

# Holy Trinity Christmas Reading Newsletter

## All I want for Christmas is..... a book!

Research shows that literacy, and reading in particular, has a significant impact on young people's life chances. In fact, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that **reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success** (OECD, 2002). A child who reads every day not only gets better in reading and English, but also in all other subjects.

We are therefore wanting to continue to develop a true 'Book Culture' at Holy Trinity where the joy of reading is promoted at every opportunity - including at home!

If your child hasn't yet developed a love of reading, don't panic! With such a wide (and growing) range of exciting authors out there, there is bound to be a book to engage even the most reluctant of readers.

Here are some tips and ideas on how to promote a love for reading at home this Christmas.

Try and complete our 12 Days of Christmas Reading Challenge! Your child (and any other member of the family!) can complete the challenges in any order. They simply need to make a note of which stories or books they have read for each challenge and hand this to their teacher in January. For those children reading larger novels, they may show when they have read 50 pages, rather than a whole book.

**1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree:** Read a story set in the countryside, the forest or the jungle.

**2. Turtle Doves:** Turtle doves symbolise love. Read a book where there is a strong relationship between the characters. This does not have to be romantic love!

**3. Three French Hens:** Read a book set somewhere other than the UK.

**4. Four Calling Birds:** Read a book where one of the main characters is an animal.

**5. Five Golden Rings:** Read a book where there is a treasure or something precious the main character seeks.

**6. Six Geese a Laying:** Snuggle down! Make a cosy reading den with lights and decorations. Enjoy your choice of book with a family member.

**7. Seven Swans a Swimming:** Read a book where there is a link to water in some way. This could be a river, lake, sea, the rain, snow etc.

**8. Eight Maids a Milking:** Read a book where the main character is a female lead.

**9. Nine Ladies Dancing:** Read a book that brings you joy and happiness.

**10. Ten Lords a Leaping:** Read a book where one character has a lot of power (e.g. king, queen, pharaoh, headteacher...)

**11. Eleven Pipers Piping:** Read and perform a winter-themed poem.

**12. Twelve Drummers Drumming:** Read a book from an author you have not come across before.

12 Days of Christmas Reading Challenge



OLIVER JEFFERS

*"Christmas is a time for stories, and I think you can spot the ones that are genuine — the ones that are really relishing in the joy and magic of this time of year."*

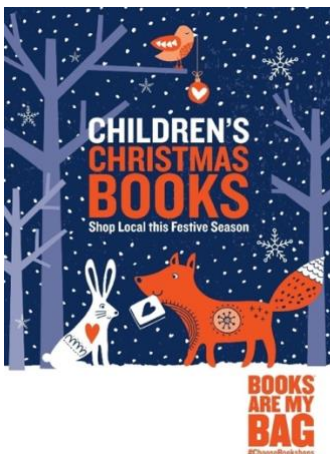
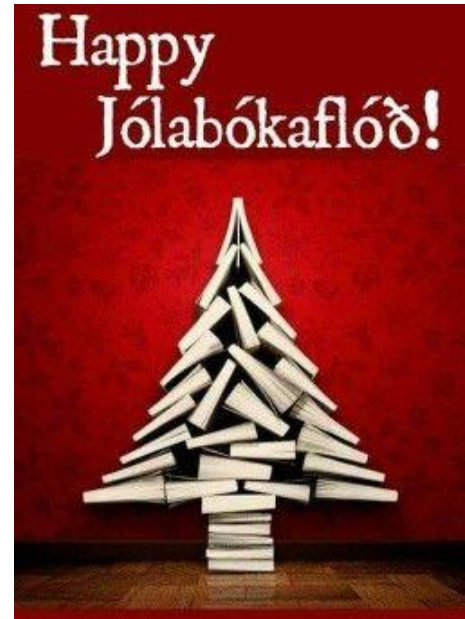
Oliver Jeffers has partnered with Harrods for an immersive Christmas experience entitled 'Wonder of Stories'. This experience will take you and your family on a trail through the land, sea and stars of his books. You can experience this event online. Click on this link to find out more:

<https://www.harrods.com/en-gb/oliver-jeffers>

In Iceland, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve and you spend the rest of the night reading. People generally take their books to bed along with some chocolate. Books are typically published around the Christmas season, leading to this surge in reading known as *Jolabokafloð*, which translates roughly to "Christmas book flood" in English.

*Jolabokafloð* started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland. Because of this, Icelanders gave books as gifts while other commodities were in short supply.

Why not start a *Jolabokafloð* tradition in your home this Christmas? If you do, send us a picture of you and your family settling down for some festive reading!



With lockdown and the rise of online retailers, independent book shops are suffering and need your help!

Our local bookshops are amazing, and the staff have a wealth of knowledge to help you find the perfect book for your loved ones this festive season.

If you can't find a book you like on these websites, the Bookshop website (<https://uk.bookshop.org/>) sells books under the flags of more than 130 independent booksellers.

## Looking for the perfect book to buy for your child this winter?

Try one of these websites to find a selection of delightful reads, targeted by age and/or interest.

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/great-books-guide/>

<https://clpe.org.uk/library/booklists>

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>