# St Mary's School

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and many of you will be thinking about possible ideas for Christmas gifts. Books are always an excellent choice. We have sent home the Scholastic Book Catalogue for some ideas for books that may be good choices. In addition, we hope you will find some inspiration from the suggestions below.



#### **Pre-Prep**

The eagerly anticipated sequel to Tom Fletcher's bestselling magical adventure, The Christmasaurus. Full of magic and music, humour and heart, and a friendship like no other, The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch is the most enchanting Christmas read for the whole family.

An epic adventure with big feet and an even bigger heart! Ella is in the Himalayas with her uncle searching for yeti. But what seems like the adventure of a lifetime is cut short when she realizes that these secretive creatures might not want to be found. Tick knows it's against yeti law to approach humans. So, when some arrive on the mountain, why does he find himself peering through the trees to get a closer look? What Tick doesn't know is that his actions will set off a series of events that threaten the existence of yeti all over the world. What can he do to make things right? Just when all hope seems lost, help comes in the most unexpected form...





It's Christmas Eve and the Jolly Postman is delivering greetings to various fairy-tale characters - there's a card for Baby Bear, a game appropriately called 'Beware' for Red Riding Hood from Mr Wolf, a get-well jigsaw for hospitalised Humpty Dumpty and three more surprise envelopes containing letters, cards, etc.

Everyone's favourite postman keeps on peddling his bicycle up hill and down dale . . . and into everybody's hearts.

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You can be late for many things in life, but you should never keep an adventure waiting...

In Griselda Bone's gloomy orphanage, daydreaming is banned, skipping is forbidden and Christmas is well and truly cancelled. But for Phoebe and her sausage dog Herb, is it possible that, just when things seem at their bleakest, magic awaits in the swirling, snow-filled air?

Join them on an enchanting adventure in this beautifully moving story by the bestselling author of Sky Song and The Unmapped Chronicles, Abi Elphinstone, and renowned illustrator Fiona Woodcock.





A brand-new Crayons book from the #1 New York Times bestselling duo Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers. This hilarious interactive book has letters, games, ornaments, a poster and even a pop-up Christmas tree - perfect for the festive season! 'Tis the season for all of us to write our Christmas wish lists. But everyone knows - even the Crayons - that the best presents are the ones that you give. In this unique book, readers join in as Duncan, the Crayons and their families celebrate the festive season.

Utterly adorable and wonderfully inventive, *The Pug Who Wanted to be a Reindeer* tells the heart-warming story of Peggy, a loyal pooch determined to travel to the North Pole to get her owners' Christmas spirit back. Ideal reading for animal-mad younger readers, Swift's story is a joy from start to finish.

Peggy's family has lost its Christmas spirit and Peggy is desperate to help them get it back. The little pug wishes she could turn into a reindeer so she could work some Christmas magic on her family. She tries eating carrots, giving herself antlers and a glowing red nose, but nothing works - and the messes she makes only create more problems at home!

Finally, the brave little pug decides that the only solution is to ask Santa for help. But the North Pole is far away, and Peggy gets lost in a snowstorm before she even makes it out of town



Can Peggy find her way back to her family in time for a Christmas miracle?





Way out in the furthest part of the known world, a tiny stronghold exists all on its own, cut off from the rest of humankind by monsters that lurk beneath the Snow Sea. There, a little boy called Ash waits for the return of his parents, singing a forbidden lullaby to remind him of them... and doing his best to avoid his very, VERY grumpy yeti guardian, Tobu. But life is about to get a whole lot more crazy adventurous for Ash. When a brave rescue attempt reveals he has amazing magical powers, he's whisked aboard the Frostheart, a sleigh packed full of daring explorers who could use his help. But can they help him find his family . . .? Bursting with brilliant characters, heart-stopping adventure and tons of laughs, this magical tale is perfect for fans of Nevermoor, Frozen and How to Train Your Dragon!

Fresh off the boat from England, Vita Marlowe has a job to do. Her beloved grandfather Jack has been cheated out of his home and possessions by a notorious conman with Mafia connections. Seeing Jack's spirit is broken, Vita is desperate to make him happy again, so she devises a plan to outwit his enemies and recover his home. She finds a young pickpocket, working the streets of the city. And, nearby, two boys with highly unusual skills and secrets of their own are about to be pulled into her lawless, death-defying plan. Katherine Rundell's fifth novel is a heist as never seen before - the story of a group of children who will do anything to right a wrong.





