

Porthleven Reading: In Class and Beyond Spring Term 2026



Dear Readers,

We've had another wonderfully inspiring end of the year, with many exciting things to celebrate reading, writing and poetry across the whole school!

If you have anything you would like to add to the next newsletter, or if you want to be a reader in focus, then just contact Mrs. Figgins.

Authors that Inspire Our Readers

A highlight at the end of last term, was Michael Rosen Day in November — a national celebration dedicated to making reading, listening to and writing poetry fun and accessible for all with this year's theme, "Funny Food: A Feast of Poems." As part of the day, many classes created their own poetry with creative activities, performing to one another and others. From the youngest children to the oldest: fun was had by all.

Every classroom now features an author focus display, with focus posters and the book collections to complement the class reader and broaden children's author experience. Our reading corners are very busy as the authors become a familiar part of daily learning and discussion.

Pupils are also exploring their own voices as children as authors — with our enthusiastic young writers producing creative pieces that are proudly showcased around school.

Finally, our librarians are now offering their services twice a week, inviting children to come and read together, chat about books and receive recommendations — a wonderful way to nurture reading for pleasure.



Spotlight Author Darren Simpson



BORN: UNKNOWN
FROM: Nottingham, England

"The boy growled, dropped to all fours and took one end of the stick between his teeth. The dog at the stick's other end — a hefty Alsatian with long ears — bared its gums and slobbered. Boy and dog, with eyes as locked as the stick between their jaws, stared each other on the cracked concrete. They jerked their heads in a playful tug of war, with hands and paws clanking gravel and moss."

from *Scavengers*

Some of my books

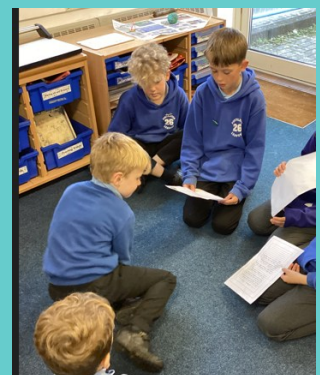


Author Focus: Jeremy Strong



Jeremy Strong (1949-2024) was born in Eltham, South East London in November 1949. He has had a varied career path before becoming an author including jobs as a: Head Teacher, Caretaker, Strawberry Picker, Jam Doughnut

When he was twenty-one, he was writing stories for children after realising that he loved writing funny stories and making people laugh.



Teacher Reader Recommends.



Mr. Goward is in the spotlight this term.



Mr. Goward loves reading books that are often curious and thoughtful, where stories are full of adventure. Many of his book choices contain brave characters and magical worlds. He often recognises classics and new titles, sharing his thoughts with children and adults around school.

Mr. Goward has cheated a little, after he was asked to do a book recommendation. Here's an author recommendation instead!

When I was growing up, one of my earliest favourite authors was Phillip Pullman. I enjoyed his pace of plots, detailed descriptions and characters that were always a little rougher around the edges than other books I had read. His Sally Lockhart series, about a Victorian girl who solves crimes and investigates the disappearance of her father, were the first of his books to capture my attention. I had been learning about Victorian England in class and the books linked in perfectly!

My favourite Pullman series, however, is His Dark materials – which are all available in the library (thanks Mrs Figgins!). These three books blew my mind when I first read them – and I've re-read them at least five times since then. They feature an amazing main character called Lyra and her daemon Pan. In this world, people's souls are attached to them outside their bodies, but in the form of a spirit animal. So they can talk to their inner souls – how cool is that? These books are dark, exciting, quick and fascinating. Pullman writes about religion and trickery with an interesting perspective, as well as how some people can use power against others unfairly.

Just recently, he finished the next series related to Lyra and I think they're just as good. Called the Book of Dust, this trilogy is a mixture of prequel (before His Dark Materials) and sequel (after) which leads to a fuller understanding of the world, its characters, and the story overall. Just like the main series, the Book of Dust is dark at times, always exciting, funny and heart-breaking.

I really recommend all of his books to you – the fact that I am still reading him even now after all these years should be a sign of how talented he is!



Inspired by Books Local Events.



Thursday 29 January @ 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Screening & Talk – The Arbor

CAST Cornwall Cornubian Arts & Science Trust, 3 Penrose Road, Helston Cornwall, Helston

Artist Clio Barnard's moving film about the late Bradford playwright Andrea Dunbar is an intriguing mix of interviews with Dunbar's family and friends, scenes from her plays, and TV footage of Dunbar in the 1980s. Andrea Dunbar, a tenacious young...

£15.00



Thursday 29 January @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Dick Whittington

Dick Whittington

Epworth Hall

Helston Theatre Company presents a whimsical retelling of the well-known tale 'Dick Whittington'. This timeless story unfolds with a delightful blend of laughter, romance and rats... The story follows the journey of a young clueless country boy...



