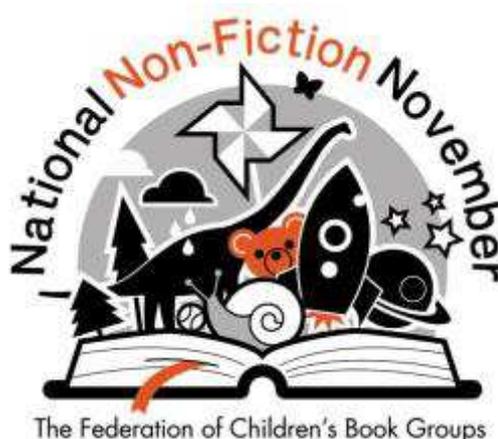


## Hello St Peter and St Paul's!

It was lovely to see you all earlier this month, when I came to tell stories! As your new **Patron of Reading**, I thought I'd send you this **Newsletter** – to tell you what I've been doing, and to remind you about some great books, in time for Christmas presents!

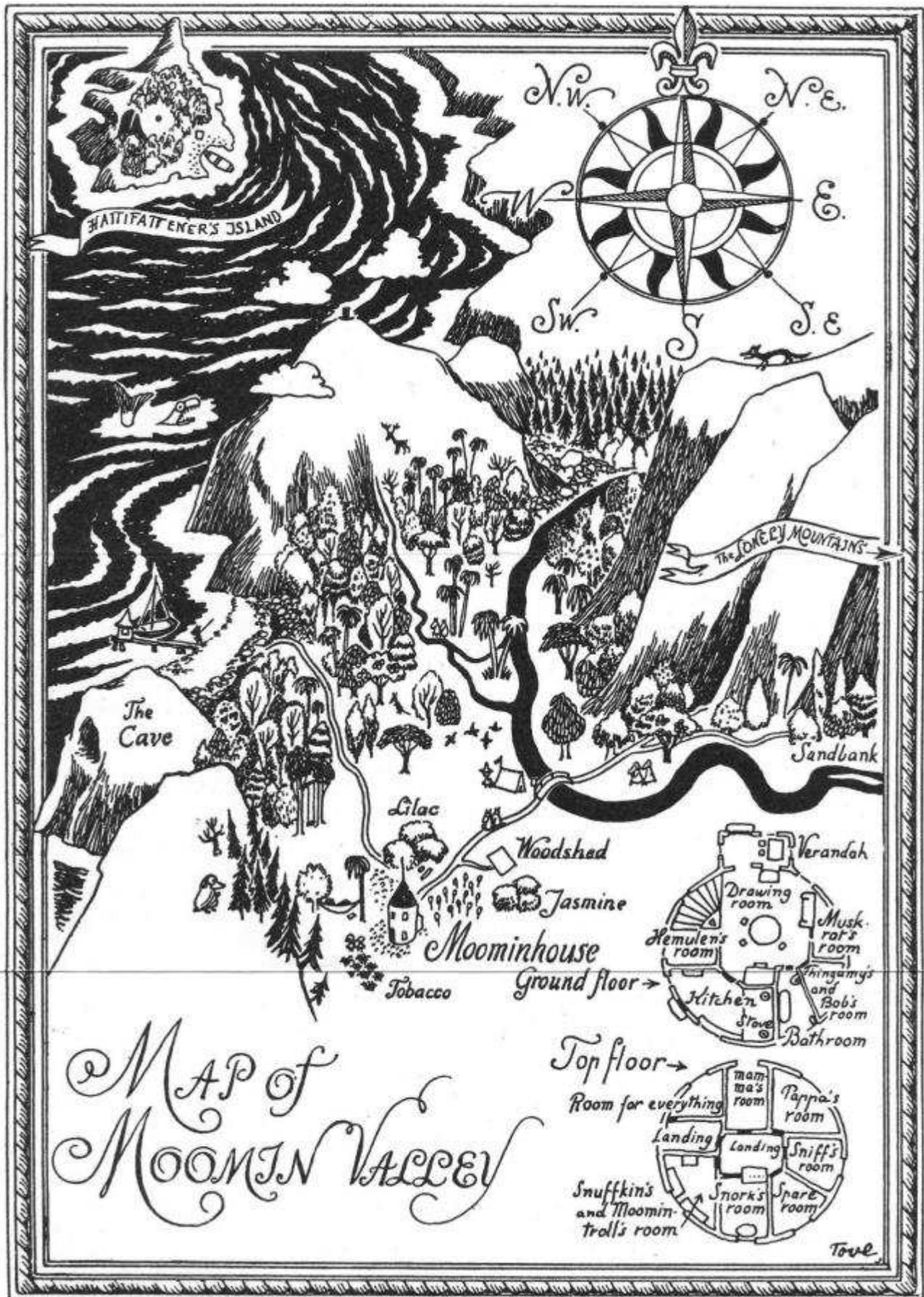
I hope you've had a good reading term! Did you try performing those fireworks poems I brought? Maybe you did something special during **Children's Book Week** (13th November), or talked about your favourite fact books, during **Non-Fiction November**? There's still time! Whatever you did, I hope you had fun with books and stories!



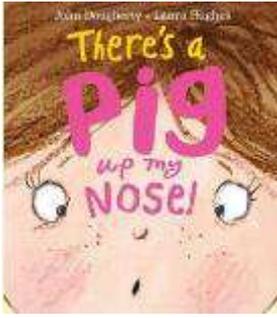
After I came to your school, I sat in on the Yorkshire Heat of the **Kids Lit Quiz**, an international book quiz for Y6-7s. Next week, I'll be in London compering the UK National Final. The winner will go to New Zealand next year, for the World Final! If you like quizzes, you could make up a class quiz, for another class to try, or there's a quiz [here](#) that your teacher could look at.



