



Twiss Green

# READING NEWSLETTER

Issue #3- Autumn Term 1- September 2021

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

*First of all we must say a huge WELCOME BACK to all children who have returned to Twiss Green Primary last week as well as a wonderful WELCOME to our new children joining us. This is the first reading newsletter for the new academic year and we have been delighted to see how many of you have continued to read and enjoy books over the summer break. Read on for more reading recommendations and find out how you can help us to celebrate National Poetry Day this half term!*

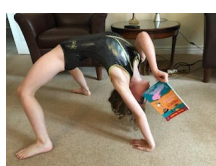
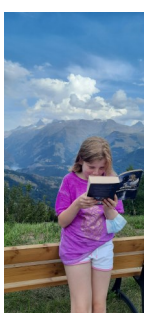
**National Poetry Day** is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. This year,



National Poetry Day takes place on **7 October 2021**, and the theme is **Choice**. We would like to celebrate it by creating a Twiss Green 'Poet-Tree'. Your teachers will be sending home a leaf template and we would like you to choose your favourite poem and add it to your leaf. These should then be returned to school to add to our tree so that we can share our love of poetry with the whole school community!

## TG EXTREME READING COMPETITION

Before the summer holidays, we launched the 'TG Extreme Reading' competition and we challenged you to take a picture of yourself reading somewhere extreme. Thank you so much to everyone who has entered and it has been brilliant to see some of the wonderful, breath-takingly beautiful and strange places that you have been reading in! Take a look below at some of our fantastic entries..... the winners will be announced in Celebration assembly this week!





# MEET THE AUTHOR!

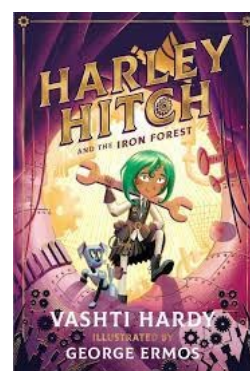
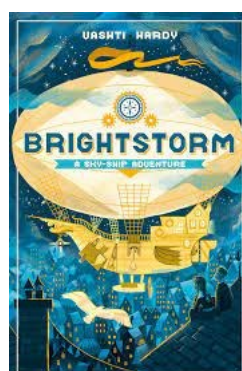
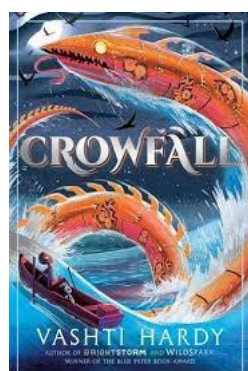
## AUTHOR FOCUS: Vashti Hardy

### Who is Vashti Hardy?

Vashti Hardy a writer of children's books living near Brighton in Sussex with her husband and three teens. She was previously a primary school teacher with special interest in children's writing, until one day she took her own advice and wrote her first children's book! Now a successful children's author, Vashti's breathtaking middle grade fantasies are published across the world in several languages.



We



Apart from your own books, are there any children's books you've particularly enjoyed recently and would recommend?

Recently, I really loved Sinéad O'Hart's *The Star-Spun Web* – it's a fabulous multi-verse tale with a great cast of characters, and I'm a huge fan of *The Apprentice Witch* series by James Nicol which is a total hug of a series!

What is your favourite word(s)?

I love the word *gloaming*. It describes the part of the day after the sun has gone down and before the sky is completely dark. It does its job so perfectly – a word somewhere between glowing, gloomy and looming. It feels magical.

What are your top tips for budding childrens' writers?

Imagine your story as a finished book and write a blurb for it. It'll help you get to the heart of it and see your USP (it will also help you see any weaknesses). I find it helpful to revisit it at various points and keep tweaking and honing. Keep focusing on the craft of what you're doing, building your writers toolkit and creating the best art you can. The love of creation is what it's all about and if you're excited by it there's a good chance readers will. Persistence, heart, an analytical eye, and thinking long term are key.

How important is it do you think for children to see a range of diverse, different characters in the stories written for them?

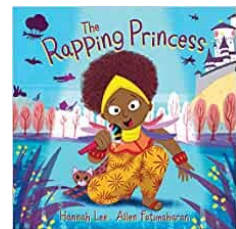
I think it's enormously important and I do my best to create a diverse cast of characters. All children need to be able to see themselves as the heroes of stories – we all have a multitude of things that make us who we are and as authors we have a duty to be mindful both in our leading characters and in the secondary characters.

Thank you so much for reading! I hope you enjoyed Vashti's answers as much as I did! Vashti is the new Y3 class author and I would love to hear what they think about her book!

