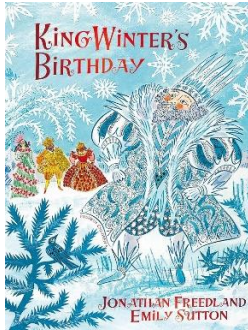




Malvern's Reading for Pleasure Newsletter – December 2024

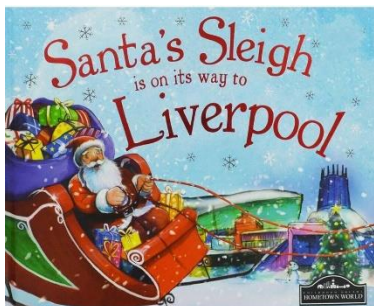
Season's Greetings! And welcome to a special Christmas edition of our reading for pleasure newsletter.



'King Winter's Birthday': Written by Jonathan Freedland and illustrated by Emily Sutton, this beautiful, timeless picture book was inspired by a story written by Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz - author of **'The Passenger'**. (Boschwitz was born in Berlin in 1915. His father was Jewish. He was in Britain with his mother in 1939 when war broke out. He was interned as an 'enemy alien' on the Isle of Man and was subsequently deported to Australia for internment. He wrote **'King Winter's Birthday'** while he was on the Isle of Man. In 1942, he was released and allowed to return to Britain. The vessel he was on was torpedoed - and Boschwitz died at the age of 27.)

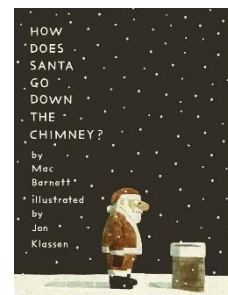
Back to the story.....It's King Winter's birthday, and he wants his party to be really special. He asks all of his brothers and sisters to be there: Queen Spring, King Summer and Queen Autumn. But the wind and the trees whisper a warning, and as the four play magical games, something strange begins to happen outside. This fairy tale is a celebration of nature's rhythms, and of a chaotic world restored to balance.

'Where Snow Angels Go' by Maggie O'Farrell: *Have you ever woken up suddenly, in the middle of the night, without knowing why?* Sylvie wakes one night, without knowing why. Then she sees the most spectacular sight - a pair of wings, enormous and made of the softest snow-white feathers imaginable. An angel in her bedroom - a snow angel. He tells her that he is here to look after her, for Sylvie is not as well as she seems. Many months later, as Sylvie recovers from her illness, she longs to see her snow angel again. He saved her life, after all. There is so much she wants to tell him, so much she wants to know. Will he ever come back? And how can Sylvie make sure that everyone she loves has their own snow angel, to keep them safe, too?



'Santa's Sleigh is on its way to Liverpool': *The moon over Pier Head gives off a cool glow. The docklands lie snug under blankets of snow. The star-sprinkled sky is especially bright. Hey Santa! Hey Santa! Please visit tonight. The snowmen in Crosby stand perfectly still. Their hats and their scarves keeping out the night chill.....'* Written by Eric James and illustrated by Robert Dunn, this magical Christmas Eve tale name-checks many of Liverpool's suburbs. The book's blurb says: *'Santa can't visit until you're fast asleep, so snuggle down and read what happens on Christmas Eve when things don't go quite to plan.'*

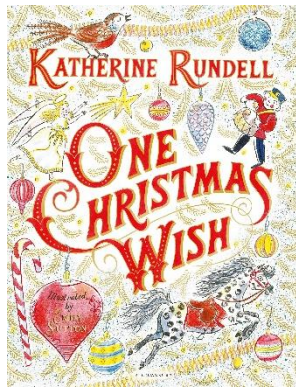
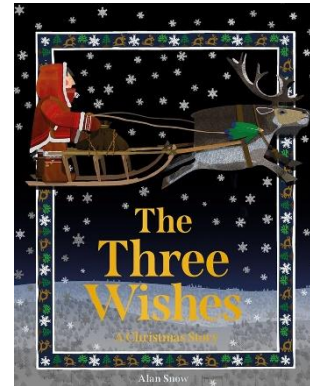
'How Does Santa Go Down The Chimney?': The multi-award-winning duo of Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen tackle a perennial question: How does Santa go down the chimney? When Santa arrives at a child's house on Christmas Eve, does he go down the chimney feet first or head first? What if he gets stuck? What if there's no chimney? Maybe he slides under the door, as thin as a piece of paper? Or is it possible he pours himself through the tap? What happens once he's inside? Mac Barnett's talent for earnest deadpan humour and Jon Klassen's irresistibly funny art honour this timeless question with answers both ridiculous and plausible.





