



EDITION 3:  
SPRING 2021

# Inspired to Write @ BERRY HILL



A celebration of writing

# Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *Inspired to Write @ Berry Hill* in 2021... with a twist!

Our favourite authors become such effective writers because they love to read, so this edition of the magazine is a celebration of all things books and reading!

In these pages you will find a selection of recommended reads from some of our lovely teachers here at Berry Hill. We are excited to share some of our favourite books with you – if you enjoy reading them too, please let us know!

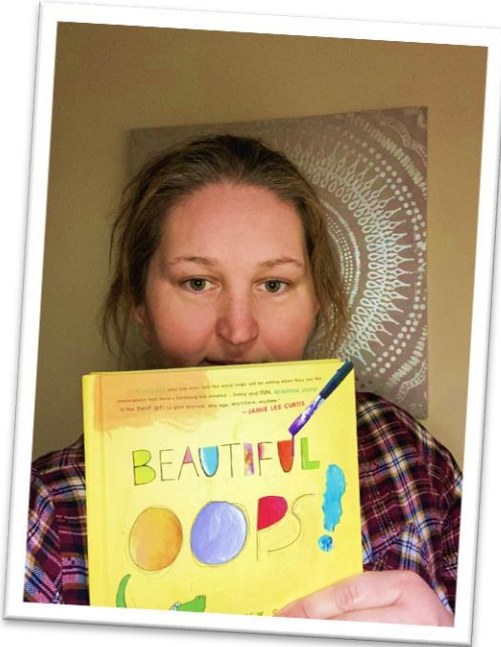
Towards the end of the magazine, you will find another bookish treat: real-life authors reading their own books aloud for you to enjoy. There is a wide selection of stories read by the very people who dreamt them up, and each of the books is read in full (yes, even the whole novels!). Simply click on the book covers or the links to open.

Finally, if our reading edition has inspired you to write, then put that inspiration to good use: there are details of a writing competition and information about the next edition of *Inspired to Write* at the end.

Happy reading,  
Mrs Stirling-Wood

# A celebration of writing

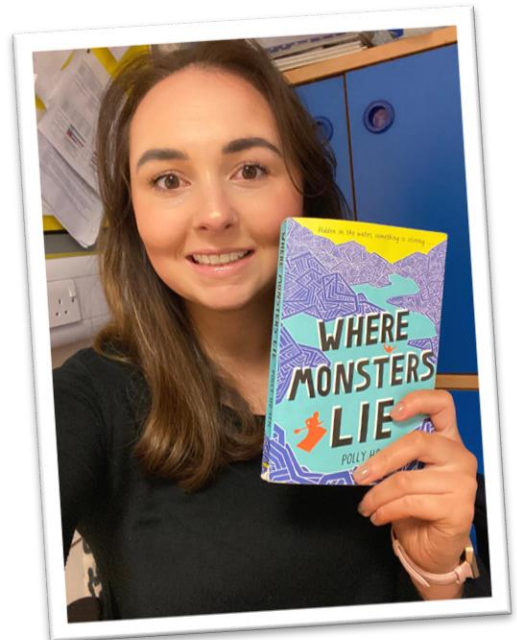
# Teacher recommendations



I absolutely love this book and I recommend that you read it! It was recommended to me in preparation for Children's Mental Health Week and I am so pleased that it was as it is a superb addition to my personal book collection and one to celebrate. The Year 4 children have been wowed by the book's charm and, whether you are in nursery, Year 6 or anywhere in between, I recommend that you take a look and redefine your understanding of beautiful. There aren't many words in the book but the bright and tactile pages speak to your imagination with an inspirational message: we often miss the beauty in our mistakes and the opportunity to turn negatives into positives. Aren't teachers always saying that mistakes are in an important part of learning and our journey? Well, this book illustrates this beautifully! Let me know what you think...



Where Monsters Lie is my favourite book! When I started reading this book, I couldn't stop; I had to know more about Rosemary, Old Bill and Buster! Each chapter leaves you wanting to find out more about the many secrets that are hidden in the small village - Mivtown. You will follow Effie and Finn on an adventure around their own village to try to solve the puzzles of the mysterious disappearance. Will the children find out more than they should know? Will it change their lives forever?



