



# Spring Term 2006 Newsletter

## East Sussex Children's Book Award launched

The newly established **East Sussex Children's Book Award** was finally launched in January with the books and information packs being sent into all the participating schools. We hope the children in Years 5 and 6 who are taking part will enjoy reading the books, joining in discussions and selecting their favourite title. Voting will take place at the end of Term 5 and the winner will be announced at a celebratory event to take place in the summer. As well as holding author events during this period, **Schools Library Service** staff will be busy visiting schools to help promote the award and to take part in reading activities.



### The six shortlisted titles are:

- **Millions** by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- **Thora** by Gillian Johnson
- **A Dog called Grk** by Joshua Doder
- **Wolf Brother** by Michele Paver
- **The Star of Kazan** by Eva Ibbotson
- **Fergus Crane** by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell



### Book Award Review competition

We have already received some excellent entries for the review competition and several lucky winners have received a book prize. Keep on sending in your entries.

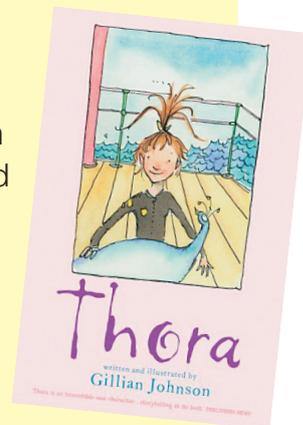
## First Book Award event

The book award got off to a good start in mid January with an author visit by Gillian Johnson to two schools – Ocklynge Junior and Hawkes Farm Primary. We were lucky that Gillian, author of nominated title **Thora**, was able to visit us so early in the award as she was due to leave for Tasmania at the beginning of February.



Gillian Johnson with two fans at Hawkes Farm Primary School

The Ocklynge event was also attended by pupils from West Rise Junior School and Willingdon Primary. Gillian talked about the process of writing and illustrating, answered the children's questions and signed their books and illustration.



Gillian Johnson, author of **Thora**, talks to children at Ocklynge Junior School



# Summer Reading Challenge

The largest national reading promotion for young people (aged four to 11), the **Summer Reading Challenge** is now run within 94% of UK library authorities (99% in England). It runs in public libraries through the summer holidays, with the support of leading children's publishers.



Children borrow and read up to six books, collecting stickers for each book they read. At the end of the summer they get a certificate recording their achievement, and a medal if they have completed the challenge. In many libraries, they also get the chance to talk with staff about their books, and take part in linked activities.

This year the theme for the 2006 Summer Reading Challenge is **The Reading Mission** – a kind of Mission Impossible hi-tech adventure for children in libraries.

The theme will tap into children's fascination with adventure stories, cartoons and films involving young secret agents, such as **Young Bond**, **Spy Kids** and **Alex Rider** (**Stormbreaker** the movie is being released in July 2006).

## Key to Chintak

Congratulations to local first time author John Howard. His novel, the **Key To Chintak** is a fast paced fantasy adventure story aimed at children nine-plus. John has caused quite a stir locally with an interview in the Brighton Argus and a book signing session at Borders in Brighton.

John Howard talking to children at Ocklynge Junior School



He has been very busy promoting his book with schools in East and West Sussex and we caught up with him at Ocklynge Junior School in Eastbourne. With his knowledge of history and his enthusiasm for writing, the pupils soon became drawn into the world of Millie and her grandfather Arthur who set out on an epic journey that takes them to six of the world's seven continents in their quest to solve a series of mysteries and find the **Key To Chintak**.

This is the first book in the **Zamorian Chronicles**. You can find out more about John and the **Key To Chintak** on the **Zamorian Chronicles** website [zamorian.com](http://zamorian.com).

## Book and film news



Following the excitement of the release of the latest **Harry Potter** film and **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** in December, we will now have to wait until the summer for our next film adaptation of a best selling children's book. **Stormbreaker**, the film version of the first book in the bestselling **Alex Rider** series by Anthony Horowitz is due for release in July this year.

Christopher Paolini's fantasy novel **Eragon**, which knocked **Harry Potter** off the best-seller list two years ago, has also been made into a film. Edward Speelers, a boarder at Eastbourne College, beat 180,000 hopefuls to land the title role. Starring in the film with him are John Malkovich and Jeremy Irons. **Eragon** will be released later this year.

Meanwhile, for those of you who have not yet read these exciting novels for children aged nine-plus, there is still plenty of time before the films are released. Here are the details:-

- **Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz  
Published by Walker books  
ISBN 1-84428-930-3
- **Eragon** by Christopher Paolini  
Published by Corgi ISBN 0552552097

Alternatively you may be able to borrow them from the mobile library on your next visit.



