

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”

— Benjamin Franklin



# Literacy Newsletter

## D.H. Lawrence- Children’s Writing Competition

The D.H. Lawrence Children’s Prize: Writing Competition 2023 will focus on the theme of ‘my neighbourhood’ and the judges will be looking for no more than 500 words, which are inspired by the local area and what makes it special.

There are two categories – under 11s and 12-16 with first place in both categories winning a Kindle Paperwhite Signature Edition. Second place in each category will receive £50 in National Book Tokens and third place will receive £30 in National Book Tokens.

More information can be found at: [www.broxtowe.gov.uk/news-events/news/press-releases-2023/march-2023/dh-lawrence-children-s-writing-competition-launched-for-world-book-day/](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/news-events/news/press-releases-2023/march-2023/dh-lawrence-children-s-writing-competition-launched-for-world-book-day/)

Entries close on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and can be submitted to [culture@broxtowe.gov.uk](mailto:culture@broxtowe.gov.uk)

## WORD SQUARE PUZZLES

@VocabularyNinja



*‘Words unlock the doors to a world of understanding...’*

Check out these challenges from the Vocabulary Ninja website. Their resources are free and have the aim of developing vocabulary and spelling. These word squares are designed to give children the opportunity to generate as many different words as possible using the letters supplied. The ultimate challenge is to discover the single word that is made up from all of the letters within the square. (A is easier than B.)

### Challenge A

1

Z	L	E
		
P	Z	U

### Challenge B

2

A	I	S
L	Z	R
Z	B	D

Answers are at the bottom of the newsletter...

## Little Wandle

We are very excited to share with you a new venture that we are about to embark on as a school. Following a recent change in Government guidance we have decided to invest in a brand new scheme for teaching early reading in our school – Little Wandle. This will impact the way that both phonics and reading are taught, particularly in Classes 1 & 2.

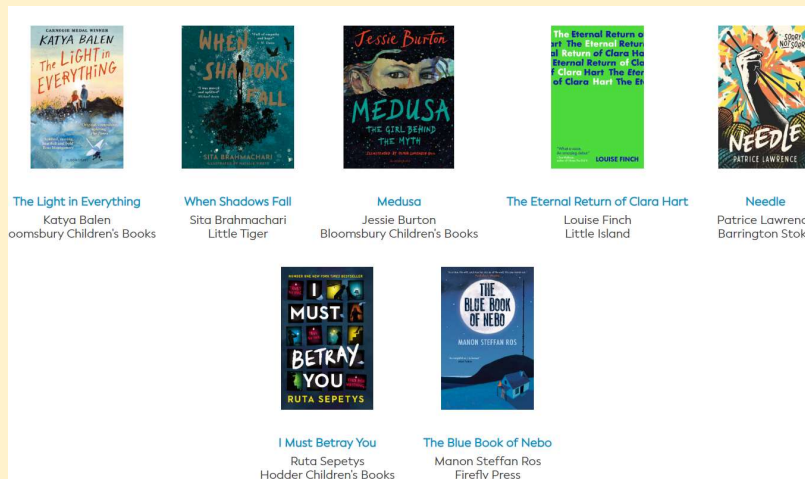


More than 4,500 schools are using the Department for Education validated Little Wandle phonics programme for their phonics and early reading provision.