# A celebration of writing

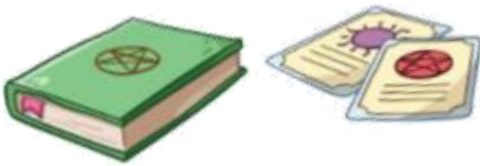


# Teacher recommendations

*The Strangeworlds Travel Agency* is a gripping adventure from the first page and I LOVED every minute of it. Flick stumbles across an unusual travel agency shop, where she is invited to join a secret society: The Strangeworlds Society. Her adventures begin when she steps inside a suitcase and transports into a different world! From hereon in, she has the BEST adventures! The second book in this series is set for release in April this year, and I already can't wait to read it!



Whatever you do, don't lose your luggage!

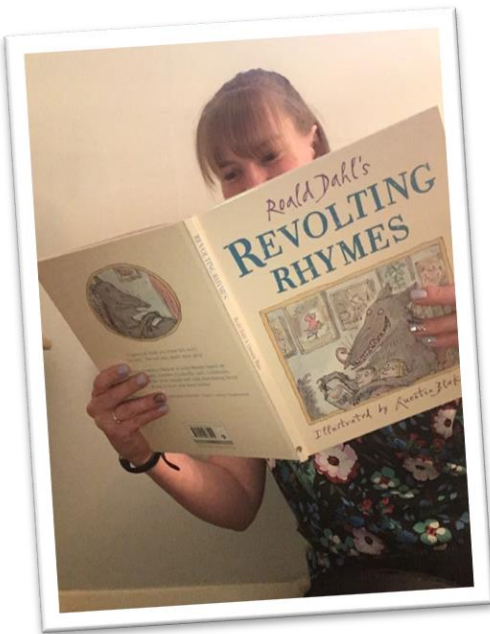


*A Pinch of Magic* is an enchanting story about three sisters (Betty, Fliss and Charlie) trapped by an ancient curse. Being told that if any of the sisters left Crowstone (the island they lived on) they would die by the next sunset left the girls feeling stuck in an endless grey routine with no hope of ever going anywhere. Each sister was gifted a magical object with the power to change their fate and help them escape the life they have begun to despise.

Advertised as a spellbinding tale, this book does not disappoint! Brimming with adventure, dark magic, peril and sisterly squabbles meant I couldn't put this book down. Gripping from the very start, this book is a must read!

# A celebration of writing

# Teacher recommendations

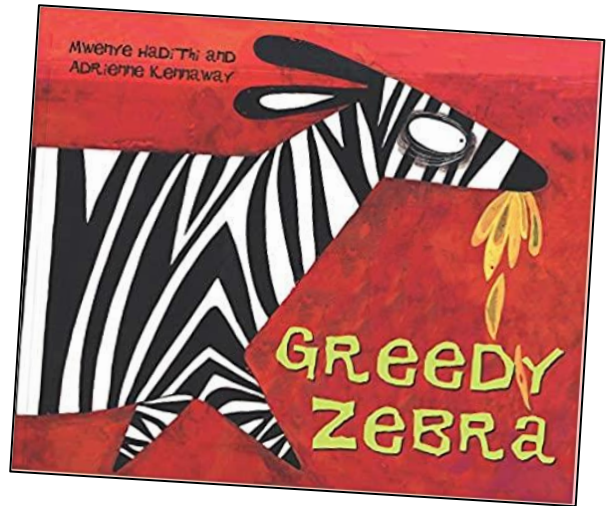


I really like the book Revolting Rhymes by the one and only Roald Dahl. It's full of funny, silly and revolting rhymes about some classic traditional tales. My favourite is Cinderella - it's very different to the usual version we hear! The illustrations are by Quentin Blake and they match the rhymes perfectly.

I would definitely recommend this book if you want to have a laugh!



Greedy zebra is a story that I have read to all my classes and it is one of my favourites. It is a story about how all the animals chose their own clothing to make them look like they do as we know them.



