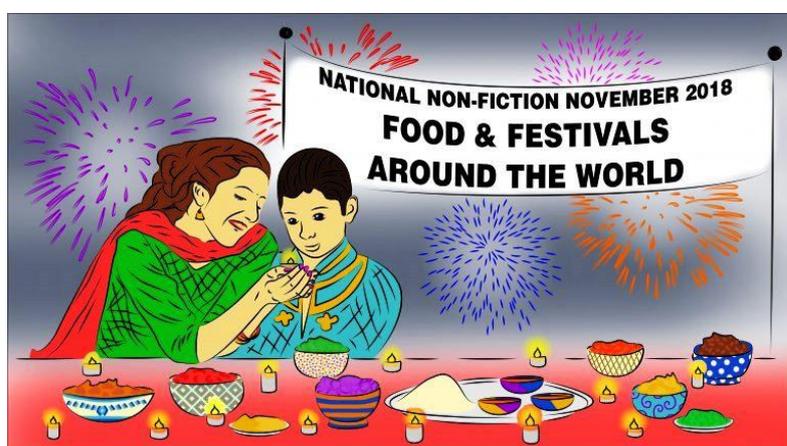


## Hello St Peter & St Paul!

It was lovely to see you all in May, when I told stories to younger children (I'll see you again in December). As your **Patron of Reading**, I thought it was time I sent you another **Newsletter**, to give you some reading ideas, tell you what I've been doing, and remind you about some great books, ready for Christmas presents!

I hope you're having a good reading term. Last year, **Children's Book Week** was in mid-November, and although there's no special date this time, these darker evenings are a really good time to curl up with a book and celebrate reading.

**Non-Fiction November** runs through the whole



month, and this time, you'll see it has a food theme. There are some fascinating books about food – where it comes from, how the right foods keep you healthy – plus some simple cookery books from people like Bake-off's **Nadiya Hussain**, and some inspired by stories, such as Julia Donaldson's **Gruffalo Crumble**, and **other Recipes!** Have a look at some books about festivals around the world, too, and the special foods that are part of their celebrations. For more ideas, try [here](#). Whatever you do, I hope you have fun with books and stories!

What's happening in your **school library** at the moment? Were there any displays of scary books for Hallowe'en? Or perhaps an 'Author of the Month'? It's a good time to look for any winter stories (try **Moominland Midwinter**), or ones about Christmas – Dr Seuss's **The Grinch**, Raymond Briggs's **Father Christmas** or **Snowman** books, the Ahlbergs' **Jolly Christmas Postman**, with its

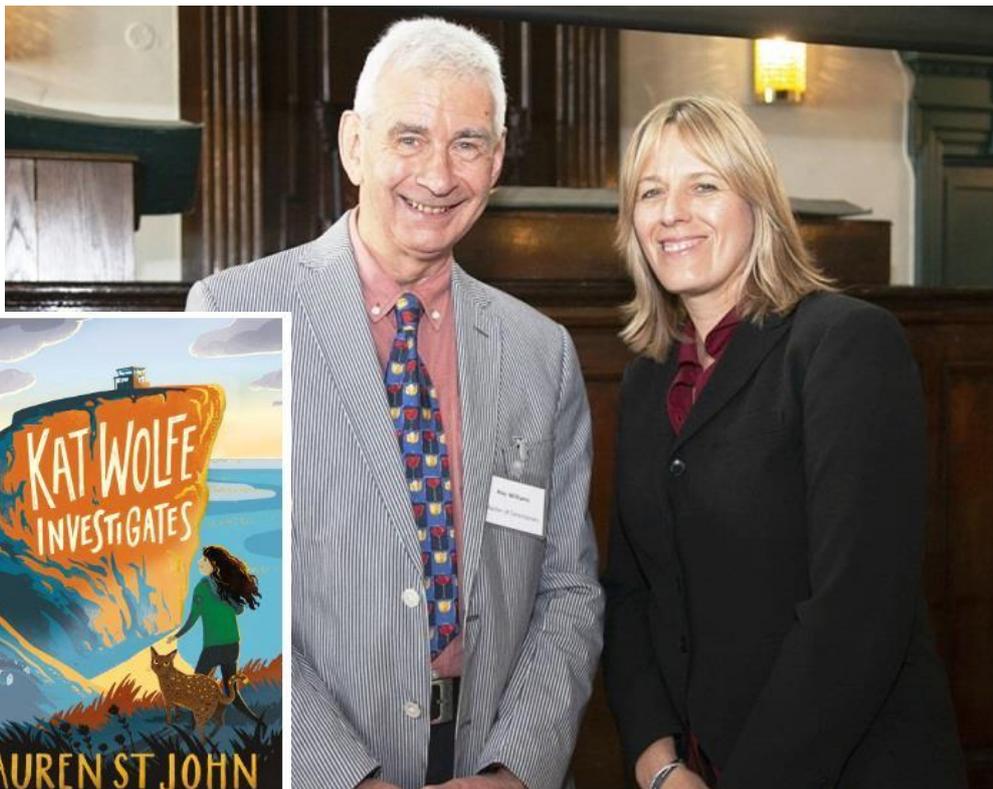
lift-out letters, or a classic like **A Christmas Carol**. Have you ever tried Barbara Robinson's **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, when six awful children get parts in the Nativity Play? It's fab! There might be a book that just *reminds* you of Christmas time, as author Chris Riddell said:

