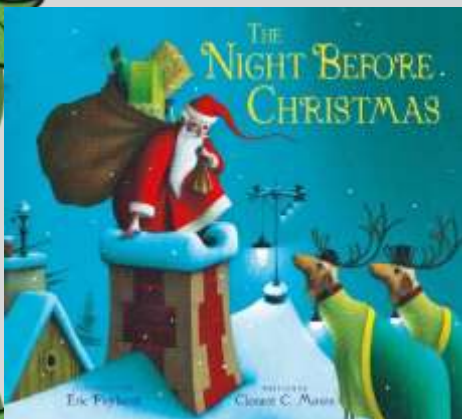


**Class recommendation: Puffins and Penguins**

**'One Snowy Night' by Nick Butterworth**

Percy the park keeper lives in a hut. One snowy night all the animals in the park were looking for somewhere warm to sleep, so they decided to visit Percy in his hut. Percy is always very kind and friendly and invites them to sleep in his hut, but will they all fit in?

This is a delightful wintery story with wonderful illustrations.

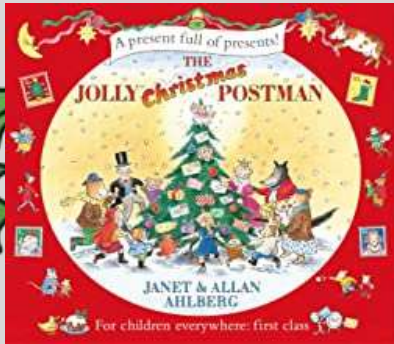


**Class recommendation: Kestrels**

**'The Night Before Christmas by Clement C. Moore'**

Kestrels enjoyed listening to the narrative poem "The Night Before Christmas," which tell the story of a family getting in their beds in the night before Christmas, when a father sees a magical sight: St. Nicholas and his reindeers flying on his sleigh.

Kestrels and I really enjoyed the wonderful descriptions of Santa and the magical setting in the story. We were in awe of the wonderful and detailed illustrations of Eric Puybarer. Reading this fantastic poem has made us all feel so excited for Christmas and boosted all of our Christmas spirits. We would absolutely recommend this book to everyone, from young children to adults.



### **Class recommendation: Little Owls**

#### **'The Jolly Christmas Postman' by Allan and Janet Ahlberg**

We really enjoy this book because it has lots of fairy tale characters in it. It also has lots of different surprises on each page. There is a card for baby Bear, a game appropriately called 'Beware' for Red Riding Hood from Mr Wolf and a get-well jigsaw for Humpty Dumpty. This is a fun and festive book for the whole family to enjoy.



### **Class recommendation: Tawny Owls**

#### **'The Unicorns who saved Christmas' by Mary Winn Heider**

Tawny Owls enjoyed this funny story. Poor Santa has no one to pull his sleigh because all the reindeers are poorly. Will Christmas be cancelled? Or will the unicorns save Christmas?



### **Miss Dyer**

The Christmas book I'm recommending is '**Socks for Santa**' written by **Adam & Charlotte Gillian** and illustrated by **Lee Wildish**. This story is about a boy called George and his Christmas Eve plan to take gifts to Santa. George sets off on a journey to the North Pole. I love this book because it's a rhyming story which is my favourite type of story. My favourite characters are the animals of the North Pole, Polar bears, Reindeers and Puffins.

I also like the main character George as he's so kind and thoughtful going to give gifts to Santa to say Thank you for all the gifts Santa has given him. The illustrations of what the puffins get up to on each page make me laugh.

Will George reach Santa with all his gifts?

## More festive books to enjoy

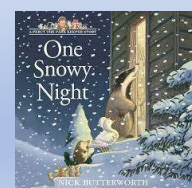


Click on the links to enjoy these stories read by the authors.

[Storytime: Santa's New Sleigh with Caroline Crowe - YouTube](#)



[One Snowy Night - A Percy The Park Keeper story read by Nick Butterworth - YouTube](#)



## Community Library Reading Challenge



Exciting News! Libraries across Devon and Torbay are encouraging children to sign up to 'The Secret Book Quest'.

This is an exciting challenge for children ages 5 and up. Read a total of 50 books to collect all the stickers, decipher the code, and win a special prize. Get a certificate when you reach halfway (25 books) and another when you finish, along with a finisher's prize.

Also, when you finish reading 50 books and complete the Secret Book Quest, you will be entered into a special prize draw to win one of the following:

Libraries Unlimited

### Christmas Hours

Mon 19th - Fri 23rd Dec	Open
Sat 24th - Tue 27th Dec	Closed
Wed 28th - Sat 31st Dec	Open
Sun 1st - Mon 2nd Jan	Closed
Tue 3rd Jan onwards	Open

You can browse the online catalogue to reserve or renew. [Remat.torbaylibraries.org.uk](http://Remat.torbaylibraries.org.uk)  
Wishing all our customers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity (107046)  
It works with the Devon and Torbay Councils.  
Devon Torbay Councils

READ 50 BOOKS, COMPLETE THE SECRET BOOK QUEST, AND ENTER OUR SPECIAL PRIZE DRAW!

Libraries Unlimited

**STAR PRIZE x1**  
BOOST CREATIVE TOOLBOX 17/18

**WALKIE TALKIES x1**  
VTECH KIDIGEAR WALKIE TALKIES

**A PAIR OF CREATIVE WRITING BOOKS x3**

**WATERSTONES £50 GIFT VOUCHER x2**

OUR EXCITING READING CHALLENGE FOR CHILDREN AGED 5+ UPWARDS.  
SIGN UP IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY TODAY!

The next draw will be on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 so you have plenty of time to read the 50 books!

### **How to take part!**

To sign up for **FREE**, simply visit your local library and speak to a member of staff. You will receive your very own Secret Book Quest journal and the first sticker in your collection. Then browse the library to find your first book and begin the quest! Bring your certificates to school to share with your class.

## Christmas Gift Idea

Britannica Magazine is a brand new **non-fiction monthly magazine** designed for all curious young minds!

Britannica Magazine are offering a 20% discount on magazine subscriptions until 19<sup>th</sup> December with a free gift on some subscriptions. Please select Preston Primary when subscribing to the magazine as the school will receive free book vouchers.

For more information go to

[Britannica Magazine – Ages 7-14 – 20% OFF!](#)

**Save 20% on a subscription to Britannica Magazine & help your child's school receive £1,000 of FREE books!**

Here's all you have to do:

- 1 Visit our website at [britannicamagazine.co.uk](http://britannicamagazine.co.uk)
  - 2 Sign up to an annual or six-month subscription to **Britannica Magazine** – and you will also receive a free hardback Britannica children's book as a sign-up gift. Plus your school will receive a **£10** (annual plan) or **£5** (six-month plan) book voucher to spend on non-fiction books for the school library.
  - 3 At the checkout, remember to select your school from the list, to ensure they receive their book vouchers. Then enter the **discount code XMAS20** to claim your special 20% discount.
  - 4 Depending on how many parents take advantage of this unique offer, your child's school can receive up to **£1,000 of FREE books!**
- Contact: [schools@britannicamagazine.co.uk](mailto:schools@britannicamagazine.co.uk)

Your child will receive:

