



St Teresa's  
Catholic Primary School  
Doing the little things well

Reading Newsletter  
Summer Term  
2021

This term we meet author Richard O'Neill

As a national literacy hero, Richard O'Neill knows about books and reading. He was born and brought up in the northeast and went to school in Darlington, so he knows the town very well. In fact, one of his positive memories of school is being awarded a book prize at St Augustine's 50 years ago when he was 8. He has gone on to win many more prizes as an author. We asked Richard about his love of reading and writing.



"Books have been with me for most of my life"

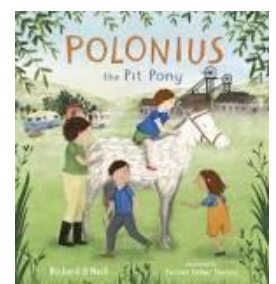
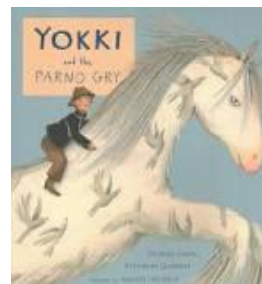
"I've been an avid reader since I was four years old when I somehow taught myself to read. From then on, I was usually found with my head stuck in a book. My dad remarked that I resembled a boy who had had his head replaced with a book, this prompted him to give me the nickname of 'Billy Book Head.'

All that time with my head stuck in a book wasn't wasted. I benefited in so many different ways from what I learnt from them, including being able to go on to write my own books, and tell stories in a range of other formats. This has enabled me to meet and work with some amazing people right across the world. Books have been with me for most of my life, helping me through times both good and bad. When you read books you always have something to talk about, you always have a story to share and a friend.

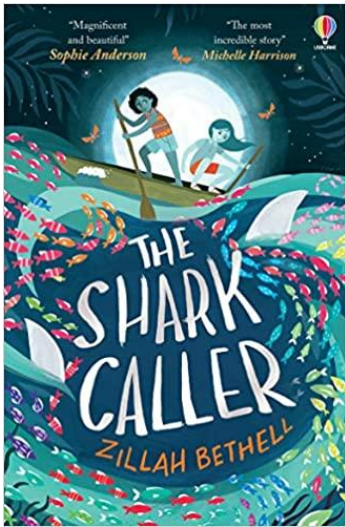
Books contain amazing stories and fabulous information. Stories about people like us and those who are different, places we want to visit, the people we aspire to be. Books entertain, instruct, educate, soothe, empower and so much more.

We are very pleased to announce that Richard will be coming to St Teresa's to work with children and teachers in June.

His books  
have won  
awards all  
over the  
world.



## New book recommendations



### The Shark Caller by Zillah Bethell

Aimed at ages 8+

Blue Wing is desperate to become a shark caller, but instead she must befriend infuriating newcomer Maple, who arrives unexpectedly on Blue Wing's island. At first, the girls are too angry to share their secrets and become friends. But when the tide breathes the promise of treasure, they must journey together to the bottom of the ocean to brave the deadliest shark of all.

A spellbinding adventure of friendship, forgiveness and bravery, set on the shores of Papua New Guinea.

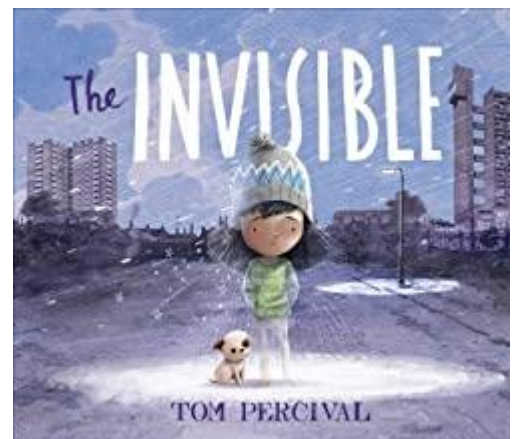
### The Invisible by Tom Percival

Aimed at 5+

When Isabel and her family have to move to the far side of the city, Isabel starts to feel...invisible.

A tender, important story about really seeing those around us – and how we all have a right to belong.

Can someone so small make a BIG difference?

