Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2026

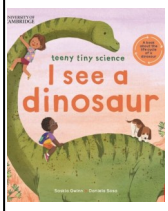
Welcome back, and welcome to our second Reading Newsletter! It was wonderful to end the Summer term with our first Summer Booknic, sharing stories, books and time together as a school community. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it such a lovely celebration of reading.

As a new school year begins, we have plenty more to discover. In this edition, we're sharing some of the most exciting new children's books published since our Summer newsletter, from picture books and graphic novels to non-fiction and new adventures with familiar favourites. We're also shining a spotlight on North Tyneside Libraries, including free access to eBooks and audiobooks through BorrowBox, and taking a look at stories coming to local stages this autumn.

What's New in Children's Books?

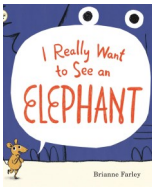
We've been book hunting again! Here are some of our favourite new and upcoming children's books for Nursery to Year 4, published since our Summer newsletter. From stories and graphic novels to poetry and fascinating non-fiction, every book has been chosen because we think it deserves a place in a young reader's hands.

Nursery



University of Cambridge: Teeny Tiny Science: I See a Dinosaur — Saskia Gwinn & Daniela Sosa

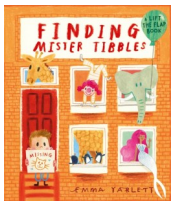
A lively, lyrical journey into the prehistoric world, introducing young children to dinosaurs through beautiful illustrations and real science. Perfect for little dinosaur enthusiasts — and a lovely reminder that non-fiction can begin with picture books too.



I Really Want to See an Elephant — Brianne Farley

A playful picture-book comedy for children who are very good at spotting what grown-ups and story characters sometimes miss! Full of visual humour and anticipation, this looks made for sharing, laughing and joining in together.

Reception



Finding Mr Tibbles - Emma Yarlett

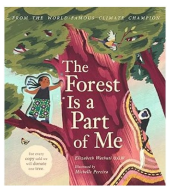
Mister Tibbles the cat is missing! Join the search in this wonderfully interactive picture book, opening doors and exploring detailed illustrations along the way. Full of things to spot and discover, it's perfect for curious readers who love to explore a story as well as listen to one.



I will Haunt This - Viviane Schwarz & Chris Riddell

A little ghost sets out to find somewhere to haunt, but discovers something much more important along the way. Warm, funny and gently spooky, this beautifully illustrated story about friendship and finding where you belong is just right for cosy autumn reading.

Year 1



Forest Is a Part of Me — Elizabeth Wathuti & Michelle Pereira

Inspired by the childhood of Kenyan environmentalist Elizabeth Wathuti, this beautifully illustrated story begins with one little girl planting a tree and grows into a powerful celebration of our connection with the natural world. A hopeful story about noticing, caring and discovering that even small actions can make a difference.



Witchy Boo Casts Her First Spell — Arden Jones & Saoirse Lou

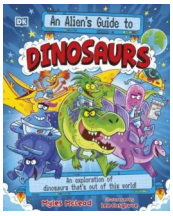
Boo is a little ghost who has never been very good at being scary. But when she starts Friends Club, she makes a surprising discovery — perhaps she isn't just a ghost after all! A funny, highly illustrated first chapter book about friendship, belonging and discovering what makes you you.

Year 2



Freedom March — Gillian Rowe & Sophie Bass

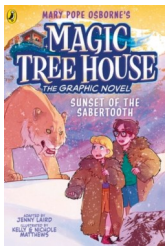
Inspired by the author's own family history, this beautifully illustrated story follows children in Barbados on their long journey to school. A moving celebration of friendship, determination and the importance of education, with fascinating real history woven into the story.



An Alien's Guide to Dinosaurs — Myles McLeod & Lee Cosgrove

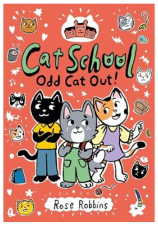
What better way to investigate dinosaurs than with a team of curious aliens? Packed with fascinating prehistoric facts, humour, poetry and wonderfully lively illustrations, this is dinosaur non-fiction with a difference. Perfect for young readers who like their facts served with plenty of fun.

Year 3



Magic Tree House: Sunset of the Sabretooth — Mary Pope Osborne, adapted by Jenny Laird

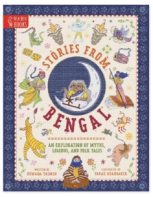
Jack and Annie are whisked back to the freezing Ice Age, where cave bears, woolly mammoths and a sabre-toothed tiger await! A fast-paced, full-colour, graphic novel adventure that is especially fun for Year 3 readers exploring the prehistoric world.



Cat School: Odd Cat Out! — Rose Robbins

It's the first day at Cat School, and Pelly is doing her best to hide the things that make her feel different. Funny, warm and full of personality, this graphic novel explores friendship, belonging and neurodiversity while celebrating the confidence to be yourself.

