



Troqueer Primary School

Reading Newsletter

Summer Term 2021

WELCOME to the second edition of our reading newsletter! If you enjoyed our last newsletter you're bound to love this one. This edition includes book releases for all ages, teacher and pupil interviews and much more including an [exclusive interview with a surprise author](#). I wonder who it could be? Read on to find out more...

We know it's been tough during lockdown but we hope you kept reading!

World Book day at Troqueer!

World Book Day just wasn't the same this year was it? Normally the school would be buzzing with excitement. P1, P1/2, P2 and P3 were all in school and enjoyed their 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions. However, they missed the older children to enjoy it with. We are already looking forward to next year. Below are some photos of the day which include 'Extreme reading' and toilet roll book characters:



AN INTERVIEW WITH...
Mr Mackenzie

What is your favourite book?

The Midwitch Cuckoo's by John Wyndhan

Which book character would you most like to be?

Njall Porgeirsson from the book Njals Saga

Fiction or Non-Fiction

Non-Fiction for me.

Who is your favourite illustrator?

Stevie Smith

Give us a book recommendation.

The dark is rising sequence from Susan Cooper



READING LIGHT on...
Daisy Cochrane P6/7

What's your favourite Book?

The Awful Auntie by David Walliams

Which character would you like to be?

Alice from Alice in Wonderland

Why do you like reading?

I like to get to know the characters and how they feel.

Epic e books or a real book

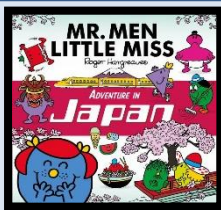
I love a real book.

Fiction or non-Fiction and why?

Fiction every time.

Hot New Book Releases!

Here are a selection of new books for you to look out for. Why don't you let us know what you think once you have read them. Send an email to gw19earlpeter@ea.dumgal.sch.uk



The Mr Men and Little Miss characters are off to Japan. Join them on their travels around the country as Little Miss Splendid enjoys the cherry blossom and Mr Rush checks out the world's fastest train.

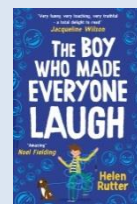
Released : July 2021



Everyday Magic by Jess Kidd

Welcome to Little Snoddington, where nothing is normal and every day is magic...

Meet, Alfie Blackstock who find himself living with his wild Aunties. Join him on a quest to find his only friend's little sister.



The Boy Who made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter

This one is for the older children in the school. Find out how Billy Plimpton, who has a stammer, copes with his move to High school! Will his dream of becoming a world famous comedian help him or just make things worse?



Our exclusive interview with... **Mark A. Smith!**



We recently enjoyed reading the award-winning book called '**Slugboy Saves the World**' by **Mark Smith** which is based on a superhero with a difference who travels all over Scotland. You have got to give this book a read! We got a special chance to interview Mark himself and he had some great detailed answers. We hope you enjoy the interview.

What was your inspiration for writing the book and why Scotland?

I grew up reading superhero comics, so I've always wanted to write superhero stories, but I wanted to make Slugboy a little bit different. I wanted to make him completely, utterly *useless*! And funny, because kids love to laugh, right? I also felt really strongly about setting the story in Scotland, because that's where I'm from, and I thought kids would enjoy reading about superheroes flying around places they've visited, like Edinburgh and St Andrews.

Were you born and raised in Scotland? Which is your favourite part of Scotland?

Yep, I've lived in Scotland my whole life. Have visited so many amazing places here, but I really enjoy exploring towns and villages, like Peebles, Pitlochry and Aberfeldy. And Dumfries and Galloway, of course! It's such a beautiful place, really enjoyed seeing some of it during my visit to the Wigtown Book Festival a few years ago. I like places with lots of cool things to see and do, and that have nice walks to go on.

Are you a full-time author? If not, what do you do?

I'm actually a full-time primary school teacher! In class, we spend most of our time talking about superheroes (occasionally there's a bit of maths...). I do most of my writing in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

Was Slugboy based on someone you know?

Not exactly... I mean, sure, I've always been a bit on the slow side, and it's fair to say I'm very enthusiastic and optimistic about things... but I'm not in the least bit slimy?!

Who is your favourite character in the book and why?

Aside from Slugboy, who has a very special place in my heart, I really enjoyed writing Maximum Velocity, the speedster who turns up during Murdo's adventure in Loch Ness. Writing his super-fast, scatter-brained dialogue is great fun, because I can be really silly with it. Love writing the villains, too. And Arnold Armstrong... Ooh and Captain Scotland! Err... does that answer your question?!

How long did it take to write the book? Where do you start when trying to write a book?

