HELLO THERE!

Firstly I’d like to wish everyone a very happy new year. Let’s hope we finally get back to a more normal routine soon!

In this issue, we have lots of great ideas for National Storytelling Week. We’d love to hear if you tried any of them in class. Please drop us a quick message if you get a chance.

We also have some fantastic books from Janis Mackay to give away to one lucky class in our ‘A Book to Share’ competition, so don’t forget to tell us about the books you and your class love.

Wendy Jones

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**National Storytelling Week**

This year’s National Storytelling Week runs from January 29th to February 5th. It’s an event created by the Society for Storytelling. You can find lots more information here. This year’s theme is Your Story My Story. Tweet your storytelling week to @sfs_uk with the hashtag nationalstorytellingweek.

**BOOK HOOK**

**Short activity ideas** Perform a well-known story to the class with your group. Can they guess the story? Share a funny, exciting or even sad story from your own experience. Remember to use lots of expression and gestures to bring it to life. Ask children to do the same.

**Longer activity ideas** Explore different ways to tell stories. Ask children to choose a book or poem and make a collage, write a news report or create some puppets to retell the story.

**Other resources** You can find resources for National Storytelling Week from Twinkl here.

You’ll find useful resources from the BBC here.
Janis Mackay
Award-winning Scottish writer, Janis Mackay will be joining us at Moat Brae for a very special project this year. Janis is the author of ten books for children. These include the Magnus Fin trilogy about a boy who is half selkie, inspired by five years of living right next to the sea. In her Accidental Time Traveller series, Janis’s protagonists wrestle with the problems of time travel as they visit Victorian times, World War I and the future. You can find out more about Janis and her books at her website here.

BOOK REVIEW

In The Sea, Miranda Krestovnikoff takes readers on a fact-filled journey through the many different environments of the ocean, from sandy shores and coral reefs to the chilly Arctic and the deep dark ocean depths. The book is packed with creatures buzzing with life in Jill Calder’s gorgeous illustrations. Each spread is totally different from the last, but all set the scene in glorious colour with startling perspectives. It’s a book to pore over for hours, trying to decide which is your favourite illustration (mine is the gannet diving under bottle-green water).

Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth
written by Frank Cottrell Boyce illustrated by Steven Lenton published by Macmillan

Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth is a wonderful book to read with P6 or P7. It tells the story of Prez, who is living in a temporary foster home outside Dumfries while his grandfather is unable to look after him. Suddenly Sputnik (an alien who everyone else sees as a dog) turns up. Through their adventures together, Prez realises the importance of friendship, memories and the meaning of home. This is a funny and moving book which gives lots of opportunities for discussion about topics such as fostering, dementia and selective mutism. The class enjoyed coming up with their own lists of ‘Ten Things Worth Seeing or Doing on Earth’ and debating them to make a final class list. A book that makes you appreciate what you have.

Shared by Mrs Brown, Georgetown Primary.

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

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AUTHOR PROFILE

The winner of the 2021 ALCS Educational Writers’ Award is Sometimes I Feel... A Menagerie of Feeling Big and Small by Sarah Maycock. The Award celebrates educational writing that inspires creativity, encourages students to read widely and builds their understanding beyond the requirements of exam specifications.

• Sign up here this spring for your school to be part of the Shadowing Scheme for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals.

CHILDREN’S BOOK NEWS

• In the Reading Corner is a must-listen podcast for librarians, teachers, student teachers and anyone interested in children’s books. Host Nikki Gamble brings a deep knowledge and enthusiasm about children’s books to this series of interviews with authors and illustrators. Find it here or from any podcast app.

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

Tell us about a book you’ve shared with your class in 150 words or less. All entries will be shared on Moat Brae’s social media and one lucky entry will appear here and will win Janis Mackay’s Magnus Fin trilogy.

Entries to wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org marked A BOOK TO SHARE by 25 March 2021.

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The Sea
written by Miranda Krestovnikoff illustrated by Jill Calder published by Bloomsbury

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