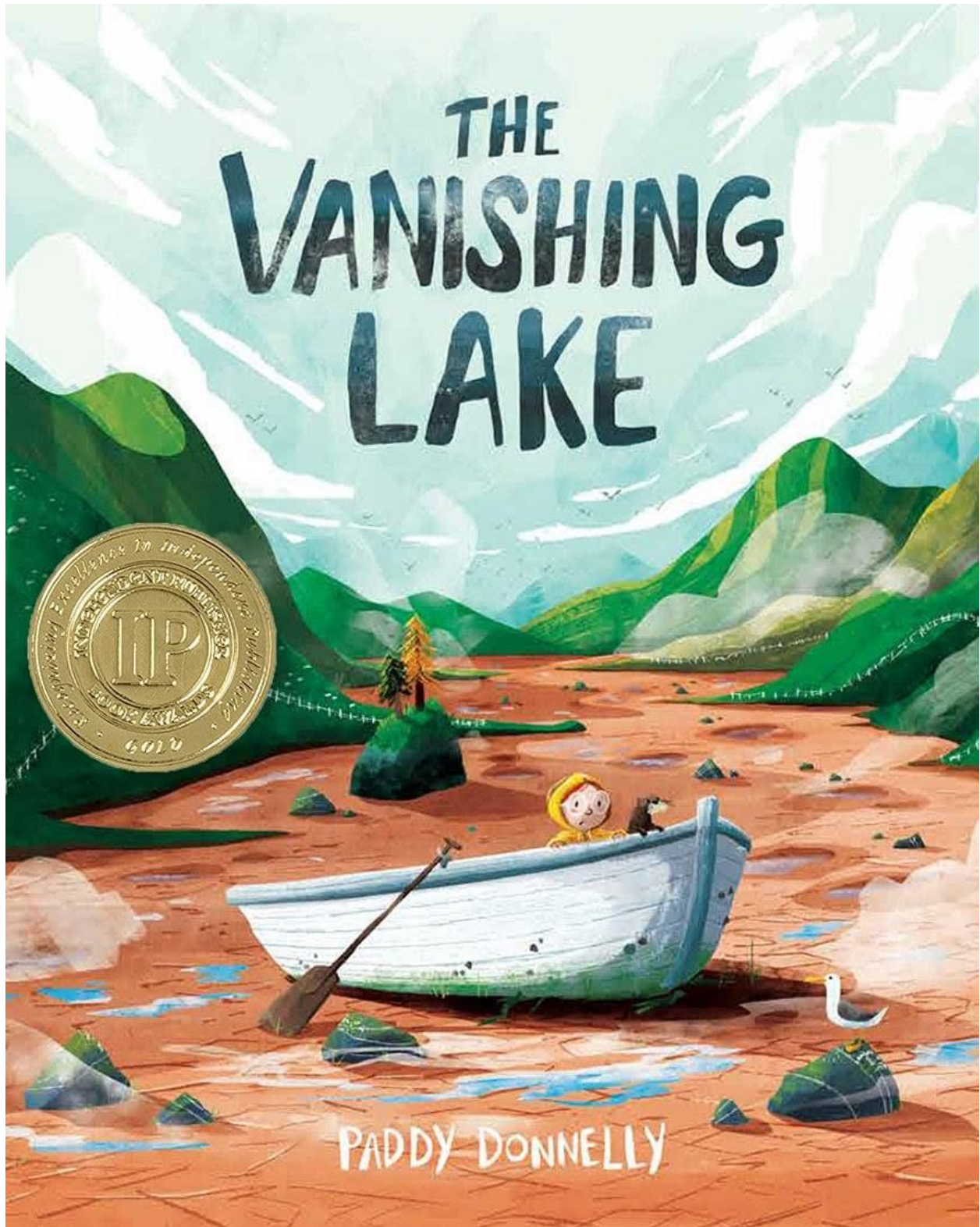


dlr Libraries Christmas Book Recommendations Calendar 2021



1 - In the lead up to Christmas 2021, dlr Libraries shared a children's book recommendation each day on social media. Here are the books chosen, that are beautiful to enjoy any time of the year!

