



Welcome to Reading Together

The countdown is in full swing for this year's St Austell Festival of Children's Literature and we make no apologies about dedicating a lot of this month's newsletter to the event. We are incredibly lucky to be able to have authors in our school and in the town for just £1 per person

☀️ THE 10-MINUTE CHALLENGE ☀️

Can your family read together for just 10 minutes every day?
That's all it takes!



• Why 10 minutes?

- It fits into the busiest lives
- Children look forward to it when it's part of the routine
- Over an hour each week adds up!
- It shows reading is important AND enjoyable

Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.





Go All in: Spies and Puffins with Holly Webb Saturday 30th May - St Austell Arts Centre

<https://staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com/event/spies-and-puffins-with-best-selling-holly-webb-2/>

The first session focuses on A Girl's Guide to Spying. This session takes place from 11am to 12pm, followed by book signing. Did you know that the Girl Guides worked undercover for MI5 during the First World War? Join bestselling author Holly Webb as she shares all about her brand new unputdownable historical mystery series. This session is suitable for ages 8 – 14 years



The second session focuses on The Littlest Puffling. This session takes places from 1:30pm to 2:30pm, followed by book signing. Join bestselling author Holly Webb as she shares all about her delightful new book in the Summer Wildlife Stories series. This session is suitable for ages 5 – 9 years. A heart-warming story about family and nature.



Go All in: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature Saturday 13th June - St Austell Town

<https://staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com/2026-family-day/>

St Austell
Festival of Children's Literature

Venues around St Austell Town Centre Saturday 13th June, 10am till 4pm

It's an affordable and unforgettable experience with tickets just £1 each! Join us for a day of laughter, creativity, and all things books!

Meet Peter Rabbit As seen on the BBC series! Pantomime Storytime!

Stand-up, stories and silliness £1 tickets! £1 tickets!

Animal stories

@st.alitfest Get your tickets now SCAN

@staustlitfest

staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com



Go All in: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature Saturday 13th June - St Austell Town

All events are £1 - which will you choose?



Bestselling author Matt Oldfield brings incredible true football stories to life and introduces his new fiction series Football Spy in this high-energy event. Behind-the-scenes facts, interactive quizzes, and big football moments from around the world.

10.00 a.m.



Join award-winning creator Laura Ellen Anderson for a journey to the magical world of Whiskery Paw in her brand new series, Star Kitties! Meet an extraordinary cast of new characters including Tabitha Flair and her feline friends, discover how Laura creates magical new worlds, create an exciting new Star Kitty and learn how to draw one of Tabitha's adorable friends! **10.00 a.m.**



Set sail with Yuval Zommer, author and illustrator of Our Islands, on an artistic island-hopping adventure! Through lively storytelling and illustrations, Yuval will introduce some of the magical islands featured in his book before guiding children to design their own dream island – complete with plants, animals and hidden treasures. Grab your pencils and let your imagination drift away!

11.30 a.m.



Go All in: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature Saturday 13th June - St Austell Town

All events are £1 - which will you choose?



Join award-winning author Guy Bass for a fast-paced, energetic hour of stand-up, stories and silliness! Meet

Guy's latest creation Hugh Dunit, the schoolboy detective who makes his own mysteries. When Hugh's on the case, he's sure to catch the culprit – or at least cause chaos and calamity! Fun-packed and pun-packed, with animated readings from Guy's latest book plus tall tales and truly terrible poetry. **11.30 a.m.**



The whole family is invited to join "everyone's favourite pantomime dame," (Metro), Mama G, as she brings stories to life using the positive power of panto. Explore how she creates her stories, from the first flash of an idea to its all singing, all dancing, end product! There'll be lots of joining in, lots of terrible jokes, positive messages aplenty, and magic happening before your very eyes! 1.00 p.m.



Meet Maudie Smith, author of brand new picture book *Bear Cubs Don't Do Queues*. Help Maudie read the story. Grizzle and growl your way through it just like Bear Cub does, then help create the most entertaining queue known to boy, girl or bear cub!