THE BOOK THAT MAKES ME FEEL CHRISTMASY IS 'THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE' AND THE CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE BEAVER DAM. THE HAND DELIVERED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS MUST BE THE BEST GIFTS EVER GIVEN IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.

CHRIS RIDDELL



Last month, I was in London, presenting the **School Librarian of the Year** award, with author **Lauren St John** (see below). I hope older classes have discovered some of Lauren's mystery stories, like the Laura Marlin series. I'm reading that Kat Wolfe book you can see!





Next month, I'll be in London compering the UK National Final of the **Kids' Lit Quiz** for 10-13 year olds. 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. Special guest will be **Geraldine McCaughrean**, author of **Stop the Train**, **A Pack of Lies**, a sequel to Peter Pan, and some wonderful re-tellings of Greek Myths.

Are you a Mischief Maker? If you had a go at the **Summer Reading Challenge** in your local public library, you'll know what I mean! Tell others about your favourite books, and also...



...tell your friends that on 1st December, they can:



This time all you do is read three books over the Christmas break, rate them on your 'web profile'; then there are badges, quizzes, certificates (oh, and look out – a Yeti in the Playground!)

Do you think one of these people looks like a Yeti?

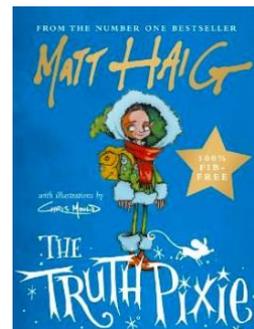
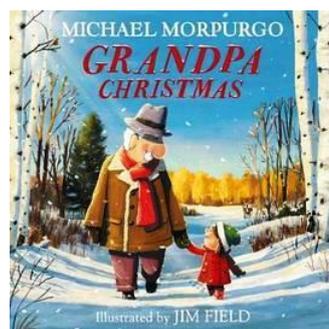
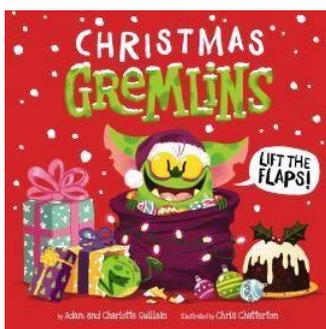
Turn the page to find out who they are...



What do you mean... *the one on the right is a Yeti?* On my trip to Northern Ireland last month, I met up with author **Tom Palmer** (in the middle of the picture), whose books I told you about on a previous visit. Look him up to find out more! The man on the left is the author **Sam McBratney**. You may not know his name, but the picture on the right may give you a clue! *Answer below\**



Finally, here are just four of the lovely new books coming soon (and I haven't even mentioned reading **Mary Poppins** again, ready for the new film at Christmas!); 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 to 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**

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*\*He's the author of 'Guess how much I love you'*