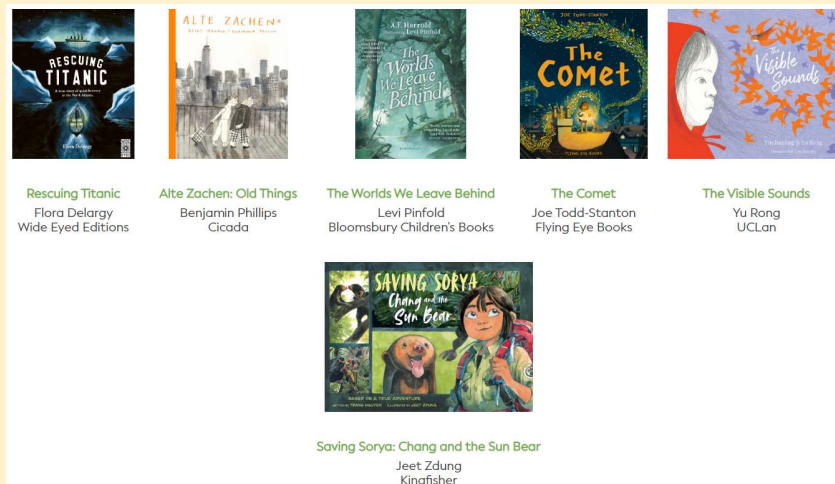
## The Yoto Carnegie Medal 2023

The Yoto Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people.

The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. Please visit the website: <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/> for more information about the shortlisted books; author interviews and activities linked to the texts.



The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people.



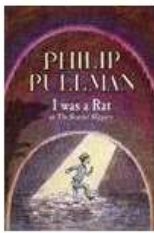
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## **Featured Author KS2: Philip Pullman**

Philip Pullman is the best-selling author of several books, most notably his trilogy of fantasy novels, *His Dark Materials*, and his fictionalised biography of Jesus, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ*. The first book of His Dark Materials has been turned into the film *The Golden Compass* and the first two books are now a BBC TV series.



### **I Was a Rat**

**Author:** Philip Pullman **Illustrator:** Peter Bailey

**Publisher:** Random House

**Interest age:** 9-11

**Reading age:** 8+

A small boy arrives on the doorstep of a childless couple, politely but insistently asserting that he used to be a rat.



### **Northern Lights**

**Author:** Philip Pullman

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**Interest age:** 9-14

**Reading age:** 10+

This extraordinary fantasy is the first book in Philip Pullman's multi-award-winning *His Dark Materials* trilogy

## **Featured Author KS1: Oliver Jeffers**

As a picture book creator Oliver Jeffers has been the recipient of some of children's books highest accolades, including the Nestle Gold Medal for *Lost and Found* and the Irish Picture Book of the Year for *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*.



### **Here We Are**

**Author:** Oliver Jeffers







**Publisher:** HarperCollins

**Interest age:** 4-6




**Reading age:** 5+

This manual to life on Earth from new dad Oliver Jeffers to his baby son is simple, life-affirming and showcases the beautiful diversity in the world.

Each Key Stage 2 class has regular whole class reading sessions where a text is studied for approximately six weeks. Where possible, we link these texts to children's half termly topics and then link some of our writing to the books also. Here's what we're reading in class this term:

Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
 <p>A tale of Hiccup the Viking</p>	 <p>A story about a boy and his surgery.</p>	 <p>A sporting story about dreaming big.</p>
 <p>Set in Cornwall.</p>	 <p>A volatile boy who is prone to explosions.</p>	 <p>Set in Paris.</p>

Each class in Key Stage 1 and 2 also have a selection of 'bookshelf books' available in class for them to read in independent reading time. These are a mixture of fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our topics.

Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
		
		

### Class 1 and Class 2







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Here is our list of the some free homework websites and apps suitable for children and parents/carers:

- **A+ spelling test app**  A quick and easy way to upload your child’s spellings so that they can try them in an interactive way. We’ve trialled this with some of our children in school recently and think it’s a great resource!
- **Little Wandle.** The resources on this page will help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are taught at school and feel confident about supporting their reading at home.  
[www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/](http://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/)
- **Oak Academy.** Click on *English Grammar* or *English Spelling* sections for free short video lessons filmed by teachers.  
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2>
- **Oxford Owl.** This has some great tips on how to help your child at home. It also has a free e-book library.  
<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>
- **The Literacy Shed.** A collection of film clips that provide a stimulus for writing. Each clip comes with suggestions of writing activities.  
<https://www.literacyshed.com/>
- **BBC Bitesize.** Useful child-friendly information, particularly for spelling, grammar and punctuation aspects.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f>
- **Hatman Reads.** Andy Seed, an author, recommends books for 7-11 year olds.  
<https://www.andyseed.com/hatman-reads/>