

Literacy News

December 2014



Welcome to the **Christmas Edition** of our Literacy Newsletter. As the holidays are almost here, we have a few suggestions for ways to make the most of the **festive season** to boost Literacy skills at home.



See page 2 for some suggested 'holiday reading' for your daughter.

Literacy Focus

'**Spelling**' continues to be our main focus in school, so keep up the good habits over Christmas!

You could rehearse your daughter's 'Spelling Bee' skills by hosting your own **Christmas-themed spelling competition** at a family party, or get creative and make your own spelling 'teasers' for around the dinner table – the possibilities are endless!

Cosy Corner

Watching a **Christmas movie** together? Develop your daughter's **moving image and comprehension** skills by:

- Predicting what might happen before you watch it;
- Looking closely at how the dialogue and images work together to tell a story;
- Discussing your opinions afterwards.

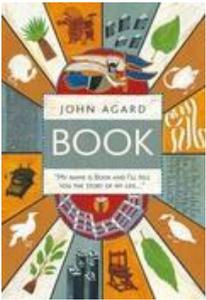
Christmas is also a good time to **get in touch** with someone that you haven't contacted in a while. Why not compose a **letter or email** together, or pay them a visit to develop **speaking and listening skills**?

After the Christmas tests... make time to discuss how your daughter felt she coped with her tests in each subject. Try to identify her strengths and areas for improvement, then think about how you can tackle these together.



Christmas Book List

Wondering what book to buy as a gift for Christmas? Here is a selection of new and recently published books recommended for ages 9+



Book
by John Agard
Walker Books

If you are intrigued as to how sheep and birds have played important roles in the recording of the written word then this is the definitely the book for you!
(9+)

Half a Creature from the Sea

by David Almond
Walker Books

This collection interweaves personal reflections between short stories that demonstrate how a life can influence writing. (9+)

Jane, the Fox & Me

by Fanny Britt & Isabelle Arsenault
Walker Books

This thought-provoking graphic novel by Fanny Britt, exquisitely illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, is a real visual delight (9+)



Animalium

by Jenny Broom
Big Picture Press

Quirky yet authoritative, this book is bursting with information to engage young naturalists, whilst the spectacular illustrations in a rich colour palette give it real 'wow' factor.

The Spy Who Loved School Dinners

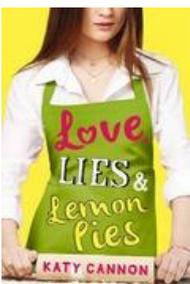
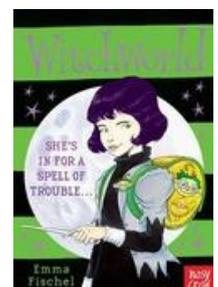
by Pamela Butchart
Nosy Crow

Izzy is really excited to be picked to look after the new girl, Mathilde, but the new girl isn't quite what Izzy and her friends were expecting... (9+)

Witchworld

by Emma Fischel
Nosy Crow

Witchworld is a thoroughly bewitching tale that brings witches into the 21st century and touches upon environmental issues as well as family relationships.
(9+)



Love, Lies and Lemon Pies

by Katy Cannon
Stripes Books

This heart-warming teen love story is as sweet and light as the lemon pie of the title. Katy Cannon manages to delicately touch on some difficult issues, without compromising the lightness of the tone.
(13+)

For more recommendations we suggest looking on the **Booktrust** website (www.booktrust.org.uk/) which has a wealth of information to suit all ages.