

December Library Newsletter

Thank you so much for everyone who joined in the Jolabokafloð celebrations. It was such a success and it was wonderful to see so many children taking part. Not only did we raise funds for buying new books for the library but it also raised the awareness of enjoying a book during the festive season. I think a new tradition has been established at Katherine Semar!



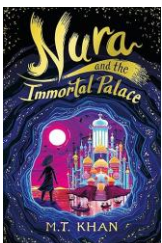
It has been a great year in the library and we continue to encourage our children to be adventurous in their book choices as well as enjoying the old favourites. An article on social media recently suggested that what we regard as the “classic” children books can in many cases contain outdated views for today’s society. The presenter has found some wonderful alternatives to the classic themes and I thought I would share these with you. These would make wonderful last minute Christmas gifts.

Classic book – The Little Princess
Alternative suggestion



The story of a Queendom set in an alternate India. A debut rich in fantasy, friendship and faith, and an original adventure that sparkles with storytelling magic.

Classic book – Five Children and It



An alternative to this classic book is this beautiful book – the cover is enough to tempt you into this book. It was the winner of the Waterstones children’s book prize. A magical adventure rooted in Muslim culture and tradition, Nura and the Immortal Palace follows a young girl’s journey from modern-day Pakistan into the world of the jinn.

Classic books - The Narnia Series



The stories of Narnia will live for ever but a great alternative is Vivi Conway – an amazing fantasy series – combines portal fantasy and an epic quest.

Also The Kingdom Over the Sea by Zohar Nabi – a modern classic about a magical world full of spells and sorcery

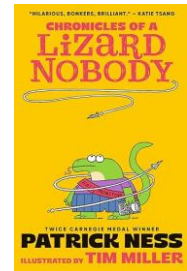


A great alternative to Roald Dahl fans would be these books by Joseph Coelho



These books are spooky, gothic and perfect tales for 8-9 year olds. Easy to read as. They are written in verse and great to read aloud.

Another modern alternative would be Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody – the first book in a hilarious story about a mismatched set of animals attending school together.



A great alternative for anyone who loved Black Beauty and stories about horses would be Birdie by J.P. Rose – a story set in Yorkshire about a mixed race girl who befriends a pit pony. Fans of Michael Morpurgo would love this story – definitely one for the library.

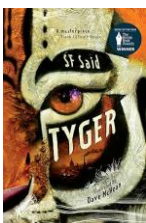
Fans of Peter Pan may enjoy Scarlet Morning by N.D. Stevenson.



A tale following two orphans who leave the only home they've ever known to sail with an eccentric crew of pirates. Also the book Bloom by Nicola Skinner, a beautifully written, incredibly original and wickedly funny novel for readers of 10 and older – BLOOM is for everyone who has ever felt like they didn't fit in, and for anyone who has ever wanted a little more colour and wildness in their lives...



One of the books which is tipped to become a modern classic is Tyger by S.F.Said – a favourite author in our school.



Adam has found something incredible in a rubbish dump in London. A mysterious, mythical, magical animal. A TYGER. And the tyger is in danger. The cover of this book is amazing – open out the book completely!

I hope these alternatives have given you a few ideas – they have certainly inspired me. I have not read all of these books but will definitely be adding them to our collection.

Thank you so much for supporting the library in so many ways. Whether it is being pestered for bringing in money for our little shop or donating books to the library we really do appreciate it.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas with lots of lovely reading - don't forget our book swap cupboard is always available outside the school building – do please have a browse.