Mwenye Hadithi brilliantly describes how the animals discover a magical cave of furs and how they exchange their dull grey skins for beautiful new ones. Greedy Zebra lives up to his name by arriving late to the cave because he cannot resist the temptation of the juicy grass on the way. As he enters the cave all that is left is a plain black piece of cloth that he has to try and squeeze into.

This story has beautiful illustrations that capture the characters of the animals. It is a book that both adults and children will enjoy to the very end. You will always find this story in my book corner and it has been read over and over again.

Mrs Price

# A celebration of writing



# Teacher recommendations



I would definitely recommend *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* to Key Stage 2 children. It's fast paced and full of action. Chaya, the main character, is outspoken, confident and daring... she's also a thief. She steals the Queen's jewels, frees her friend from jail and escapes into the jungle on the King's elephant.... where the adventure only just begins!

Set in Sri Lanka, the story is full of vibrant colour, amazing animals and describes a different culture. It's a brilliant read!



*What Friends Do Best* by Jonathan Emmett is one of my favourite books to read because it always makes me smile and you might enjoy it too.

The story is about a character called Winston who loves building things – it is what he does best. He's kind and builds things for his friends. One day, he decides to build something REALLY BIG and he learns along the way what friends really do best.

This is a lovely story of determination, teamwork and friendship. Just imagine what can be achieved when people work together.



# A celebration of writing

# Teacher recommendations

Reading has always been a very important pastime in our house. We love to escape into other lands and lives through stories. I have some very memorable moments from sharing books together with my children. They are still a big part of our bedtime routine and down time, especially in lockdown.

The book I have chosen to review for you is one that particularly sticks in my mind for sentimental reasons. It is *Jim and the Beanstalk* by Raymond Briggs. When Francesca (my daughter) was three, this was her favourite story. I must have read this book at least one hundred times! In fact, it was the first book that she would read along with me as I read it to her at bedtime.

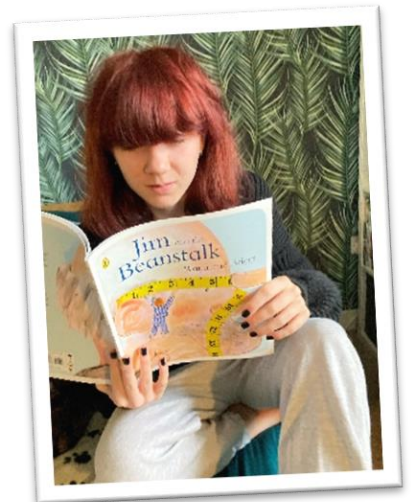
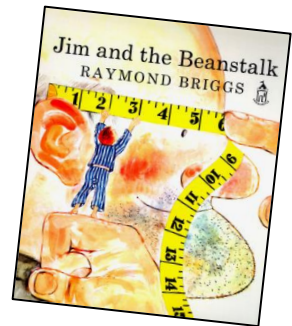
*Jim and the Beanstalk* is written as a sequel to the traditional tale of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The giant is much older and is not his original, fearsome self when Jim finds him after a long climb up a beanstalk. The giant has grown older and he needs Jim's help. This story has some lovely modern twists to hook in the readers.

Although it is a picture book, *Jim and the Beanstalk* can be enjoyed by all primary aged children and adults. It sends an important message of being kind and taking care of others when they are not quite feeling themselves. It is important that children know the tale of *Jack and the Beanstalk* to get the most out of this story.

Fran could not help but sneak a read of this when she found it out on the side at home despite being a lot older than three now!

I really hope that you enjoy this story as much as we have.