Day 1: The Vanishing Lake by Paddy Donnelly



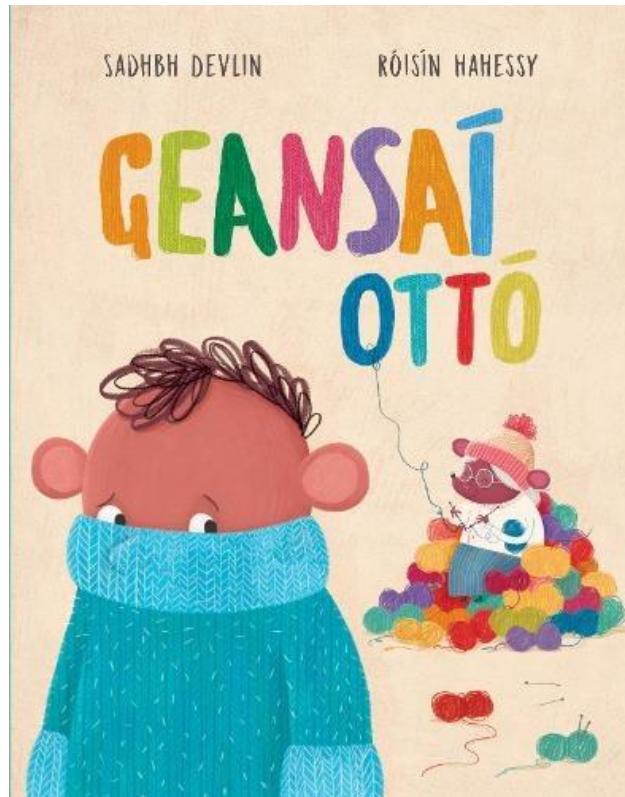
“an interesting, whimsical tale set against the beautiful green landscape of Ireland” - Seattle Book Review.

Meara goes to visit her Grandad who lives by a lake which disappears and reappears for no apparent reason. She constantly asks him why it happens. Meara won't believe any of his stories, but with a little imagination she may discover the 'real' reason.

The Vanishing Lake is featuring as a Scéal Trail in [TWO locations](#) (dlr LexIcon & Bracken Road Park, Sandyford) - why not stop by over Christmas for a visit?