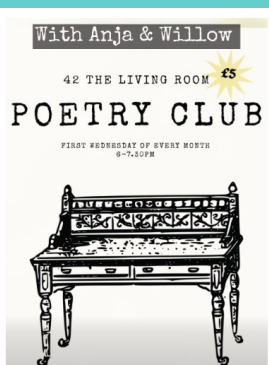
Wednesday 4 February @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Poetry Club

Poetry Club

42 The Living Room 42 Coinagehall Street, Helston

Next Wednesday December 3rd Arrival time at 6 through till 8ish Join us for an evening of reading, writing and enjoying poetry with opportunities to listen and share. Starting with the theme of winter

£5.00



Wednesday 11 February @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Peter Webb's Writer's Block Workshop

Peter Webb's Writer's Block Workshop

42 The Living Room 42 Coinagehall Street, Helston

THE WRITER'S BLOC at 42 The Living Room "Everyone's got a book in them, so...maybe discover what's stopping you writing yours?" Once a month for 6 sessions on the second Wednesday of the month, beginning June 11th....

£30.00

THE WRITER'S BLOC
Too much thinking and not enough writing?
Peter Webb, author of three novels, hosts a working group made up of YOU



at
42 The Living Room
"Everyone's got a book in them, so...maybe discover what's stopping you writing yours?"
Once a month for 6 sessions on the second Wednesday of the month.
Start Date: June 11th, 2025, from 19.00 to 21.00
Not so much how to write or what to write, but how to get it to the finish line and what to do once you get it there. A supportive space where, together, we discuss, share and encourage writers old or new, and most importantly, arrive at some decisions
The cost of the course is £30
To book one of the limited places in what will be a very popular series, please contact...
gachm27@live.com or info@42thelivingroom.com

Helston Library.



Groups & Activities

Storytime Mondays@11:00am
Genealogy Group Tuesdays@10:00am
Writing Group Tuesdays @12:30pm
Lego Club Wednesdays @3:45pm
Rhyme Time Fridays @10:30am
Children's Jewellery Making Fridays
@3:45pm

Why Read?

READING MATTERS!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A STUDENT WHO READS



WILL BE EXPOSED TO



AND IS MORE LIKELY TO SCORE IN THE



Check out our School Padlet.

Found on your child's Google Classroom.

Full of comments and updated weekly.



"I look up to the birds that seem to be following us. They are migrating just like us. And their journey, like ours, is very long, but they don't have to cross any borders."

What is it like to have to leave everything behind and travel miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? A mother and her two children set out on such a journey filled with fear of the unknown, but also great hope.

Author

Francesca Sanna

Peaceful Caterpillar

3 months ago

I really loved reading this book - it really made me feel emotional in a good way.

spring blossom

3 months ago

it helps you understand the journey of a refugee

frog empire queen

3 months ago

this book helps you understand the life of a refugee and everything they have had to go through

kind kitten

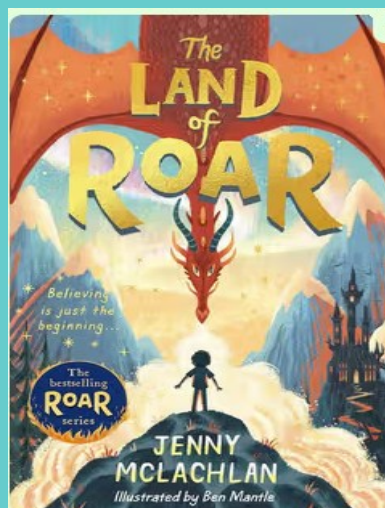
3 months ago

It is an amazing story to share with the world

Flaming Cerulede

3 months ago

A beautiful book I loved it. I recommend this book to all ks2 children and above. An amazing book.



Believing is just the beginning ...

When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved – dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure – as well as

things that scared them. Now the twins are eleven and Roar is just a memory. But when their grandad cleans out the attic, they find the folding bed and are horrified as Grandad is thrown into the folding bed and

Ezz

3 months ago

Really good book. Action packed and adventure filled. Really good for people who like a long fun read

frog empire queen

3 months ago

perfect for people who had their own imaginary world and want to relive their childhood magic

What are our Class Readers?

Chat to your child about them.



KS1



Year 1



Year 2

LKS2

What are our Class Readers?

Chat to your child about them.



Year 3

The Last Bear By Hannah Gold	Anisha Accidental Detective (Granny Trouble) By Serena Patel
Hannah Gold	Serena Patel
The Morning Rush By John Foster	What is Pink? By Christina Rossetti

Year 4

The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson	How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell
Sophie Anderson	Cressida Cowell
The River By Valerie Bloom	The Spider and the Fly" By Mary Howitt.



UKS2

Year 5

Kick By Mitch Johnson	I Believe in Unicorns By Michael Morpurgo
Mitch Johnson	Michael Morpurgo
The Elf and the Dormouse By Oliver Herford	The Owl and the Pussycat By Edward Lear

Year 6

Scavengers By Darren Thompson	Swimming Against the Storm By Jess Butterworth
Darren Thompson	Jess Butterworth
Moth by Isobel Thomas	Sonnets By William Shakespeare

Poetry Corner



Matt Goodfellow is an award-winning poet from Manchester. He spent over ten years working as a primary school teacher before embarking on his poetry career. He is a National Poetry Day Ambassador and spends his time visiting schools, libraries and festivals where his inspiring performances and workshops open new doors to poetry for both children and adults.



Ways to Change the World

Start Now

be the change
you want to see
walk the walk
stand with me

take the challenge
spread the word
we can make
our voices heard

every single
action helps
with a friend
or by yourself

be the change
you want to see
walk the walk
stand with me

Matt Goodfellow