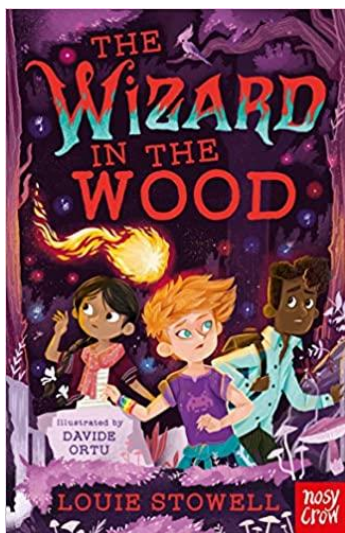


### The Wizard in the Wood by Louie Stowell

Aimed at 7-9-year olds

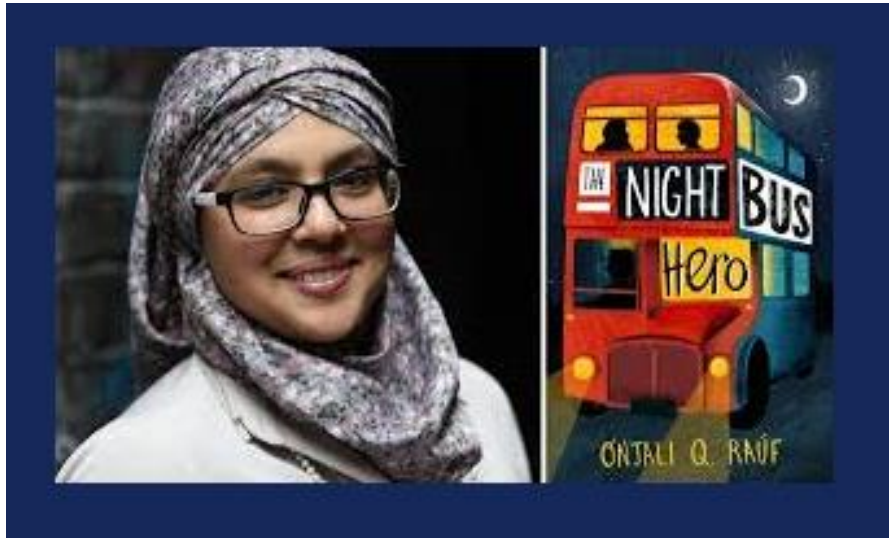
The next instalment of the series following on from *The Dragon in the Library* and *The Monster in the Lake*.

Kit, Josh and Alita are heading back to school – and they're excited to discover that they're getting a brand new library, which also means getting their own wizard librarian... and a dragon! But when something VERY BAD happens at the new library, it's up to Kit and her friends to save the world one more time.

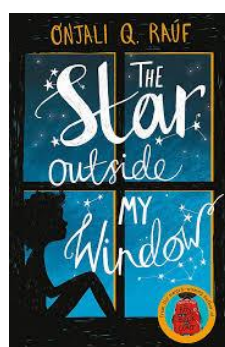
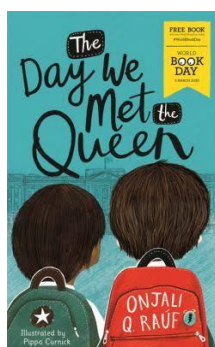
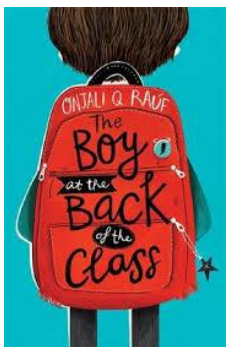




## Events



Classes 8, 9 and 10 took part in a virtual author event with Onjali Q. Rauf. Rauf is the author of a number of books including *The Night Bus Hero*, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, *The Day We Met The Queen* and *The Star Outside my Window*.

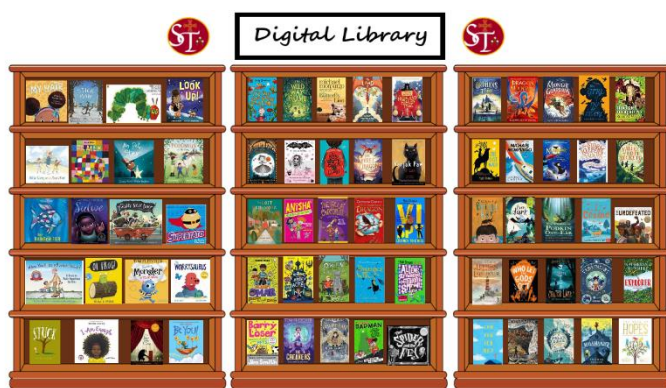


During the event, Onjali spoke about her new book *The Night Bus Hero* and what inspired her to write this book. All of the Year 5 children were lucky enough to receive a free copy of the book to enjoy.

The themes in the book link beautifully to every single one of our school virtues: responsibility, confidence, compassion, respect, resilience, justice, honesty and self-belief and lots of children cannot wait to read it.

"I really enjoyed the live event. The author seemed really nice and the way she described the book made me want to read it straight away. I'm looking forward to finding out what happens to Thomas." (Hope Class 9)

"I think the author event was inspiring to those who are interested in writing in the future. I can't wait to see what happens to the homeless man." (Harry Class 9)



Don't forget to check out the new Digital Library on our website where you can find out about lots of new and exciting books. You may also be able to listen to the author read an extract of their book or the whole book if you're lucky. Make sure you tell your teachers which books you have enjoyed listening to!

## Pupil recommendations



Erin recommends!

Erin (Class 10) recommends *The Strangeworlds Travel Agency* by L D Lapinski.

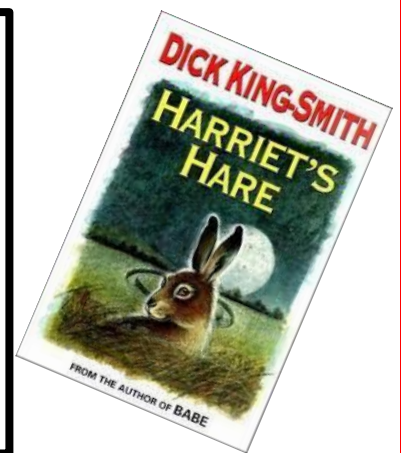
“This book is about a girl who finds a suitcase with a mysterious surprise inside that takes her to a whole new world of adventure. Erin recommends this to anyone who likes adventures and mysteries!”



Jos recommends!

Jos (Class 6) recommends *Harriet Hare* by Dick King-Smith

“This book is really good because it is really emotional and has a lot of detail. The story has many surprising twists and turns so you never know what is going to happen next.”



Edith recommends

Edith (Class 2) recommends *The Smeds and the Smoos* by Julia Donaldson

It is a fun book about aliens whose grandparents don't want them to like each other. One night they escape to the forest and they are scared but their grandparents rescue them.



Pippa recommends

Pippa (Nursery) recommends *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.

I like the part where the caterpillar nibbles its way out of the cocoon and turns into a beautiful butterfly.