Day 2: Geansaí Ottó by Sadhbh Devlin, illustrated by Róisín Hahessy



3 - Geansaí Ottó by Sadhbh Devlin, illustrated by Róisín Hahessy

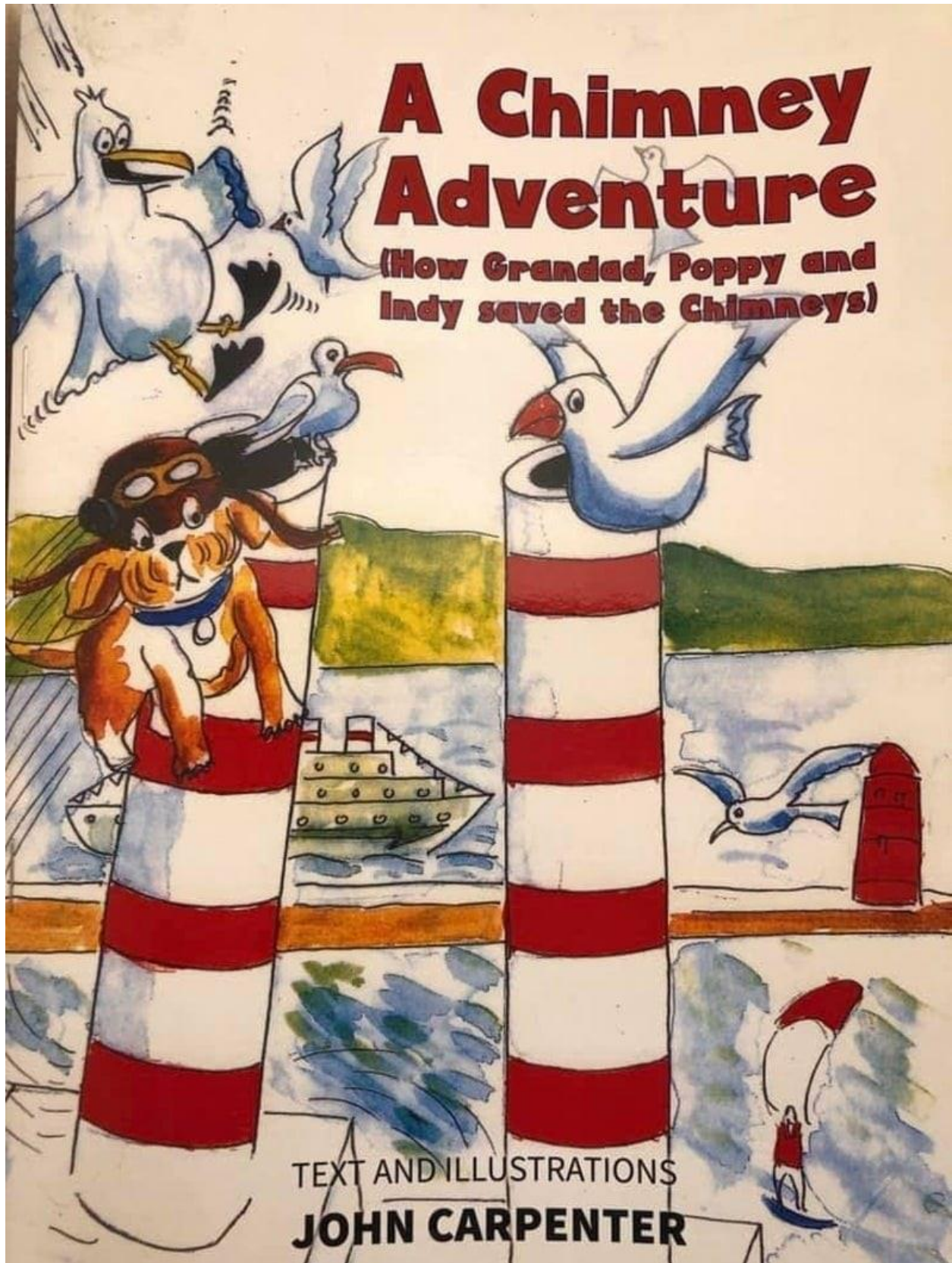
“a story with humour and heart that’s as warm as the woolly jumpers Otto’s grandmother knits” - Elaina Ryan, CEO of Children’s Books Ireland.

Otto has style. He loves beautiful clothes. But his Gran hasn’t a clue about fashion. When yet another naff jumper arrives in the post, Otto knows he has to do something...

Geansaí Ottó is also featuring as a Scéal Trail in Dublin - you'll find it at the [Cabinteely Library Garden!](#)



Day 3: A Chimney Adventure: How Grandad, Poppy and Indy saved the Chimneys by John Carpenter

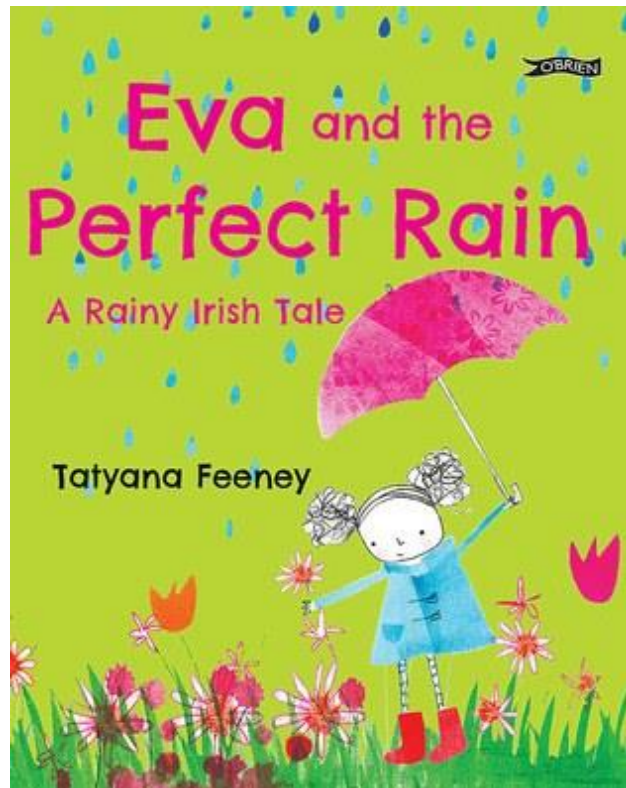


4 - A Chimney Adventure: How Grandad, Poppy and Indy saved the Chimneys by John Carpenter

".. really lovely book, made all the more special by the fact that my kids know the area depicted in the book" - Nora via ShopinIreland.ie

This story follows Grandad and his two dogs, Poppy and Indy, on their quest to save the Poolbeg ESB Chimneys. Join the three on their adventure through the challenges they face as they preserve this iconic north Dublin Landmark..

