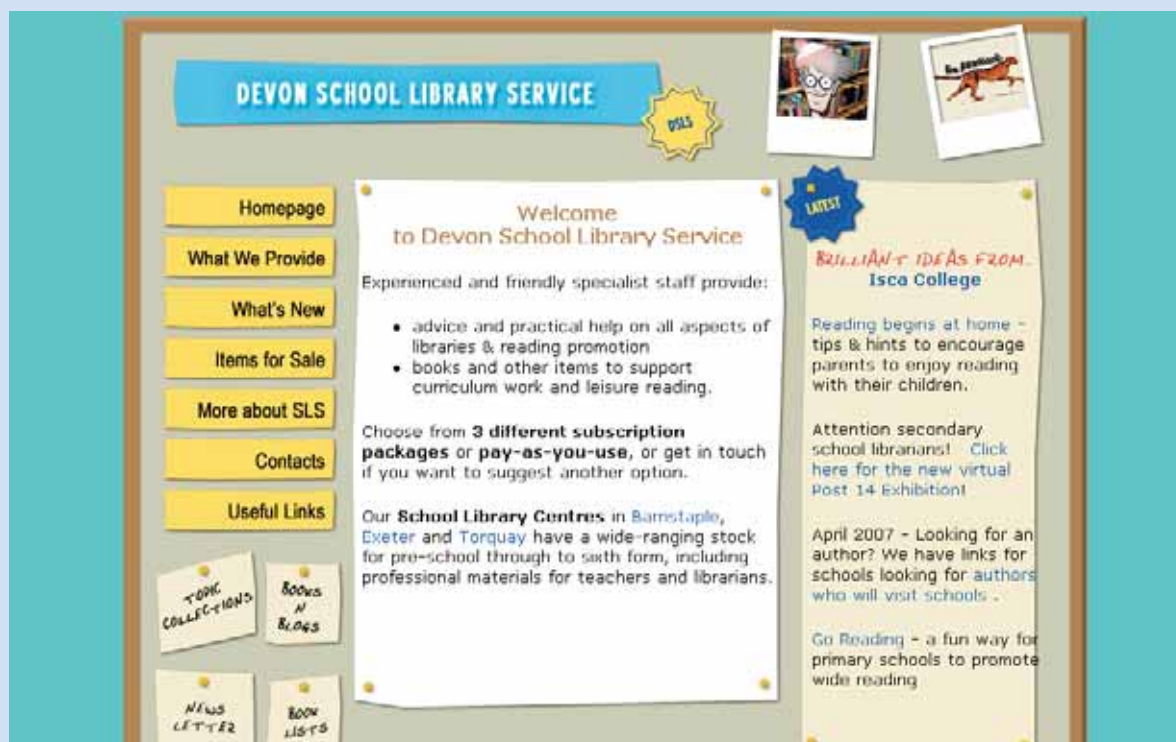


Explore our New Website



The new website homepage

Have you spotted our new website yet? It's full of good ideas for your school library. This summer we re-designed our website to make it more accessible, fun, user-friendly and easier to navigate. You'll find some familiar items up there, alongside new content like the **Book Corners folio** and the **latest booklists**.

We plan to use the website to share good practice and the first school featured in our Brilliant ideas section is Isca College, Exeter with their superb library banners.

Most of the site is open to all but some of the materials to download are now "protected" for subscribing schools, so you'll be prompted to give a password - just contact your local School Library Centre to get your password.

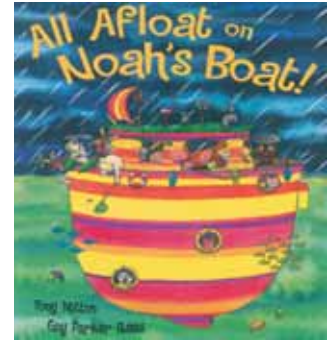
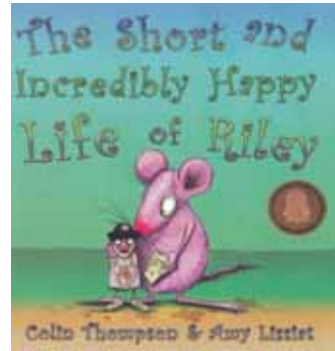
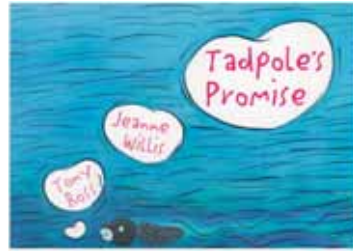
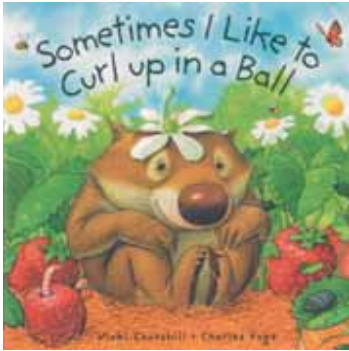
Let us know what you think.

A big "thank you" to Sam Freeman, Web Development Officer for CYPS, for all his help and patience!

Do take a look at www.devonsls.org.uk - we'd like to know what you think.



Storytelling with Books



There you are in front of a class telling them a story when suddenly you realise that the room has gone completely still and every head is turned towards you. The children are utterly absorbed by the magic of the story and a whole new world has been opened up to them. Result!

Teachers know and value the power of story though sometimes, with pressure of work, it seems that story telling is sidelined in the busy school day - but inspiring children to imagine can never, ever be counted as time wasted.

Most of us enjoy listening to stories, it's how we first learn - and stories are not just for young children, they're a lifelong pleasure. Some of us enjoy telling stories directly to our audience, but not everyone is comfortable to be the focus of umpteen pairs of eyes and ears and that's when storytelling with books comes into play.

