

May 2026

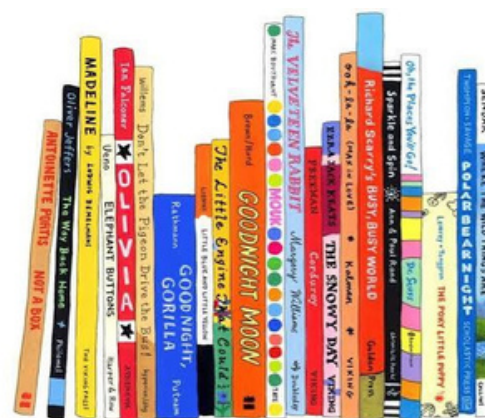
READING TOGETHER NEWSLETTER



Cornwall
Education
Learning Trust

Dear Parents/carers

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.

Go All in: Spies and Puffins with Holly Webb

Saturday 30 May - St Austell Arts Centre

[Click here for details](#)



St Austell
Festival of Children's Literature

You are invited to meet bestselling author, Holly Webb!

Saturday 30th May
at
St Austell Arts Centre

featuring.....

11:00am 12:00pm

£1 tickets!

A GIRL'S GUIDE TO SPYING
HOLLY WEBB

An unputdownable historical mystery series from bestselling author Holly Webb.

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.



St Austell
Festival of Children's Literature

Saturday 30th May

St Austell Arts Centre

1:30pm - 2:30pm

£1 tickets!

THE LITTLEST PUFFLING
Holly Webb

A heartwarming story about family and nature from best-selling author Holly Webb

Go All in: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature

Saturday 13th June 2026

St Austell Town

[Click here for details](#)



St Austell Festival of Children's Literature



£1
tickets!

Join us for a day of smiles, creativity, and unforgettable moments as we celebrate the magic of books!

As seen on the BBC
series!



Animal stories

Stand-up, stories
and silliness



Venues around St
Austell Town Centre



Saturday 13th June,
starting at 10am



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.

Meet the stars

[More details here](#)

Join award-winning author Guy Bass for a fast-paced, energetic hour of stand-up, stories and silliness! Meet Guy's latest creation Hugh Dunnit, 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.



Join award-winning creator Laura Elen 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!

Design a magical creature



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

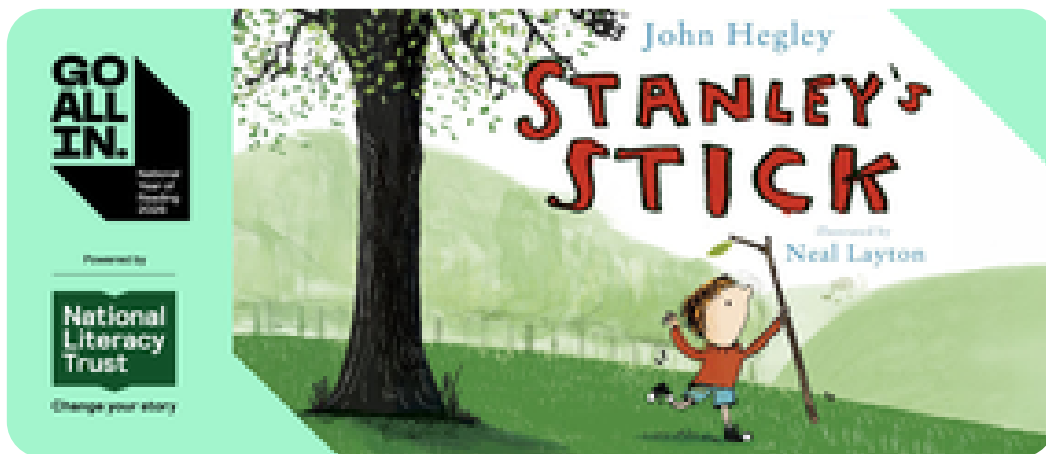
Have you ever imagined a beast that lives on another planet? An insect made of metal? A dragon that dives underwater?

Create your creature using any materials (drawing, painting, colage)

Include details about its habitat, eating habits, and magical powers

Submit your design online by 1st June 2026 Prize: A colection of Laura Elen Anderson's books and signed prints!

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



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



Book Recommendations

Reading age 4-10 years



A Chick Caled 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 Elen 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

Reading age 8+ years



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 Dunnit Mystery by Guy Bass Ages 7–10 Meet Hugh Dunnit — 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 Austel 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 Austel Library

Cost: FREE

Holly Webb at St Austell Arts Centre Meet bestselling author Holly Webb!

Where: St Austel Arts Centre

Cost: £1 Tickets

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