Play a game of Bear Cub Bingo! Use your observation skills to spot and count colours, shapes, dots and stripes, clouds and...pigeons.

Got time for a craft activity? Make yourself a bear cub mask and join the bear cub parade. Don't forget to take home your Queuing Survival Pack. You'll never need to be bored in a queue again! **11.30 a.m.**



Go All in: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature Saturday 13th June - St Austell Town

All events are £1 - which will you choose?



Join J.J. Arcanjo as he introduces the amazing world of 'Crookhaven' – the school for thieves! Step through the doors and meet the resourceful pupils, and learn about the incredible lessons which will furnish them with the skills they'll need to artfully put the wrongs of the world, right ... all through their thief's talents! **1.00 p.m.**



In 2026, join in the celebrations for 10 years of the Jasmine Green series! Perfect for animal lovers, with brilliant storytelling that will make you laugh and cry, join author Helen Peters to discover the fantastic series. Across 17 books, Jasmine has helped all sorts of animals in sticky situations, from dogs and ducks to pigs, horses and now a chick! Join Helen for a reading of the latest book in the Jasmine Green series, A Chick Called Charm and learn all about her life growing up on a farm and the wonderful animals that have inspired her stories. Plus, you'll even get the chance to have your questions answered in an author Q&A! 1.00 p.m.



Join Illustrator Alex Patrick for a talk about why he became a children's book illustrator, some behind the scenes on how the characters from the book 'Ninja Bunnies vs the Big Bad Fox' came to be and draw a long with Alex as he draws Camomile the leader of the ninja bunnies.

2.30 p.m



Go All in: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature Saturday 13th June - St Austell Town

All events are £1 - which will you choose?



Join author/illustrator Jamie Littler as he talks about creating his fantasy adventure trilogies Frostheart and Arkspire! Get sneak peeks at pages from his sketchbooks, get an insight into how he comes up with his ideas for his fantastical other worlds, and take part in a draw along where he'll teach you how to sketch one of his book characters. There may also be a little character creating going on, too! **2.30 p.m.**

Plus special fundraising event - The Big Festival Quiz - £5

The St Austell Festival of Children's Literature is excited to bring you a special Fundraiser Festival Quiz at the St Austell Market House! 🏆🌟

Gather your family & friends – you'll be joining a lively team of book lovers, each led by one of our featured Festival Authors! 📚🌟

Here's what's in store:

- Team Fun: You'll be placed on a team with other quiz participants, all working together to tackle trivia questions on children's books.
- Author Power: Each team will be assigned one of our amazing festival authors as a team captain! Get ready for some brilliant insights and laughs. 🖋️
- Rounds Galore: Multiple rounds focusing on your favourite children's books and stories—perfect for readers of all ages!
- Prizes & Signings: The winning team walks away with a set of books from our featured authors AND the chance to get them signed and dedicated! 📖👉📝

Plus, there will be refreshments available to keep you fuelled up as you play! 🍪🍵

Pre order your hot pasties with your ticket purchase.

This is your chance to not only enjoy a fun-filled evening with your family and friends, but also to support the continued success of the St Austell Festival of Children's Literature! ❤️

 Mark your calendars—tickets are limited and will sell out fast. Grab yours now and kick off your festival weekend with an unforgettable experience! 🔥



Design a magical creature competition



Laura Ellen Anderson, patron of St Austell Festival of Children's Literature, has launched an exciting competition!

Have you ever imagined a beast that lives on another planet? An insect made of metal? A dragon that dives underwater? Now's your chance to share these ideas!

How to enter:

- Download the competition sheet from: staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com/design-a-magical-creature-competition
(we've also included the sheet at the end of this newsletter – if you can't print it you can just use plain paper but make sure you include all your details)
- Create your creature using any materials (drawing, painting, collage)
- Include details about its habitat, eating habits, and magical powers
- Submit your design online by 1st June 2026

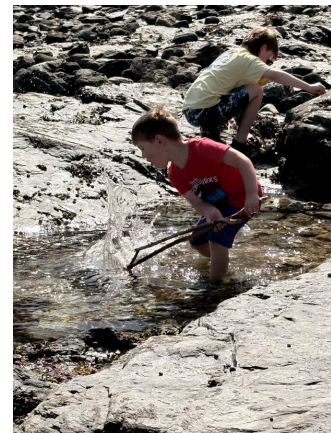
Prize: A collection of Laura Ellen Anderson's books and signed prints!

