

Christmas Newsletter 2025

Snuggle up together in the chilly evenings with a great new book, blanket and hot chocolate during the festive season!

Fiction

3-5 years

Snowball – Sue Hendra

and Paul Linnet



A lonely young snowball, stuck at the top of a mountain, decides to visit the local town for a bit of fun – but on his way he trips, falls, and starts to roll . . . and when a snowball rolls through snow, we all know what happens! This snowball picks up not only snow, but a myriad of other odd things on his way down – a sheep, a line of washing, a bicycling bear, ending up in the Zoo.

Early Years and Key Stage 1

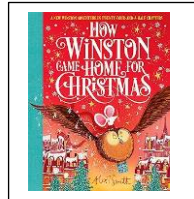
Picture Book

4-7 years

How Winston Came

Home For Christmas –

Alex T Smith.



It is five days until Christmas and Winston has a Very Curious Mystery to solve. He has hazy rememberings of another mouse, and he just knows that someone very important to him is lost. After promising Oliver that he will be back in time for Christmas, no matter what, Winston sets out on an exciting round-the-world adventure to find the missing mouse, helped along the way by wonderful old friends and delightful new ones, too.

Non-Fiction

6-8 years

Christmas Around the World: Stories and Traditions from Around the Globe – Stefany Snee

Perfect for young explorers, this book takes them on a beautiful journey through the magic of the season, opening their hearts and minds to the world's holiday traditions.

Embark on this festive journey and let your child discover the magic, warmth, and shared joy of Christmas around the world. Add this delightful book to your collection today and inspire a love for global traditions and holiday cheer!

Storytime

These interactive story sessions are perfect for pre-school children to enjoy with their parent/carer. Join in with a mix of picture book stories & rhymes. Discover lots of new stories as well as old favourites like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Gruffalo*. Then choose your own books to borrow and share at home.

Sessions are free (donations welcomed) and you don't have to book in advance.

Type of event

Children's stories and rhymes

When

Every Tuesday at 11:00 - 11:30

Venue

North Watford Library

St Albans Road

Watford

WD24 7RW

Key Stage 2

Fiction 7-9 years

The Grumpus –

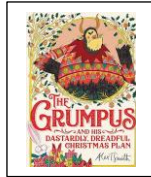
Alex T Smith

From Alex T. Smith, bestselling author of the Claude series and *How Winston Delivered Christmas*, comes a fantastically festive Christmas adventure about a gorgeous grumpy character. Inspired by *The Krampus* and with a hint of *The Grinch*, *The Grumpus* is a heartwarming story that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas, accompanied by irresistible colour artwork to make it the perfect story for all the family to enjoy together.

Do you know about The Grumpus?

And his Dastardly, Dreadful Christmas Plan? And about the Awful Thing that happened at the North Pole on Christmas Eve?

Perhaps I should tell you about it . . .



Non-Fiction

A Christmas Treasury of Recipes,

Crafts, and Wisdom –

Angela Ferraro-Fanning.

Get ready for fun, wholesome crafting activities, such as how to make a decorative garland from beads and string. Discover the creativity of using recycled materials and learn about how you can reuse old holiday cards to create bookmarks, gift tags and even your own bunting.

Then roll up your sleeves and get your apron ready for the simple, tasty and festive recipes that each make a delicious treat to give away as Christmas gifts. From maple syrup caramels, which need only two ingredients, to deliciously warming cinnamon rolls to share around on Christmas morning, you will be delighted by how easy it is to get involved with the cosy fun.



Graphic Novels

Gnome and Rat: First Snow!

Lauren Stohler

There's snow place like home!

Sausage-loving Gnome and pragmatic Rat are

BACK and ready to hit the slopes in the third installment of this early graphic novel series.

Gnome and Rat can't wait to hang out with Rat's family for Nest Fest! But a blizzard has hit and Gnome wants to enjoy it with snowy activities. Surely, they have enough time to enjoy the snow *and* arrive on time to the festival... right?

Bundle up with these funny friends as they practice their ice dancing skills and break out the Gnomeboggan for a ride to remember. But will they make it to Nest Fest before it's over?

One thing is for sure, these two snow exactly how to have a good time on the way: with each other..

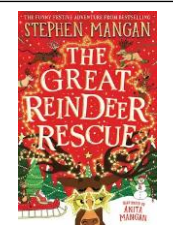


Fiction 9-11

Fiction 7-9 years

The Great Reindeer Rescue

Stephan Mangham.



It's Christmas Eve and one of Santa's reindeers, Dave, is FED UP. He's stuck behind boastful Rudolph again and a fart-in-the-face is the LAST STRAW.

In the commotion, Santa crash lands on the roof of nine-year-old Holly's home causing an almighty Christmas lights explosion that blasts the reindeers to far-flung corners of the Earth. It's up to Dave and Holly to fly round the world to rescue all the reindeers.



Author

Sibeal Pounder

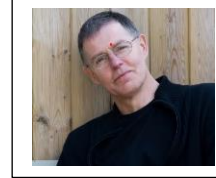


Sibéal Pounder is the number one New York Times bestselling author of the much-loved children's fiction series Witch Wars, Bad Mermaids and Neon's Secret UNiVerse, and the Christmas hit Tinsel. She has also written Beyond Platform 13, the sequel to Eva Ibbotson's The Secret of Platform 13 and the globally bestselling novelisation of the film Wonka.

Her World Book Day book Bad Mermaids was a Sunday Times Bestseller, and Witch Wars was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Sainsbury's Children's Book Award.

Poet

Tony Mitton



Born: I was born in 1951, in Tripoli, North Africa.
Early life: My father was in the British Army, so I spent my childhood in North Africa, Germany and Hong Kong.

School: From age 11-18, I was at a boarding grammar school in Suffolk.

University: I studied English Literature at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

Teacher Training: PGCE at Dept of Education, University of Cambridge.

Early Career: A primary school teacher, then Special Needs Support Teacher (primary) in Cambridge.

Family: I live with my wife. I have two, grown-up children. And now, in 2019, one grandchild.

Likes: Writing, reading, walking, talking, listening, cooking, music, comedy, Art of all kinds. Mindful meditation.

Home: A small terraced house in Cambridge, England.

Illustrator

Daniella Terrazzini
The Night I met Father
Christmas.



Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini joined The Artworks in 2005 and has been going from strength to strength. She first studied Fine Art in Milan.

she is the illustrator of The Night I Met Father Christmas by Ben Miller and The Seeing Stick by Jane Yolen, among other picture books. She lives in London.

Information and images taken from Amazon, The Book Trust, Britannica Kids, Poetry4Kids and Google search.

**We hope you find the Newsletter informative.
Keep Reading and sharing brilliant literature.**

Mrs Keith, Reading Subject Lead.