Mrs Hill



# A celebration of writing

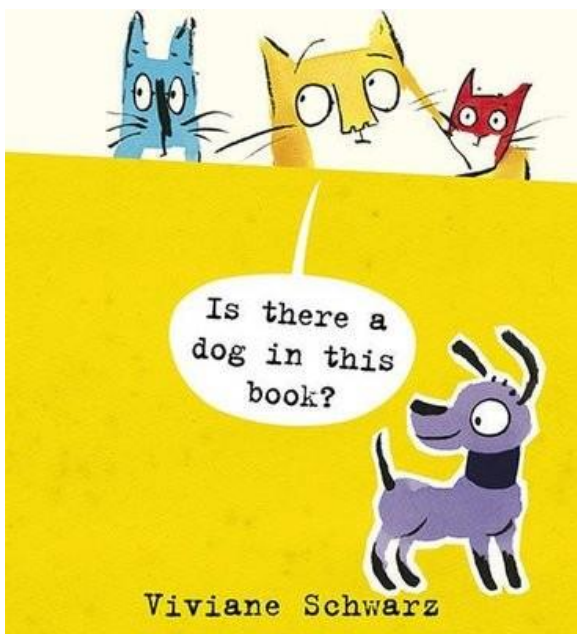
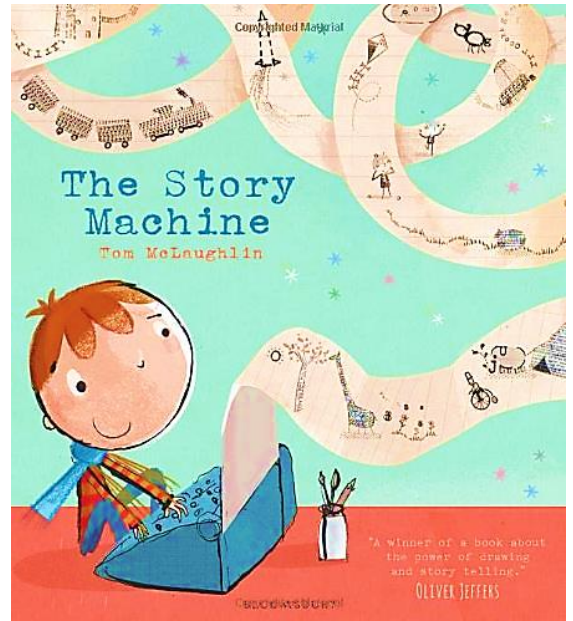


# EYFS/KS1

## Inspired to read

The following books are read aloud by the author! Click the book cover to listen to the story.

Elliott is a boy who likes to find things and, one day, he stumbles across a machine. At first, he can't work out what the machine is for – it doesn't beep or buzz like all his other machines and it doesn't have an ON/OFF button. Then, quite by accident, Elliott makes the machine work. The machine makes letters! Elliott thinks it must be a story machine but, sadly, Elliott isn't very good at letters and words. How can he make magical stories without them? But, wait, some of the letters look like pictures. Elliott is good at pictures and, as he discovers, pictures make stories.



Tiny, Moonpie and Andre smell something funny ... but what can it be? Wait, hang on a second, is it a DOG? Is there a dog in this book?! Oh no! The cats are scared of dogs! Dogs are snappy and yappy, smelly and noisy and ... they hate cats. So, they all try and hide from him behind the couch, under the piano, in the wardrobe... Will the little doggy ever find them? An irresistibly fun book for cat (and dog) lovers!