Open to ages 6-11. Winner announced: 13th June 2026 at the festival!



"Stanley Stick"

St Mewan nursery have been inspired to be adventurous with sticks as part of the National Literacy Trust initiative.





Book Recommendations This Month

For Younger Readers • Ages 4–10

A Chick Called Charm

by Helen Peters Ages 6–10

The latest in the beloved Jasmine Green series, celebrating its 10th anniversary! Jasmine rescues animals in need — from dogs and horses to, now, a very special chick.

Our Islands

by Yuval Zommer Ages 5–8

A stunning island-hopping adventure exploring Britain and Ireland's most magical islands — alive with wildlife, stories and hidden wonders.

Bear Cubs Don't Do Queues

by Maudie Smith Ages 4–7

A brand new picture book bursting with grumpy bear cub energy. Funny, relatable and guaranteed to make children (and grown-ups) giggle.

Star Kitties: Detective Kitty is on the Case!

by Laura Ellen Anderson Ages 5–8

Enter the magical world of Whiskery Paw with Tabitha Flair and her feline friends. A sparkling new series from our Festival Patron!



Book Recommendations This Month

For Older Readers • Ages 8+

Football Spy

by Matt Oldfield Ages 8–12

A brand new fiction series from the bestselling author of Ultimate Football Heroes! Behind-the-scenes facts, big football moments and spy action — perfect for sports-mad readers.

Crookhaven: The Thieves' Revenge

by J.J. Arcanjo Ages 9–12

Welcome to the school for thieves! A brilliant, funny adventure series about kids using their unique talents to put the world's wrongs right.

Arkspire

by Jamie Littler Ages 8–12

A spectacular fantasy adventure packed with stunning illustrations. Jamie also created the Frostheart trilogy — perfect for fans of big imaginative worlds.

Splitting Hairs: A Hugh Dunit Mystery

by Guy Bass Ages 7–10

Meet Hugh Dunit — the schoolboy detective who makes his own mysteries! Fast-paced, pun-packed comedy from an award-winning author.



Coming Soon...

May Half Term: Author Visits in St Austell!

Tom Palmer at St Austell Library

Meet award-winning author Tom Palmer! He'll be talking about his new Cornwall-set wartime book *If the Invader Comes*.

When: 11.45am - 12.15pm during May half term

Where: St Austell Library

Cost: FREE

Holly Webb at St Austell Arts Centre

Meet bestselling author Holly Webb!

Where: St Austell Arts Centre

Cost: £1

Tickets - www.staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com

June: Magical Creature Competition Closes - 1st June

Final chance to submit your designs!

June: St Austell Festival Schools Day - 12th June

CELT schools will welcome visiting authors - watch out for more details from your child's school!

June: St Austell Festival Family Day - 13th June

Author visits, workshops, and the magical creature winner announcement! Get your tickets now.

July-August: Summer Reading Challenge

Join your local library for the Reading Agency's summer challenge. Keep reading over the holidays!

St Austell Festival of Children's Literature - Get Your Tickets!

Saturday 13th June 2026 - Family Day

Tickets available now at:

staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com/2026-family-day



DESIGN A MAGICAL CREATURE COMPETITION!

Have you ever imagined a kind of beast that lives on another planet or a robot insect with glowing eyes, or a dragon that lives in a garden shed? If so, now is your chance to share these ideas with us, and with our St Austell Festival of Children's Literature Patron, the brilliant author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson!



CREATURE FEATURES:

Where does your creature live?

What does it like to eat?

Does it have a magical power?

What is your creature's name?



To enter the competition and view the terms and conditions, visit:
www.staustellfestivalofchildrensliterature.com



ARTWORK © LAURA ELLEN ANDERSON 2026

