



St Nicholas CE Primary School

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

November / December 2022 Edition



Welcome to the November / December edition of our school reading for pleasure magazine. Look inside for reading news, as well as my new book recommendations for each year group.

The turnout for our lower school Bears and Books was just fantastic and it was lovely to see the children enjoying some bedtime stories in their pajamas.

On page 4, there is a fabulous art and book related competition set by Nick Sharratt to design your own imaginary creature. It is open to everyone from nursery age up.

Our author and illustrator spotlight this month, is Nick Sharratt, who has illustrated over 250 children's books!

Thank you so much to those who continue to support us by buying a book or two from our book wish list. It really helps us ensure the children have access to high quality books. I had five donated last term! The link is below if you wish to help.

<https://amzn.eu/eCJ6pSi>

Best wishes

Miss Winter, English Coordinator

IN THIS EDITION...

Illustrator and author Nick Sharratt

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Design your own imaginary creature

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Books and more books!

This month's book recommendations for every group from Nursery to Year 6

Pages 2 & 3



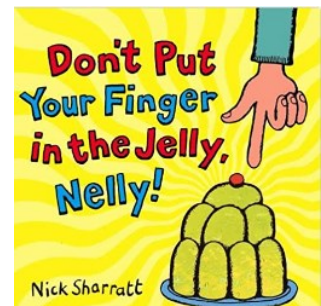
Miss Winter's Book Recommendations

For the younger ages (nursery to Y2), these recommendations are for sharing at home, rather than books that children will read by themselves. You can shop locally and order from our local Madhatter's bookshop, or borrow them from the Wantage library.

Nursery RECOMMENDATION

Don't Put Your Finger in the Jelly, Nelly by Nick Sharratt

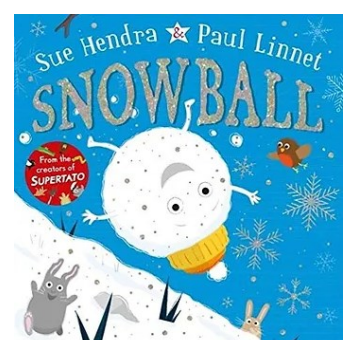
This classic rhyming picturebook is full of fun. It is interactive and will have children giggling away at the absurd combinations.



Reception RECOMMENDATION

Snowball by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnett

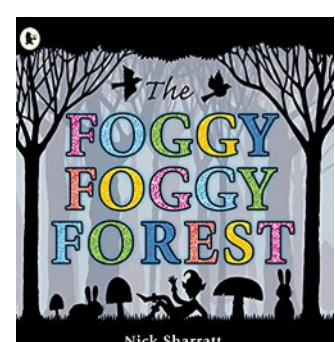
From the creators of Supertato, this is a charming story of a snowball who takes a tumble all the way into town. As he rolls, he unfortunately collects rather a lot of items on his way. A funny and festive story.



Year 1 RECOMMENDATION

The Foggy Foggy Forest by Nick Sharratt

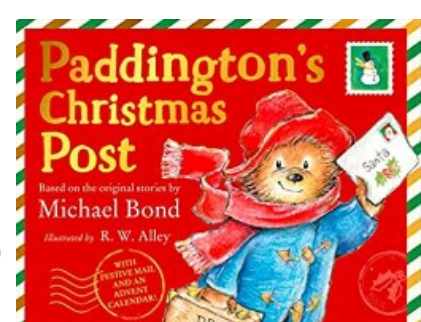
Full of scenes from different fairytales, with silhouette clues with of interesting details to explore. Can you guess who might be in the pictures and what might be happening? Each clue leads to a wonderfully illustrated scene as we explore an enchanted forest.



Year 2 RECOMMENDATION

Paddington's Christmas Post by Michael Bond and RW Alley

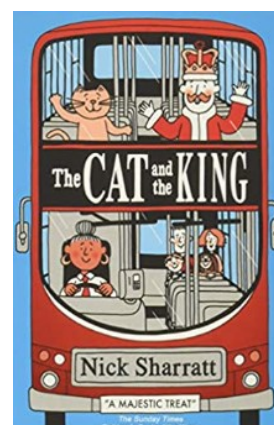
This lovely book, based on the original Paddington stories, contains five envelopes in pockets, which readers will love to explore as they contain lots of different things to make a really special Christmas for the Brown family.



Year 3 RECOMMENDATION

The Cat and the King by Nick Sharratt

After an alarming incident with a dragon, the King is forced to find somewhere new to live, with the help of one very clever cat. Unused to a normal life, it is up to the cat to show him how things are done outside the castle and Nick tells it with his usual humour. This is Nick's first longer chapter book.



Year 4 RECOMMENDATION

Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City by Rob Biddulph

Peanut loves nothing more than drawing, but when her dad goes missing she is sent to a new school and only the discovery of a magical turbo charged pencil gives her hope she might find him again. Transported to a place where anything is possible, Peanut has to avoid the dangers whilst searching for her dad. This is a great adventure story.