The ideas had been bouncing around in my head for a long time and I'd been writing odd scenes here and there for a few months before I actually sat down to write it properly, but when I *did* finally start typing things up and bringing all of my ideas together, I'd say it took me about three months, give or take an hour or two. As for where I start when writing a book, sometimes I get a strong idea for a character first, sometimes an idea for a story comes to me. It varies. But when I'm writing a story, I don't always start at the beginning. Sometimes I dive straight into the middle and work backwards from there!

Do you have any other books, and will there be a sequel?

My fabulous agent is hard at work finding homes for all my new stories, so hopefully I'll have some exciting news to share soon. As for a Slugboy sequel, nothing on the cards at the moment, but never say never. I certainly have lots of ideas for follow-ups that I'd love to write one day!

Which books did you like reading when you were younger? Could you recommend any other authors for us to look out for?

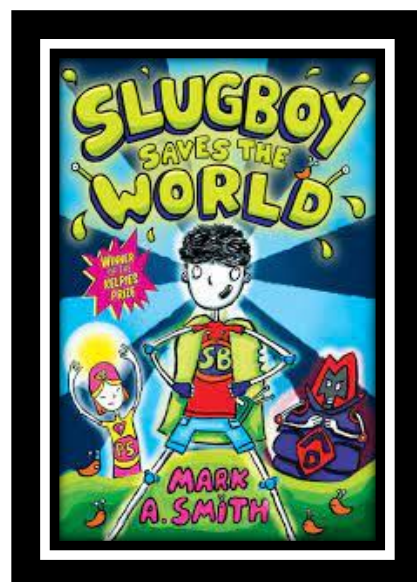
Honestly, when I was a kid, I mostly read superhero comics, like X-Men, Spider-Man and Avengers. There wasn't the incredible range of brilliant children's books back then as there is now. I honestly believe we're now living in a Golden Age of children's books (and superhero movies!) and that there's something out there for everyone!

My current favourite authors / books are:

David Solomons - *My Brother is a Superhero*

Jennifer Killick - *Crater Lake*

Christopher Edge - *The Longest Night of Charlie Noon*



What a fantastic insight into the life of an author! Thank you so much to Mark. Head out and get yourself a copy of his amazing book and don't forget to let us know what you think. We can pass your thoughts on to Mark now we are good friends!

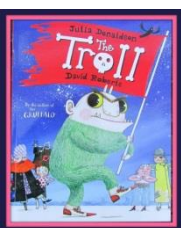
If you want to find out more about Mark and his work click on the link below:

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/authors/mark-a-smith>

What we are reading at Troqueer!

In this section we will share the books being enjoyed in school along with the thoughts and opinions of the children in class... the only opinions that matter! These books come highly recommended by the children of pupils so head out get yourself a copy!

P2 –The Troll by Julia Donaldson and David Roberts.



It is about a sad troll who is fed up cooking and eating fish and a ship full of sad pirates who have a bad chef. It is an adventure about how they meet! P1/2 really enjoyed it and said it was "amazing". "fantastic" and Summer said "I liked the part where the troll got taken away by the pirates in the chest."

P3 – The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd

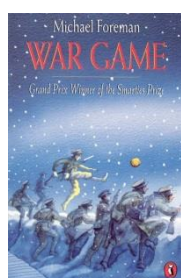


We really enjoyed reading this book together in P3. When Tomas finds a dragon fruit in his Grandad's garden he cannot control his excitement. He cannot keep it secret for long and soon he gets his friends involved and the quest to find more dragons leads to a sleep over in the garden, an angry neighbour and lots of exploding poo! We had great fun enjoying this throughout lockdown and in class. Look out for the whole series of books.

"This book was very, very good. I thought it was really funny. I have bought the whole series." – says Preston.

"The dragon was so cool. I wish I could have one. Look out for Liam, I didn't like him" – says Ameilia

P5 – The War Game by Michael Foreman

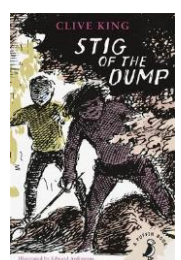


As part of our topic on conflicts we enjoyed this great book together. The story of four young men joining up for the First World War and how they coped with the difficulties of trench life was really interesting. A Christmas day football match was the highlight of the story. Look out for this great History book.

"This was a mix of everything, drama, mystery and history" - Eva

" This is perfect for anyone who wants to know more about World War I" - Ella

P6 – Stig of the Dump by Clive King



We shared this classic book together as part of a novel study in class. It all starts when Barney goes down the chalk pit, where everyone tells him not to go, to find a little dilapidated, scruffy hut. That was not the only thing; he also found a man. But not just an ordinary man, no! A cave man named Stig. The story is all about how Stig and Barney's friendship blossoms. We look forward to creating some artwork based on the book later this year.

"a very unusual book with lots of twists and turns" - Brooke

"My favourite part was when they first found Stig" - Danny