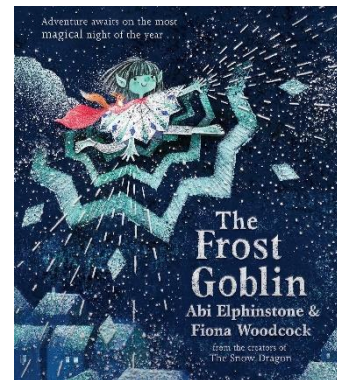
'Snow' by Walter de la Mare: This poem is the first book in Walter de la Mare's Four Seasons series and is beautifully illustrated by Carolina Rabei. Walter de la Mare (1873 to 1956) was a poet, short story writer and novelist – probably best known for his poem 'The Listeners'. As the day draws to a close, a family prepares for Christmas - decorating the tree, hanging stockings by the fire, putting out a plate of mince pies. And outside, the world turns to white....
'No breath of wind, / No gleam of sun / Still the white snow / Whirls softly down / Twig and bough / And blade and thorn / All in an icy / Quiet, forlorn.'

'The Three Wishes' by Alan Snow: From bestselling children's author and illustrator comes the perfect Father Christmas origin story. A beautiful, fresh take on a classic tale, once read it will become a firm Christmas tradition forever. Coming together like a perfect festive jigsaw, this story explains all of the traditions and myths around Santa Claus, from how he travels around the world in one night, how his sleigh and reindeer can fly, and why he leaves presents, to the origins of his red coat. *A young boy is herding his family's reindeer when they are drawn into a mysterious cave. The cave is the holder of eternal summer, looked after by three strange characters – a wooden creature, a bird and a fish. Once entered, the cave cannot be left without time in the outside world standing still.....*



'One Christmas Wish' by Katherine Rundell: It's Christmas Eve and Theo - left at home with a babysitter - sees an odd-looking star out of his window and decides to make a wish. He wishes that he had some friends to keep him company. Moments later the Christmas decorations begin to disentangle themselves from the tree behind him, ready to wreak a little havoc...
Written with generous helpings of warmth and humour, this is a timeless Christmas story about treasuring the people and values that really matter at this time of year. With breath-taking illustrations by Emily Sutton capturing the magic of the season in stunning detail, this modern classic from master storyteller and best-selling children's author Katherine Rundell is the perfect Christmas story.

'The Frost Goblin' by Abi Elphinstone & Fiona Woodcock: *"The deepest frost has the power to rekindle hope in anyone who's lost it.."*
In Bertie Crash-Wallop's noisy family, it can sometimes feel like there is no room for a quiet boy like him. But when Bertie meets a family of goblins on the night of the deepest frost, is it possible he might make some magic and discover his own place in the world? Join Bertie and the Frost Goblins on an exciting adventure in this beautifully moving story by the bestselling author of 'Sky Song' and 'The Unmapped Chronicles', Abi Elphinstone, and renowned illustrator Fiona Woodcock. The perfect book for frosty winter's nights and cosy Christmas mornings.



Frank Cottrell Boyce: The current Children's Laureate will be at Waterstones in Liverpool One on Thursday, 5th December from 5.30pm until 8.00pm for an evening of festive fun. Expect carol singers, mince pies and mulled wine! Frank will be there to chat and to sign books.

'Books crowbar the world open for you.' (From 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell)

Paul Kynaston : Assistant Head Teacher : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool : December 2024

I'm reading **Friends and Traitors** by Helen Peters.

The Malvern Community Book Club's current book is **Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase** by Jonathan Stroud.