Day 4: Eva and the Perfect Rain: A Rainy Irish Tale by Tatyana Feeney



5 - Eva and the Perfect Rain by Tatyana Feeney

"The little girl shows us that when it rains, we should look for rainbows." - Seomra Ranga

Eva spends the day searching and hoping for the perfect umbrella rain that's not too windy, too thundery or too drizzly. Finally, she finds it in a sun shower and a rainbow shines making it the most perfect rain of all.

Day 5: Maybe by Chris Haughton

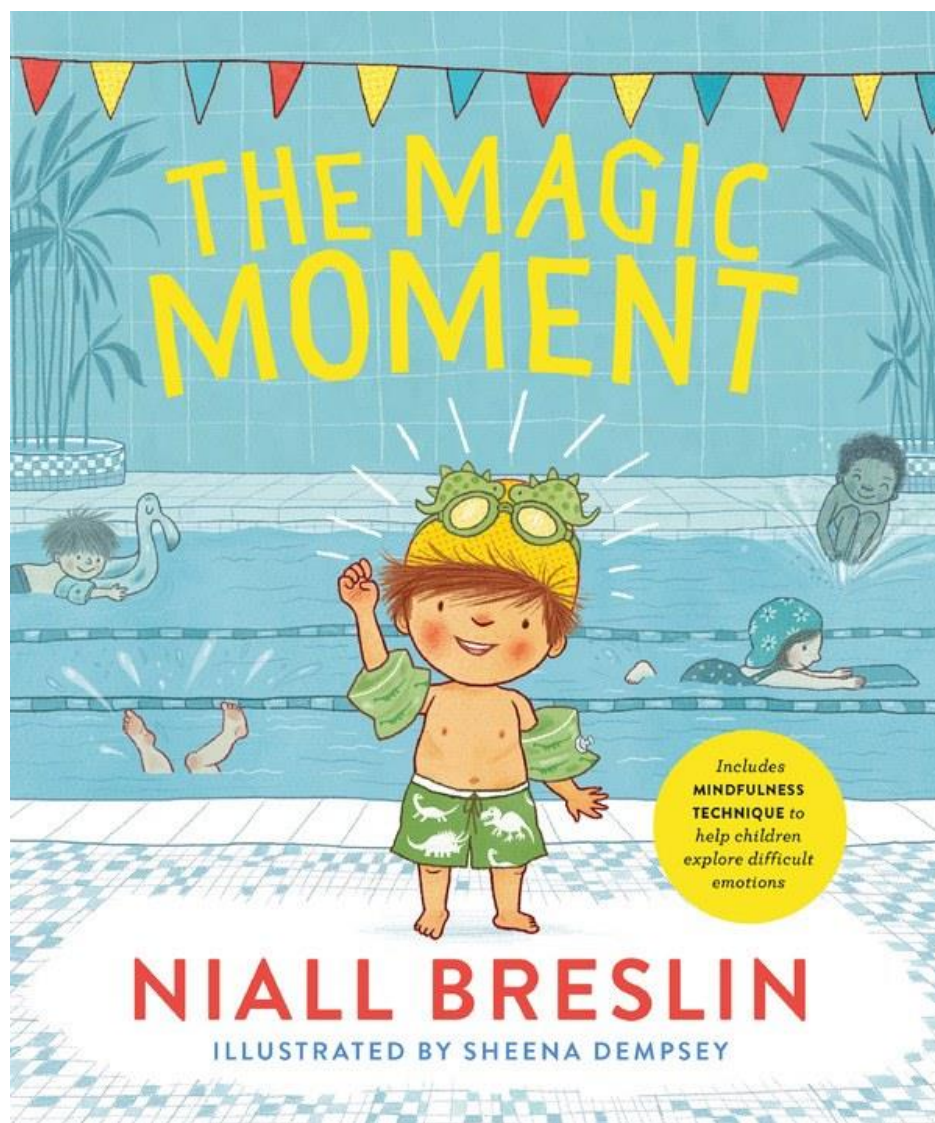


6 - Maybe

"... a wonderful picture book both written and illustrated by Chris that gives readers a taste of vicarious mischief" - Keira Brown at The Fountain

Three little monkeys, and their big monkey, are sat high up on their branch in the forest canopy. "Ok, monkeys! I'm off," says the big monkey. "Now remember. Whatever you do, do NOT go down to the mango tree. There are tigers down there." Mmm ... mangos! think the little monkeys. They LOVE mangos. Hmm ... maybe ... maybe they could just look at the mangos? That'd be ok, right?