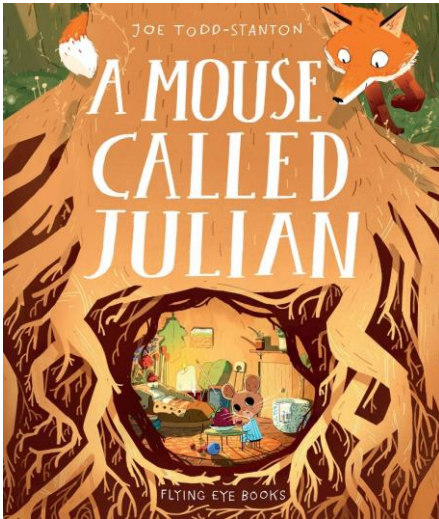
# A celebration of writing



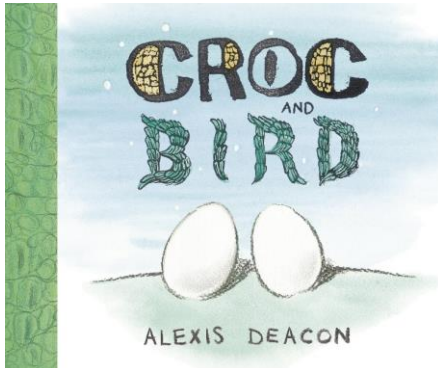
EYFS/KS1

# Inspired to read

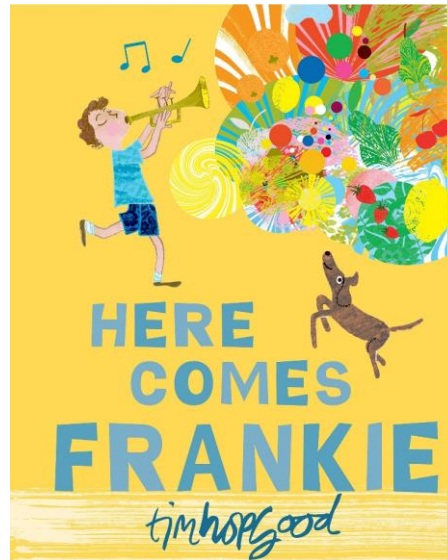
The following books are read aloud by the author! Click the book cover to listen to the story.



Julian is a mouse who is perfectly happy avoiding other animals. They seem to just get in the way, and sometimes even try to eat him! But one day, Julian has an unexpected dinner guest... When the fox tries to sneak into Julian's burrow for a tasty bite of mouse, it finds itself stuck headfirst in Julian's front door! At first alarmed and wary, they soon find themselves having a lovely dinner together, and it's not long before each realises that they have found in the other a lifelong friend.



Side by side on the sand sat two eggs. With a crack and a rip, the brothers hatch, and out comes a bird and a ... crocodile! But they can't be brothers - can they?



Frankie and his parents live a quiet life. Frankie's dad reads for hours in silence. His mum sits upstairs with the crossword. But when Frankie decides to learn the trumpet, everything begins to change.

Not only can Frankie hear the sounds he makes - he can see and smell them too! And the more he plays, the more infectious his music becomes...

# A celebration of writing

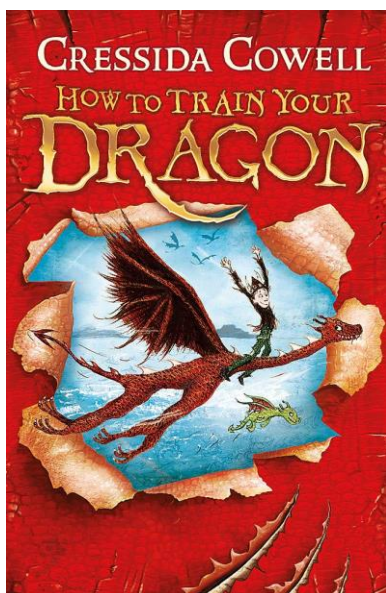
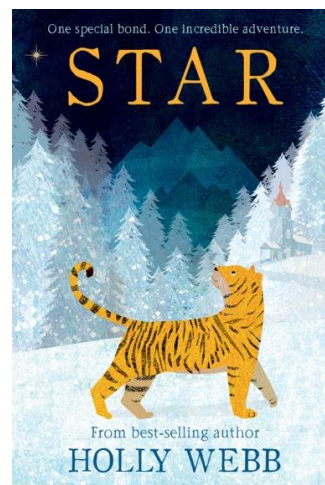
Y3 & Y4

# Inspired to read

The following books are read aloud by the author! Click the book cover to listen to the story.

When Anna borrows a tiny wooden tiger from her Russian grandmother's mantelpiece, little does she realize that it is the start of a magical adventure...

Waking the next day, Anna finds herself in a snowy Russian village, where she hears the news that a tiger cub has been spotted in the nearby woods. Anna knows this is why she must be here - the cub needs her help! But is Anna brave enough to set out in search of a tiger in the forest at night?



Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third is a smallish Viking with a longish name. Hiccup's father is chief of the Hairy Hooligan tribe which means Hiccup is the Hope and the Heir to the Hairy Hooligan throne - but most of the time Hiccup feels like a very ordinary boy, finding it hard to be a Hero.

In the first How to Train Your Dragon book Hiccup must lead ten novices in their initiation into the Hairy Hooligan Tribe. They have to train their dragons or be BANISHED from the tribe FOR EVER!

But what if Hiccup's dragon resembles an ickle brown bunny with wings? And has NO TEETH? The Seadragonus Giganticus Maximus is stirring and wants to devour every Viking on the Isle of Berk . . . Can Hiccup save the tribe - and become a Hero?

# A celebration of writing

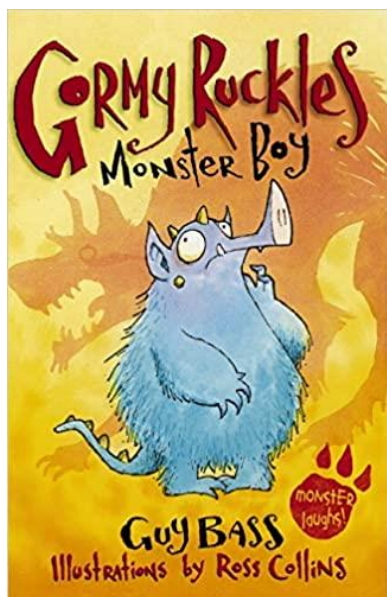
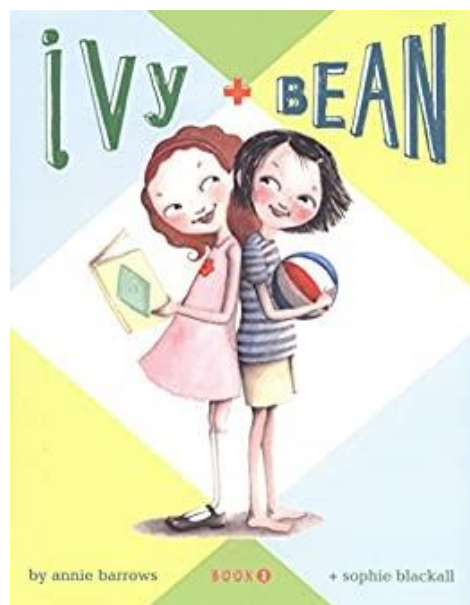
Y3 & Y4

# Inspired to read

The following books are read aloud by the author! Click the book cover to listen to the story.

The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to quickly hide and Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other.

The reading of this book is shared between the [author](#) and the [illustrator](#). The author reads all of the odd-numbered chapters, and the illustrator reads all of the even-numbered chapters.



Gormy Ruckles is determined to be the most fearsome monster the world has ever seen! But when his father sets him a tall task - to scare a sheep - Gormy realises there might be more to monsterring than he first thought...

This book is the first in the Gormy Ruckles series and, for those of you in Year Four who read Skeleton Keys in the autumn term, this is brought to you by the same author!

# A celebration of writing

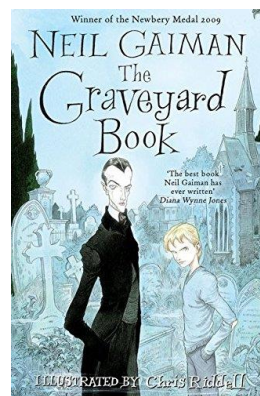


Y5 & Y6

# Inspired to read

The following books are read aloud by the author! Click the book cover to listen to the story.

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family. A stunningly original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?



Once there was Magic, and the Magic lived in the dark forests. *Until the Warriors came...* Xar is a Wizard boy who has no Magic, and will do anything to get it. Wish is a Warrior girl, but she owns a

banned Magical Object, and she will do anything to conceal it. In this whirlwind adventure, Xar and Wish must forget their differences if they're going to make it to the dungeons at Warrior Fort. Where something that has been sleeping for hundreds of years is stirring...