After travelling to Bedford to run a course, it was time for **my birthday**! On 19th November, I got lots of fab presents – and no birthday would be complete without a few books! A friend gave me **Finn Family Moomintroll**, one of the lovely Moomin books by Tove Jansson. I've always loved these; the Moomins are like little hippos, and there are so many other amazing characters. Do you like books with maps? I do! Here's the map of Moomin Valley, which also shows you the inside of their little round house:

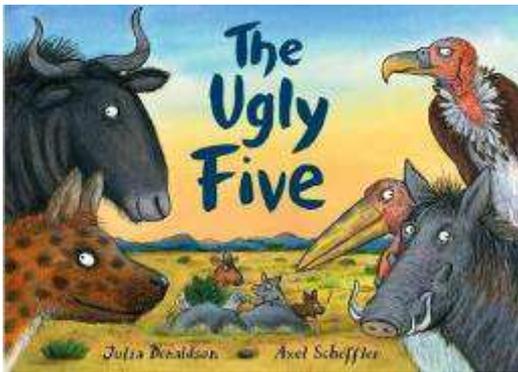
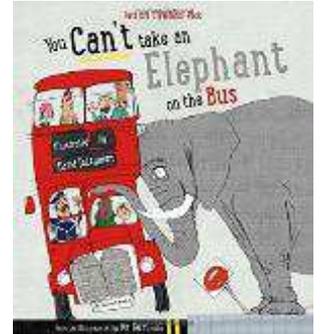


I've got a busy week next week – the quiz final, then storytelling at two schools in London – so here's a round-up of books for you...



I've been enjoying the picture book **There's a Pig up my Nose!**, by John Dougherty. Even the title makes you laugh, doesn't it? Another picture book that I fancy trying is **You can't take an Elephant on a Bus**, by Patricia Cleveland-Peck. It begins:

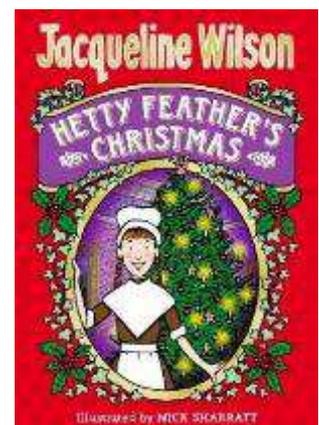
*You can't take an elephant on the bus  
You can't take an elephant on the bus ...  
It would simply cause a terrible fuss!  
Elephants' bottoms are heavy and fat  
and would certainly squash the seats quite flat.*



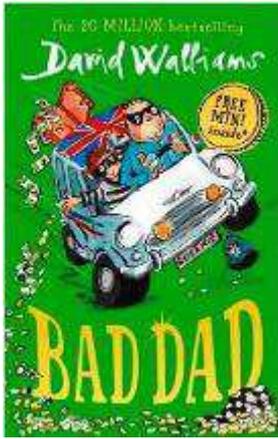
Julia Donaldson fans will be delighted to see **Ugly Five**, a story about five animals from Africa: the wildebeest, the warthog, the vulture, the hyena and the marabou stork. In the story, they're proud to be ugly – but their babies think they're perfect just the way they

are (and so do I!).

I'm sure there are some Jacqueline Wilson fans in school, so look out for a new story about Victorian orphan Hetty Feather. In **Hetty Feather's Christmas**, an unexpected gift leads to trouble for Hetty on Christmas Day, and the dreaded Matron Bottomly is delighted to have an excuse to exclude Hetty from the orphanage's festive celebrations...



Talking of top-selling authors brings us to David Walliams. His latest book, **Bad Dad**, begins like this:



*Dads come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.*

*There are fat ones and thin ones, tall ones and short ones.*

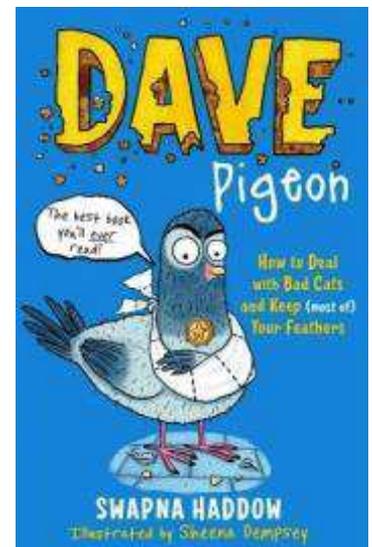
*There are young ones and old ones, clever ones and stupid ones.*

*There are silly ones and serious ones, loud ones and quiet ones.*

*Of course, there are good dads, and bad dads . . .*

It's the story of a father and son on a high-speed cops and robbers adventure, and proves that 'Bad Dad' is not that bad after all!

My last choice is one that I can't *wait* to read! I really like the sound of **Dave Pigeon**, and I won't have long to wait, because I've just ordered it. Written by the wonderfully-named Swapna Haddow (you can find out more about her at [her website](#)), it's a hilarious tale of 'How to deal with bad cats and keep (most of) your feathers', told by Dave himself in 'pigeonese'. Really funny pictures decorate the story, and it's won lots of awards!



These are just a few of the great books around at the moment, and you'll find a lot more once you start looking! It's a really good time of year to give gift suggestions – to Santa Claus, or anyone!

Have fun with reading, and I hope you have a wonderful Christmas! Remember...

**EVERY CHRISTMAS STOCKING NEEDS AT LEAST ONE BOOK!**

Best wishes, **Alec**