

# Book Bites

Tasty morsels from Norfolk School Library Service

April / May 2014

## New financial year: new contracts

For maintained schools, welcome to a brand new SLS contract year! Now that schools have total control over what's purchased instead of the old package, we are seeing a real variety in the services that schools ask for and buy from us, using their tokens. Project boxes, cataloguing, audits, refurbishing, promoting Reading for Pleasure, inset, author visits and more are all available from us!

**Remember: the Early Bird offer finishes at the ends of May; buy 6 get one free, or buy 12, and get two free, and tokens cost £70 rather than £78! Plan now for projects or services for the whole year and save money!**

## Conference success!

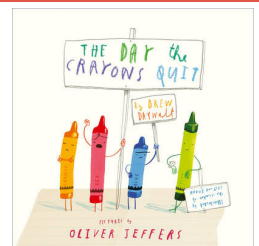
Our conference 'Developing a Rich Reading and Writing Culture at KS2' was a great success! 27 delegates attended the day at Long Stratton Public Library in March and evaluations were full of comments such as "...have lots of ideas to engage our junior children to write", "the whole day has been so inspiring" and "I think the variety and balance was what made the day so enjoyable".

Kevin Crossley-Holland opened the day and later passionately championed myths and legends. Dee Shulman, author and illustrator, fostered the creativity of the group and got delegates drawing and generating words to describe characters. Peters Booksellers provided a bookstall and explained recent trends in reading. Jon Biddle and Sue Sweet gave practical suggestions from the perspective of teaching in local schools and Brian Moses (having hot-footed it from Aslacton where he delivered a writing session for G & T pupils) performed some of his brilliant poems for us and offered many ideas and tips for generating poetry in the classroom.

## Penguins, pictures and pandemonium at Peters Picture Book Party!

Cliff Park Infant School were hosts for our Peters Picture Book Award event, which we held with 180 children from the infant and junior school.

The children were sent sets of the shortlisted picture books for the 2014 award, and after some lively activities linked to the stories, they voted for their favourite. Our star performer was local illustrator Peter Kavanagh, who got the party off to a great start with his terrific drawing skills. Appropriately enough, the children decided their favourite book was *The Day the Crayons Quit*, by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. Happily, this was also the national winner.



## Author visits – another update!

Our offer of Authors for schools seems to have been very well received! So far in KS1 and 2, we have arranged for 5 authors and 1 illustrator to visit **27 schools** across Norfolk and we're pleased to say that schools have told us how inspired their children have been!

Our '**Author in Residence**'- **Dee Shulman** had groups of KS1 children in Hunstanton on the edge of their seats as she talked to them about her story 'Hetty the Yeti', refusing to give away the ending! We love working with these amazing people and will be happy to bring one of them to your school. If you're interested, do give us a ring to find out more! Authors working with us and available for KS1 and 2: Dee Shulman, Susannah Leigh, Steve Parker, Paeony Lewis, Sheridan Winn, and illustrator Peter Kavanagh.



**Norfolk** County Council

## Courier dates for the Summer

If you have anything to return or would like project boxes or stationery orders sent to your school, please ensure you make your requests in a timely manner to ensure they are ready for dispatch for these dates: **19th/20th May    23rd/24th June    14th/15th July**

## Summer Reading Challenge 2014

Over the next few weeks you will be receiving information about this year's Public Libraries Summer Reading Challenge. The theme is myths and legends, the title: **Mythical Maze**. Do make time to promote this free summer reading for pleasure initiative to your children and their parents. There is evidence that continuing to read over the long Summer holiday is vital to maintaining and even improving reading levels and will give a quick start in literacy in September.

## Budget stretching subscriptions

Many schools are using different tools to support literacy teaching, and resourcing these is very expensive. Let us help you stretch your budget with our subscription service for both Guided Readers and Catch-up Literacy. For just **2 SLS tokens** you can borrow a box of either Guided Reading books (6 copies of 5 titles) or Catch-up (24 books) and **exchange it as often as you like throughout the year**. A box contains books worth around £265, so for £140 a year you could be getting at least £1590 of updated and refreshed Guided Readers in school.

## Diary dates- INSET and more!

We've got lots coming up in the next few months – take a look at the following dates and contact our office for more information and to secure yourself a place!

### Twilight session for Primary School

**Governors:** Monday 12th May, SLS training room at County Hall (*please apply via Governor Services for this free course*).

**Junior Librarian workshop:** Thursday 5th June, SLS training room at County Hall.

**Making reading attractive to pupils with SEN at KS2/3 with Anne Harding:** Thursday 12th June, County Hall Training Annexe.

**Peters book-buying trip:** Wednesday 18th June, visiting the Peters showroom in Birmingham– Free to SLS customers!

**Dance using picture books for EYFS/KS1:** Thursday 19th June, SLS training room at County Hall.

**Motivating Boys for KS2:** Thursday 3rd July, SLS training room at County Hall.

## Financing and budgeting resources for teaching

New resources are available to teach children and young people about finances and budgeting whilst also warning them of the dangers of loan sharks. They have been written by teachers, piloted with schools and awarded the pfeq (Personal Finance Education Group) Quality Mark, a scheme which endorses high quality, effective and up-to-date financial education resources – well worth a look! For more information, head to <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/stoploansharks>

## Websites worth looking at!

Put 'EssentialCPD' into your favourite search engine and have a look at their article on 'Blogging to improve literacy at KS2' - you can pay to subscribe or take a free trial.

Good Reads is a website with a Children's area that might give you some great ideas for your able readers. Visit: <http://www.goodreads.com/genres/childrens>

**Please get in touch so we can add you to our mailing list to receive SLS news or information by email directly.**

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