This is a story about a boy named Kester. He is extraordinary, but he doesn't know that yet. All he knows, at this very moment, is this:

1. There is a flock of excited pigeons in his bedroom.
2. They are talking to him.
3. His life will never be quite the same again...

Kester lives in a land in quarantine. A deadly virus has killed all the animals except pests and it's expected to be equally dangerous to humans. But when Kester realises he can talk to the pests, he finds they have great hope invested in him.



# A celebration of writing

# *My Year – Right Off or Write On*

A Writing Competition for 8-18 year olds!

Mansfield Palace Theatre are inviting young people in Mansfield and surrounding areas to enter a writing competition for our time! There will be two categories: 8-12 year olds and 12-18 year olds.

There will be prizes on offer for each age group, and for each writing genre including:

- The winning entries will be brought to life by an actor or lyrics set to music
- Displaying winning entries in Mansfield Museum and Palace Theatre
- Opportunities to attend workshops and free tickets for a performance at the Palace Theatre
- A free workshop for your school or college
- Vouchers for local shops and attractions

## **The writing task:**

This year has been one of the most difficult we have faced as a community, nation and world. The coronavirus has managed to disrupt so much of our lives as we know it. Some people will have seen 2020 as a right off. Yet, many positives have come from this time as we adapted, took up the challenge of the defeating the virus and found new ways of living and working together. What is your take on this year? You may use your experiences and how you feel about the future, or how you have admired the NHS workers, friends, and events in the local area as an inspiration for your writing, be it based on fact or fiction. You can enter in a writing form of your choice: a poem, a short story, a song lyric or a monologue.

This is an opportunity for all young people to express through their writing how they feel at this time, and how they are looking forward with hope.

The competition will be judged by local professional practitioners and the winners announced the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Deadline for entries is:** Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

To enter, please send your piece of writing along with your name, age, and contact details to:

Christopher Neil  
Education Manager  
Mansfield Palace Theatre  
Leeming Street  
Mansfield  
NG18 1NG  
or  
Email: [cneil@mansfield.gov.uk](mailto:cneil@mansfield.gov.uk)

## **Please note:**

This is an external competition that is not affiliated with Berry Hill Primary School. Should you require further details, please contact the organiser.

# Inspired to Write @ BERRY HILL



I hope you have enjoyed reading his special reading edition of *inspired to Write @ Berry Hill* – and that it's inspired you to read! On the next page, there are details of what we are inviting you to send in for the next edition: poetry for *Poets' Corner*, short stories from budding *Young Authors*, reading recommendations to inspire others, and pictures of enthralled readers *caught reading*!

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**.

We understand that some children have wanted to submit their writing to the magazine but do not have access to a computer at home. Therefore, there will be a box in reception where teachers can place any work brought in on paper. Alternatively, please continue to send submissions via email to [inspiredtowrite@berryhill.notts.sch.uk](mailto:inspiredtowrite@berryhill.notts.sch.uk) and remember to include your child's name and class.

Please note that we may not be able to feature all submissions, and late submissions may not be included.

We hope to see many more of our talented pupils taking part and can't wait to receive their imaginative work!

Mrs Stirling-Wood

# A celebration of writing



# Poets' corner

Get your creativity flowing with a poem! You could write any style of poetry, and remember that your poem doesn't have to rhyme!

*Poems can be submitted typed or as a photograph of a handwritten piece of creative work.*



# Inspired to write



For this edition, we would like you to think about something you're looking forward to doing that you haven't been able to do for a while. Be creative!



# Young authors

Tell us a story. Your story can be about anything that interests you. Could you write an adventure story, full of danger and excitement? What about a mystery story that leaves the reader wondering? Your story could be funny, sad, scary...or anything else!

*Stories must be typed and under 1000 words.*

# Inspired to read

Read a good book lately? Write a **review** to tell other children about what you've read! What happened in the story? Don't give too much away! What type of book was it? Who would you recommend your book to? Why?

*Reviews should be no longer than 250 words and should include the title and author.*



# Caught reading

Got caught reading a good book lately? Send in a picture and you could feature in the next edition of

**Inspired to write**  
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