## Nestlé book prize

The only national children's book award voted for by children, this award is for the best books in English written last year by a UK citizen. The Gold medal winners are as follows:

- Five years and under category: **Lost and Found** by Oliver Jeffers; 0007150350 (Hbk) HarperCollins
- Six to eight years category: **The Whisperer** by Nick Butterworth; 0007120184 (Pbk) HarperCollins
- Nine to 11 years category: **I, Coriander** by Sally Gardner; 1842552902 (Hbk) Orion



Find out more about the award and the prizewinners at [booktrusted.co.uk](http://booktrusted.co.uk)

## Peter Pan sequel



The new sequel to **Peter Pan** written by best selling children's author Geraldine McCaughrean, will be called **Peter Pan in Scarlet** and will be published on October 5.

Last year the copyright owners of **Peter Pan**, Great Ormond Street Hospital, selected Geraldine McCaughrean from a competition they organized for authors to write the sequel to Barrie's story about the 'boy who never grew up'.

Under the terms of the contract the writer has been obliged to feature the characters from the original book and to offer a story of "high adventure and swashbuckling danger".

## News from schools

**St Pancras RC Primary School** has a newly built library as part of their large extension to the school. The ground floor art room and the first floor library and music rooms are a great new addition to the school.

The new building extension has been built very much on an 'eco theme'.

Staff, parents and governors have worked very hard to get the library up and running for the beginning of the spring term. The eco theme has also been carried through into the library shelving, where recycling the old Lewes library wooden shelves makes an interesting contrast with the modern décor.



The new library at St Pancras School, Lewes

## Poetry bookshelf relaunched

The Poetry Book Society is relaunching its **Children's Poetry Bookshelf**, a book club for children aged seven to 11. The club aims to make the best children's poetry available to young readers in an exciting and enjoyable way.

Support is provided for teachers and librarians, including activity sheets and posters, to encourage children to read and enjoy poetry. The new website provides fun activities for children and suggestions for adults on the best poetry to buy for children. Visit [childrenspoetrybookshelf.co.uk](http://childrenspoetrybookshelf.co.uk) or contact the Poetry Book Society on 020 7833 9247.



## Children's theatre productions

The Birmingham Stage Company regular tour the country with productions of children's novels adapted for the theatre. Currently there are tour dates for **Kensuke's Kingdom**, **Jungle Book**, **George's Marvellous Medicine** and **Horrid Histories**.

Amongst other venues, **Kensukes Kingdom**, based on the award winning novel by Michael Morpurgo, will be performed at the White Rock Theatre, Hastings from March 28th to April 1st 2006. For more information visit their website at [birminghamstage.net](http://birminghamstage.net).

## World Book Day – March 2nd 2006

**World Book Day** is the biggest annual event supporting books and reading in the UK and Ireland and the emphasis for 2006 is **celebration**. The overall theme of World Book Day, on 2 March 2006, will be **Happy World Book Day** to give the event a more festive feel.

Find more information, register online, download lots of activities and see details of the £1 books created for the day which children will be able to buy with their voucher.



### Websites:

- [booksforkeeps.co.uk](http://booksforkeeps.co.uk)  
Website for the magazine **Books for Keeps** – read the articles and reviews online.
- [sevenstories.org.uk](http://sevenstories.org.uk)  
This centre to celebrate the world of children's books opened August 2005. Log on to the website to find out more.
- [worldbookday.com](http://worldbookday.com)  
Register online, download lots of activities and find details of the special £1 **World Book Day** books.
- [storytellingday.net](http://storytellingday.net)  
This year **World Storytelling Day** will be held on March 20th. Check the website for more information.
- [fcbg.org.uk](http://fcbg.org.uk)  
Don't forget **National Share a Story** month in May. Check out the **Federation of Children's Bookgroups** website to find out more.
- [readingconnects.org.uk](http://readingconnects.org.uk)  
See this site for news of the **National Reading** campaign initiative and download a copy of the new **Celebrating Reading** connects magazine. There are also lots of downloadable activities and ideas for reading promotions.

## Autumn book competition results

We were delighted with the huge response to our last competition which was included with the autumn newsletter. Thanks to everyone for taking part and sending in your entries. There were several winners who were lucky enough to win signed copies of books by Caroline Lawrence, Karen McCombie and Philip Ardagh.

To win more books look out for our new competition on the insert to this term's newsletter.

### Calendar 2006

#### March

2	World Book Day
15	Children's author Joshua Doder visits East Sussex schools
22	Support Group meeting: <b>Computerising your primary school library</b>
20-31	Terms 3/4 topic loans collected
31	End of Term 4 Final date for voting in the <b>East Sussex Children's Book Award</b>

#### April

19	Start of Term 5
19-May 3	Terms 5/6 topic loans delivered

#### May

29	Half-term week
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#### June

5	Start of Term 6
14	East Sussex primary school's book award winner announced at celebratory event
28	Support group meeting: <b>Looking at reading groups</b>

### Contact us

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