David Walliams's first foray into the realm of science fiction and fantasy is an unqualified triumph, giving his trademark outrageous humour and love of the grotesque a fantastically futuristic slant. A sheltered young prince must do battle with a motley collection of mythical monsters and beasties in a twentysecond century London in ruins.

Fly into a fiery and fantastical future with No. 1 bestselling author David Walliams, in an epic adventure of myth and legend, good and evil, and one small boy who must save the world... Illustrated by the artistic genius Tony Ross!

It is 2120 and London is in ruins. The young Prince Alfred has never known a life outside Buckingham Palace – but when strange goings-on breach its walls and stalk the corridors in the dead of night, he is thrust into a world of mystery, adventure and monsters.

And when his mother, the Queen, is dragged away to the Tower of London, Alfred must screw up his courage and battle to save her, himself... and the entire city.

In a future of myths and legends, join the bestselling David Walliams and venture forth into his most enthralling tale yet!

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Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, Yanka has always wondered about where she is from. She tries to ignore the strange whispers and looks from the villagers, wishing she was as strong on the inside as she is on the outside. But, when she has to flee her house, looking for answers about who she really is, a journey far beyond one that she ever imagined begins: from icy rivers to smouldering mountains meeting an ever-growing herd of extraordinary friends along the way.

Interwoven with traditional stories of bears, princesses and dragons, Yanka's journey is a gorgeously lyrical adventure from the best-selling author of The House With Chicken Legs.





When a new boy joins their class, a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure. Based in part on the stories she encountered when working in refugee camps, Onjali Q. Raúf's remarkable debut deserves to be ranked as a modern classic. Told with humour and tenderness, it is an unforgettable story of hope, curiosity and the importance of kindness.

A story of friendship, hope and the importance of kindness, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* is a story full of heart and humour, told from a unique perspective. Featuring illustrations from Pippa Curnick, this is an exceptional book by an emerging voice in children's writing.

#### Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award 2019 Overall Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019 Waterstones Children's Book of the Month for April 2019

Once upon a time, Father Christmas didn't come to visit children every year. In fact, it nearly came to pass that there was no Christmas as we know it. Father Christmas had a lot to deal with; there were troubled elves, reindeers that kept falling from the sky, and more than a few angry trolls for him to contend with.

The reason? There was not enough magic in the world. Magic is born of hope – and if the children of the world couldn't see any magic, then why would they hope for it?

It is Christmas Eve and all is not well. Amelia Wishart is trapped in Mr Creeper's workhouse and Christmas is in jeopardy. Magic is fading. If Christmas is to happen, Father Christmas knows he must find her.



With the help of some elves, eight reindeer, the Queen and a man called Charles Dickens, the search for Amelia - and the secret of Christmas - begins ...This is the gloriously heart-warming story of how one little girl came to the rescue and helped save Christmas.





This animal encyclopedia with a twist showcases more than 100 animals in close-up detail.

Arranged from biggest to smallest, the wildlife of the world is revealed with stunning photography and gorgeous illustrations. The storybook descriptions will delight children and let them discover amazing animal facts, such as why the slow-motion sloth is so sluggish and how the plodding pangolin protects itself from predators, as well as some of the stories and myths surrounding their favourite beasts.

The introductory spreads explain that bugs live nearly everywhere on Earth and give tips on how to become a young bug spotter. The book is divided into key groups of bugs, including beetles, moths, butterflies, bees, snails, crickets, grasshoppers, worms and spiders, all illustrated with scenic compositions. Some spreads approach the world of bugs thematically, such as bugs that come out at night, baby creepy crawlies and life cycles, how bugs hide and show off and how some bugs love to live in your home. The text is chatty, funny and full of amazing facts.





Go on a journey that spans every corner of our planet. What do freezing mountain peaks, vast deserts, lush forests, and the deepest, darkest oceans have in common? They're all places that incredible animals call home.

When faced with climate change, the biggest threat that our planet has ever confronted, it's easy to feel as if nothing you do can really make a difference ... but this book proves that individual people can change the world. With twenty inspirational stories celebrating the pioneering work of a selection of Earth Heroes from all around the globe, from Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough to Yin Yuzhen and Isatou Ceesay, each tale is a beacon of hope in the fight for the future of our planet, proving that one person, no matter how small, can make a difference.