Year 4



Stories from Bengal: Myths, Legends and Folk Tales of the Region — Rumana Yasmin & Farah Khandaker

Step into the rich storytelling traditions of Bengal through a collection of myths, legends and folk tales filled with gods and goddesses, magical creatures, tricksters and extraordinary adventures. Beautifully illustrated with artwork inspired by traditional nakshi kantha embroidery, this is a wonderful invitation to discover stories from another storytelling tradition.

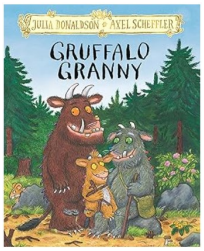


The Sky We Share: Star Stories from Around the World — Laura Knowles & Mariana Ruiz Johnson

Look up at the night sky and discover how people around the world have understood its stars. Blending astronomy with traditional stories, history, navigation and practical stargazing, this beautiful book explores the science above us and the stories humans have found there.

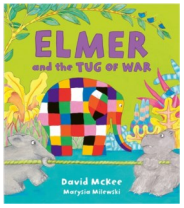
A New Chapter for Familiar Favourites

Some much-loved characters are back with brand-new adventures this autumn — perfect for sharing a little reading nostalgia with a new generation.



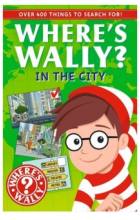
Gruffalo Granny — Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

Return to the deep dark wood for the first new Gruffalo story in over 20 years, as a very special Granny comes to stay.



Elmer and the Tug of War — David McKee & Marysia Milewski

Elmer returns in the final Elmer story written by David McKee, with a funny tale about elephants, hippos, a never-ending tug of war and why winning isn't everything.



Where's Wally? In the City

A brand-new, first-step Where's Wally? adventure for younger searchers, with over 400 things to spot. A chance for grown-ups who remember hunting for Wally themselves to introduce the fun to a new generation.

Discover Your Local Library

Did you know that your library card can unlock far more than the books on the shelves?

Monkseaton Library and Whitley Bay Community Hub & Library are two of our closest libraries, offering families free access to a huge range of books and resources. Across North Tyneside, libraries also run regular activities and special events for children and families.

Your library – at home!

North Tyneside Library members can use BorrowBox, a free digital library available 24 hours a day. With a library membership number and PIN, families can access thousands of titles on a phone, tablet or computer, including:



- eBooks
- eAudiobooks
- eMagazines & eNewspapers

There are books for children as well as adults, so it's another great way to discover new stories where ever you are.

Explore BorrowBox

Discover North Tyneside's digital library.

North Tyneside Libraries - BorrowBox

Reading a printed copy of this newsletter? Scan the QR code to find out more.

Listening counts too!

Audiobooks are a wonderful part of a child's reading life. Listening to stories gives children access to rich vocabulary, exciting stories and books they may not yet be able to read independently. They're also perfect for journeys, quiet time or quite simply enjoying a story together.

What's happening at our local libraries?

North Tyneside Libraries host storytimes, rhymetimes, creative activities, workshops and special events throughout the year— and there is plenty happening beyond our two nearest branches too.

Because the programme changes regularly, the best way to discover what's coming up is through the live North Tyneside Libraries events calendar.

See what's coming up

Browse the live calendar for the latest activities and booking information across North Tyneside Libraries.

Explore upcoming library events

Reading a printed copy? Scan the QR code.

Stories Beyond the Page

Stories don't have to stay on the page! Seeing a familiar story brought to life on stage or screen can offer a completely different way to experience it. Here are a few literary adaptations to look out for this autumn and winter.

On Stage

Hansel & Gretel and the Witch



Northern Stage / 29th October—1st November / Ages 5+

Hansel & Gretel and the Witch | Northern Stage

The familiar Brothers Grimm tale is reimagined through dance and storytelling by Newcastle's balletLORENT. A wonderfully different way to experience a traditional story — and a chance to compare this version with the tale children already know.

The Snow Queen



Northern Stage / 3rd December—2nd January

The Snow Queen | Northern Stage

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale is given a new North East reimagining in Northern Stage's Christmas production, with friendship, community and kindness at its heart.

The Snowman in Concert



The Glasshouse / 23rd—24th December 11am, 2pm & 5pm

The Snowman in Concert | The Glasshouse

Raymond Briggs' much-loved story comes to life on the big screen with its magical score performed live by the Royal Northern Sinfonia. A wonderful chance to experience a familiar picture book in a completely different way this Christmas.

From Page to Screen

The Cat in the Hat—in cinemas from 4th December



Dr. Seuss's mischievous Cat returns in a brand-new animated adventure. Why not revisit the original picture book before heading to the cinema and see what changes on the journey from page to screen?

BBFC classification was still to be confirmed at the time of publication. Please check the age rating and content advice before booking.

