

## St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

### Celebrating Reading!



'There are many little ways to enlarge your world. Love of books is the best of all.' - Jacqueline Kennedy.

'You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.' - Dr Seuss

### St Thomas' Bookopoly & Reading Brick Road Reading Awards

Children in KS2 have been excitedly reading their way across our 'Bookopoly' Board, where familiar colours and railway stations correspond to book genres. In EYFS and KS1, children have the opportunity to read/share books according to author surname, collecting awards as they go. To date, in KS2, we have awarded 122 Bronze Awards, 44 Silver Awards, 29 Gold Awards and 13 Platinum Reading Awards! In EYFS & KS1, we have awarded 96 Bronze Scarecrow Awards, 37 Silver Tin Man Awards and 2 Gold Lion Reading Awards!

### Gift a Book at Christmas Scheme 2024

We are extremely thankful to you all for your kindness and generosity. In the New Year, we will be ordering books from our 'Wish List'. You can still make a donation via Parent Pay until 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024. So far we have had £370 donated!

### Audio Books

Struggling to come up with Christmas present ideas? Audio books have been a game changer with my children. They will happily listen to part of a story most evenings. While still available as CDs (which can be found in Brentwood Library), audio book apps are now extremely popular. Audible is a favourite of mine, which has the benefit of a month's free trial before moving on to a reasonably-priced monthly subscription. You can also find free to listen to audio books on YouTube. Each half term, I include a selection of audiobooks (free to listen to where possible) that link to book displays in the KS1 Library and Book Reviews (which feature in the KS2 Library). Audio books are also a brilliant way for children to work towards their St Thomas' Reading Street Bookopoly Awards in the KS2 Library.

### Blue Peter Book Club

I recently learned that Blue Peter, which airs on CBBC, has their very own book club! It's incredibly interactive and your child can take part from the comfort of your home. [www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/bp-the-christmas-carrolls](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/bp-the-christmas-carrolls) . Their current read is The Christmas Carols by Mel Taylor-Bessent.

## Christmas-Themed Audio Books

### For our EYFS/KS1 Listeners

There's a plethora of Christmas stories on the CBeebies Bedtime Story at the moment. Favourites of mine include **The Little Mouse and the Very Snowy Christmas** by Diana Hendry (read by Bernard Cribbins) [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/christmas-the-very-snowy-christmas](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/christmas-the-very-snowy-christmas) and **It Was the Night Before Christmas** by Clement Clarke Moore (although technically a poem), which is perfect for that very special Christmas Eve 'read', especially as it is read by Father Christmas himself! [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAtnC7iQ7F8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAtnC7iQ7F8)

### For our KS2 Listeners

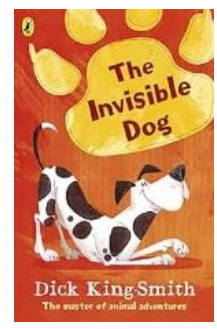
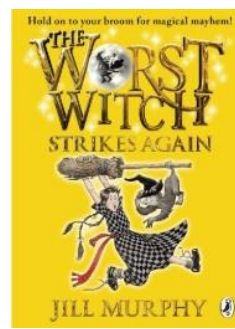
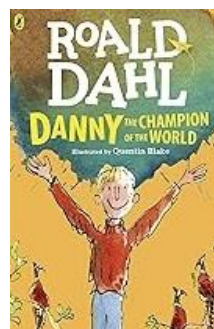
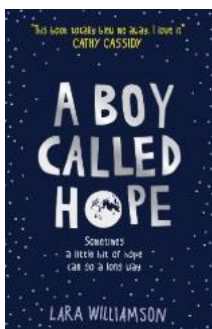
Fans of Enid Blyton will be entertained by Christmas Treats [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmvECRGkhP0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmvECRGkhP0) and Christmas Stories [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3756lhipITE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3756lhipITE). Year 6 delighted in reading Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol (as part of their English lessons) recently, which is also a favourite book of Mr Adams (an LSA in KS2). Listen for free on YouTube.



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6Cuw-WQf6k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6Cuw-WQf6k)

### Book Reviews, Audio Books and Author Chats

**In the KS1 Library** – The Author Display will feature our Julia Donaldson favourites! There's a fabulous short interview with her on YouTube, which first featured on Channel 4 News [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqC-3uywep4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqC-3uywep4). **In the KS2 Library** - Children will see the following book reviews in the New Year. Lara Williamson reads an excerpt from her book **A Boy Called Hope** on YouTube [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY3JAjolr\\_8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY3JAjolr_8). **Danny the Champion of the Word** by Roald Dahl is a perpetually popular classic with Year 2 and KS2 readers. There's a fantastic free to listen to audio book on YouTube with read along text. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACgFC1-9b4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACgFC1-9b4A). The collection of The Worst Witch books by Jill Murphy are well liked by our Year 2 and Lower KS2 readers. A number of which can be found as audio books on YouTube including **The Worst Witch Strikes Again**. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRTLsmZiuyk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRTLsmZiuyk). I was delighted to discover that on YouTube, Dick King Smith's daughter Juliet reads (chapter by chapter) **The Invisible Dog** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=joEv5AVjTMM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joEv5AVjTMM) which is aimed at Year 2 and Lower KS2 readers.



Mrs C. Emery, School Librarian