Year 5 RECOMMENDATION

The Green Planet by Leisa Stewart Sharp and Kim Smith

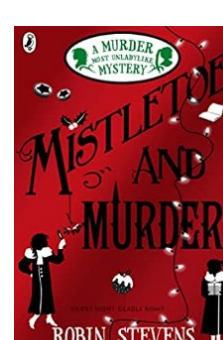
A fascinating and beautifully illustrated non fiction book about the amazing life of plants on our planet. You might think the plant world is a gentle one but you'd be wrong, as plant is pitted against plant. If you like nature, you'll love this book.



Year 6 RECOMMENDATION

Mistletoe and Murder by Robin Stevens

The fifth in the Murder Most Unladylike series, this story centres around detective duo Daisy and Hazel, who visit Cambridge for Christmas. An accident happens, or at least, it looks like an accident, but Daisy and Hazel suspect something more sinister is afoot. Can they figure out what really happened?



ART and BOOK COMPETITION!

Invent your own animal! Here's how you can enter Nick Sharratt's amazing art competition...



Let your imagination run wild for the chance to win a signed bundle of Nick's books! Have a read of what Nick has to say about the competition for primary schools and then get scribbling...

BookTrust and I are delighted to announce an art competition to 'Invent your own Animal'.

"In my brand new book, Unicorn Moonicorn, schoolgirl co-author Phoebe Tinkler and I have imagined extraordinary beasts like the Barbeque-nicorn, the Choo-choo-nicorn and the Tu-whit-tu-whoo-nicorn. Now's your turn to get creative and invent your very own animal!

Entries should take the form of a picture, showing just what your creature looks like. It could be a drawing, a painting, a collage... any kind of art-work. To create a name for your animal you could mix up words, like Phoebe and I have done; maybe you could combine two animal names together, but however you come up with your animal's name, it must be original and your own invention."

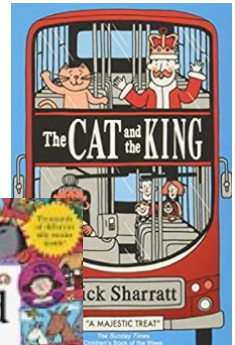
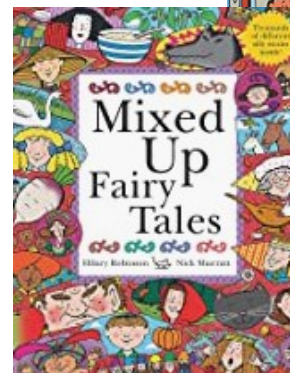
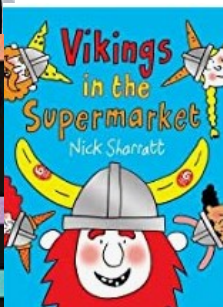
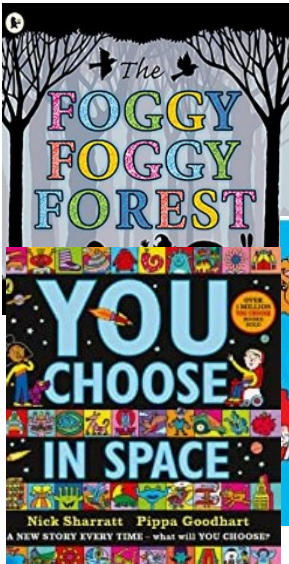
There will be three age categories to enter:

- Nursery and Reception aged children
- Years 1 and 2
- Year 3 upwards.

When your animal is ready, email them to BookTrust at digital@booktrust.org.uk, or post them to **Rachel Boden at BookTrust, G8 Battersea Studios, 80 Silverthorne Road, London SW8 3HE.** **Make sure to mention which age category you're entering!**

The closing date for entries is **11pm on Friday 30 December, 2022.**

MEET THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR NICK SHARRATT



Nick Sharratt has illustrated hundreds of other people's children's books and has also written a fair few of his own.

You've said you always knew you would be an artist – did you always know you would be a poet too?

After Art, English was my next favourite subject at school and I wasn't too bad at it. I remember being very proud when a poem I wrote about Robin Hood's hiding tree (we lived near Sherwood Forest at the time) was printed in my primary school's annual magazine and I won a couple of prizes for English essays at secondary school. But I found writing much more arduous than drawing and inevitably got into a real tangle halfway through every creative piece I attempted – I still do! A career as some kind of artist seemed the obvious choice to me!

When thinking up the poems for Vikings in the Supermarket, which came first: pictures or words?

The pictures came first. I thought of characters that I felt I would enjoy illustrating, set myself the challenge of finding poems to go with them and very slowly something resulted. (I can't seem to discipline myself to writing deadlines the way I can with illustration work.)

You famously illustrate other people's texts as well as writing your own. What do you like best about these different ways of working?

Illustrating other people's texts stretches me in that I so often have to draw characters and situations I wouldn't have thought of attempting otherwise, and it's mightily rewarding when I find a way to do it. And oddly enough I frequently find new ideas for my own projects drifting into my mind when I'm busy producing illustrations for another writer.

You've now illustrated close to 250 books in your career. Has your approach to illustration changed over the years?

I really don't think my approach has changed greatly in that there is still a sense of adventure and even trepidation at the start of each new project and I still have to feel my way gradually into the illustrations. The number of roughs I need to do in general hasn't got any less. I continue to do the line drawing manually, usually in soft pencil.