# BOOKS FOR AUTUMN TERM 1! EYFS RECOMMENDATION!

## The Rapping Princess by Hannah Lee

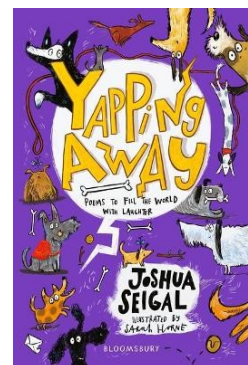
Here is a story that everyone should know. It's the tale of a princess named Shiloh. She lived in a kingdom, not far from yours, in a grand house with a swimming pool and fourteen floors. I know that sounds too big but here's the thing: her mother and father were the Queen and King. Being a princess is a tough job for someone so small. It's even harder when you have a problem you can't solve at all ...



## KS1 RECOMMENDATION!

### Yapping Away: Poems by Joshua Seigal

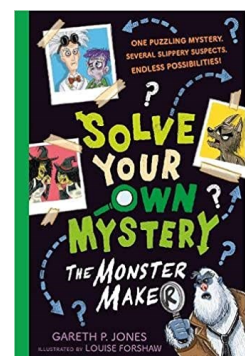
The opening poem in this sparkling new collection invites readers to *'fill the world with words'*, and Joshua Seigal does a very good job of doing just that in poems that represent his audience's world perfectly. Here are poems about classrooms, playtime, grandparents, chocolate biscuits – all just right to read aloud and deliciously easy to remember. There are poems that deliver jokes, poems that play with sense and their shape, poems that sneak in deeper meanings too as they



## LKS2 RECOMMENDATION!

### Solve Your Own Mystery: The Monster Maker by Gareth P. Jones

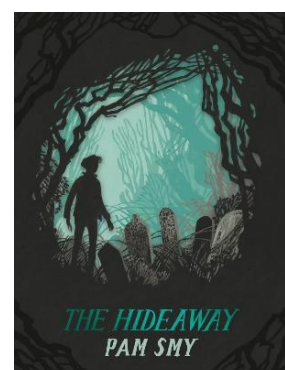
One puzzling mystery. Several slippery suspects. Endless possibilities! Welcome to Haventry, a town where the ordinary and extraordinary collide! With ghosts, werewolves and zombies living side by side, trouble is always brewing. And when a fiendish crime is committed, YOU are the detective in charge of the case. Along with your yeti partner, it's up to YOU to find the culprit. With hundreds of paths to choose from and no dead ends, you'll solve the mystery every time! A fantastically imaginative and interactive detective story.



## UKS2 RECOMMENDATION!

### The Hideaway by Pam Smy

Billy is desperate to make things change at home. His father disappeared before he was born: he and mum had been ok when they had been alone together but now his mother's new partner has spoilt everything. Billy is frightened for himself and he is frightened for his mum. To make a point he runs away for a few days hiding in a semi-ruined pill-box in a local graveyard. Cleverly telling the story in two narratives, from Billy's perspective and his mum's and interweaving other characters and their experience from whom they can learn, Pam Smy explores a range of complex emotions thrown up by a difficult situation.





# BOOKS FOR AUTUMN 1!

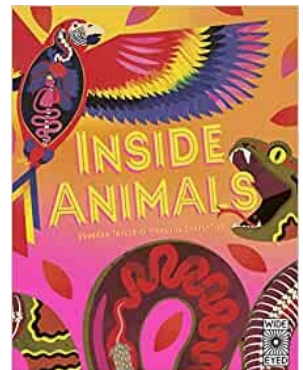
## NON-FICTION RECOMMENDATION!

Inside Animals by Barbara Taylor

**Did you know that a frog can stop its heart from beating? Or that an elephant's tooth is heavier than a brick? Or that the brain of an ostrich is smaller than its eyeball?**

In this book, there are 21 cross-sections that show how **skeletons, organs, nerves** and **muscles** fit together inside creatures from across the globe. Animals can have some body parts in common with us humans, such as the brain, heart and lungs – but each creature has its own **unique** body to help it **survive and thrive** in the wild.

This means that there are all kinds of **weird and wonderful** organs and senses in the animal kingdom, such as the honey stomach in a honeybee or the ink sac of an octopus. **Prepare to be dazzled** as you discover incredible information to **wow your family and friends** with.



## TEACHERS AS READERS: MRS NIXON

1. What are you reading at the moment?

I have just finished reading 'The Abominables' and I am just about to start reading 'The Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q. Rauf

2. What is your favourite children's book and why?

My favourite children's book growing up was Matilda and I think that Miss Honey's character was part of my inspiration to become a teacher.

3. Where is your favourite place to read?

I absolutely love reading when we go on camping trips and so my favourite place to read has to be outdoors.

4. Real book or Kindle?

Although I do prefer reading a real book, my Kindle was ideal when I had a newborn baby because I was able to read one-handed!



## RECOMMENDED BY YOU!

Have you read a good book lately? Do you want to tell everyone about it? Well now you can! Just email Mrs Kelly ([lkelly@twissgreen.net](mailto:lkelly@twissgreen.net)) and tell her all about the book you have read and then look out for your contribution in next term's newsletter!