School Library Advisers Jo Hyde and Christine McFarlane recently ran some INSET on how to get the most out of storytelling with books. Not surprisingly the key to success is in the preparation: taking the time to select the right book and practicing reading it aloud (more than once!). It became clear from the INSET sessions that if you hear something read aloud successfully, it gives you more confidence to read it aloud yourself.

We hope to offer a storytelling course sometime next year, so let us know if you are interested.

Making the most of it: good ideas for primary school libraries

We are repeating this very successful half-day course for librarians, As, teachers and voluntary helpers on 29th November at Great Moor House, Exeter, 9.30am - 12 noon.

Jo Hyde & Carolyn Kennett offer practical advice and plenty of opportunities to discuss and share ideas.

Fees: £45 Subscribers; £60 (others)

To book a place contact Lee on 01392 384311 or email lee.budd@devon.gov.uk or click into the website www.devonsls.org.uk

Pie Corbett comes to Devon!

Actively explore how poetry can be taught successfully in a practical and exciting way from Reception to Y6. The course is on 28th January 2008 at the Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton £130 per delegate - to include free Pie Corbett poetry book

Book your place on www.dcseducation.org or contact Beryl Smedley 01392 386461

Developing a love of books at Boasley Cross

Boasley Cross Primary School staff identified the need to raise the level of attainment in reading throughout the school by creating a love of reading amongst the children.

Jo Tucker, Literacy Co-ordinator, takes up the story

“Our priority was to build a new library to replace the wall shelving in the hall which was very uninspiring, unloved and unused. Over the summer holidays we converted a corridor into a purpose-built room and at the start of term Nicola Cowling, myself and a parent (who has since taken on the responsibility of looking after the library) spent a couple of days sorting our existing stock, re-labelling spines and organising the shelves.

The school became a *Reading Connects* school and carried out their ‘**Where are we now?**’ audit. We based our action plan on the results.



We had a grand opening of our new Library during National Book Week and celebrated with a variety of successful events, including inviting parents to help their child choose their first library book, a fancy dress competition of favourite book characters and drama/storytelling sessions. Nicola trained up some pupil librarians and worked alongside staff to show them how to make the most of the new resources during lessons. She also talked to parents about the importance of reading and how to help their children.

I held conferences with children in September to gauge their attitudes to reading, how much they used the old library and if they knew how to find books in it. I then asked the children the same questions the following June to gauge the impact of the new library. The difference was vast: we now have very keen children who want to use the library and are able to use it independently. There is a steady number of children using the library at lunchtime and the librarians are doing a fantastic job. Children throughout the school have made excellent reading progress and all staff have worked hard to implement the different initiatives I set.



“Nicola has been brilliant, very informative, supportive and enthusiastic, and has played a huge part in our school being able to make such a difference to our children’s reading.”

Contact your local centre if you want help to develop your reading environment or check out www.literacytrust.org.uk/readingconnects

Staff News

On the mobiles **Ali Andrews** is now based in Barnstaple, sharing the North mobile with **Sue Shambrook**. **Tracy Willcocks** has taken Ali's place on one of the Exeter - based mobile libraries, alongside **Penny Smith** and **Catherine Gordon**. A new face in the Barnstaple team is **Sandy Gunter**, joining us as Library Assistant in place of **Chris Canham** (but Chris will be back to sling a few more topic boxes around at Christmas).

www.michaelrosen.co.uk Check out the new Children's Laureate website. He explains his mission for his two year stint and how he wants to champion poetry. There is a section for children with Michael reading some of his own poetry.

www.quentinblake.com To complement Michael Rosen, this is the website of the man who illustrates much of his work. The site is littered with Quentin's quirky and immediately recognisable illustrations and there are activities for teachers and kids.

Book reviews

Doherty, Berlie ***Abela: the girl who saw lions***

A moving and harrowing tale of hope, courage and overcoming fear. Abela lives in an Aids-stricken African village, Rosa in England with her mum. When Abela's mother dies, Abela becomes an illegal immigrant in this country and her life entwines with Rosa's. *Challenging read for Year 6*

Donaldson, Julia ***Tiddler***

A wonderful aquatic tale about the power of storytelling from the partnership which brought us *The Gruffalo*. Repetitive rhyming text cleverly introduces a rich and varied vocabulary and characters are brought to life with witty illustrations. A lovely picture book for sharing with *KS1 pupils*.

Inkpen, Mick ***Baggy Brown***

A very huggable picture book in typical Inkpen style. Big, bold illustrations are framed by lots of white and the text is bold and clear. The fairly long story introduces a varied vocabulary but it is fun and easy to understand and complemented by great characterisation in the illustrations. It's a story of a very special bear, a boy and a princess ... with a happy ending. *Ks1 pupils and adults too!*

Prue, Sally ***The truth sayers***

Taken from his home to live in the 'House of Truth', Nian is a boy with special powers. He certainly needs them: in order to escape, he must step into another world - to be precise Jacob's front room in Essex just before teatime! Then the race is on to save the two parallel worlds, sorting out a few tricky situations for Jacob's family along the way. An enjoyable fantasy adventure, with Nian grappling with the mysteries of our language and the way we live. *For years 5 & 6.*

Riddell, Chris ***Ottoline and the yellow cat***

Meet Ottoline Brown and her best friend and partner-in-crime Mr Munroe (small, hairy and from a bog in Norway). A string of daring burglaries takes place, with precious lapdogs disappearing all over Big City - something must be done. A highly original and accessible book with amusing and simple text, jam-packed with quirky illustrations, diagrams, puzzles, postcards and more! *Years 5 & 6.*

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