Day 6: The Magic Moment by Niall Breslin, illustrated by Sheena Dempsey



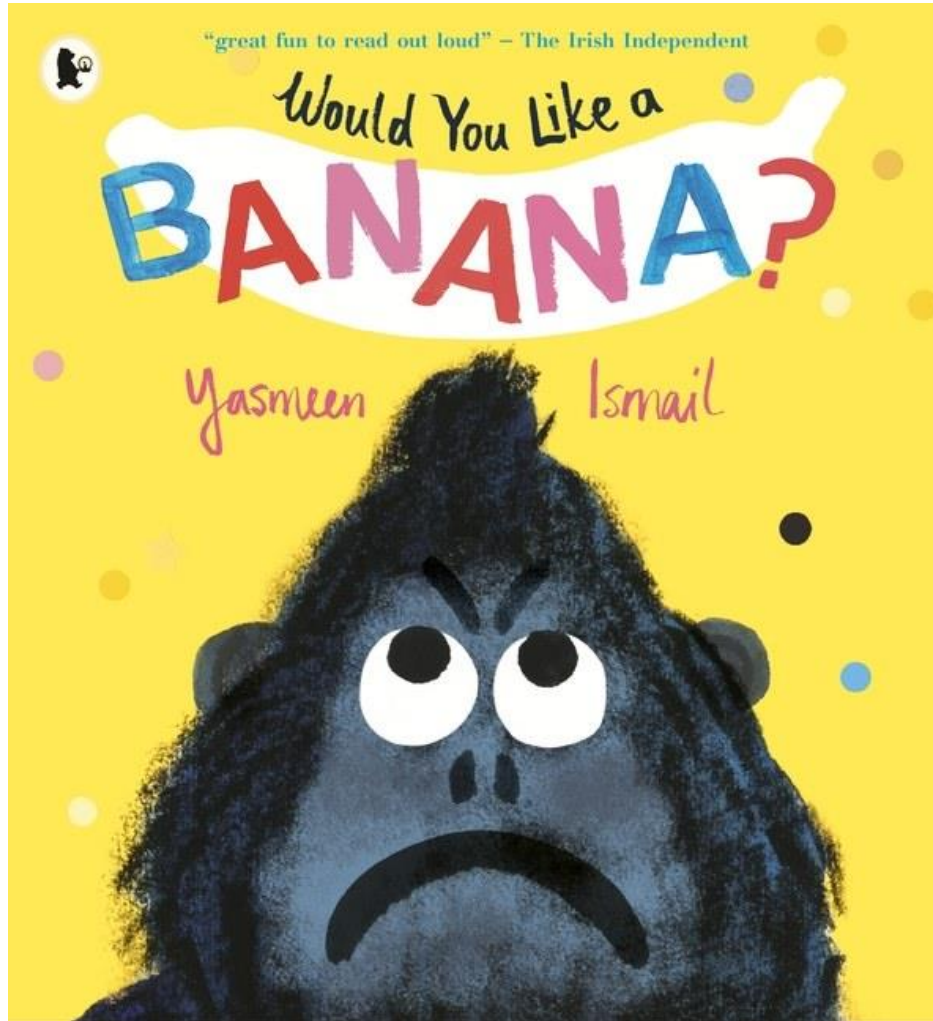
7 - The Magic Moment

“Teaches children a really simple and effective mindfulness technique for managing big feelings” - Dr Malie Coyne

Freddie is excited about his first trip to the swimming pool. But when he gets there, he finds it scary. So scary in fact, that he just wants to go home...

Later that evening, Nana teaches him a secret trick. It's called the Magic Moment Trick and it gives you superpowers when you're facing something scary. You simply close your eyes, think of your happiest memory and squeeze your finger and thumb together.

Day 7: Would You Like A Banana? by Yasmeen Ismail

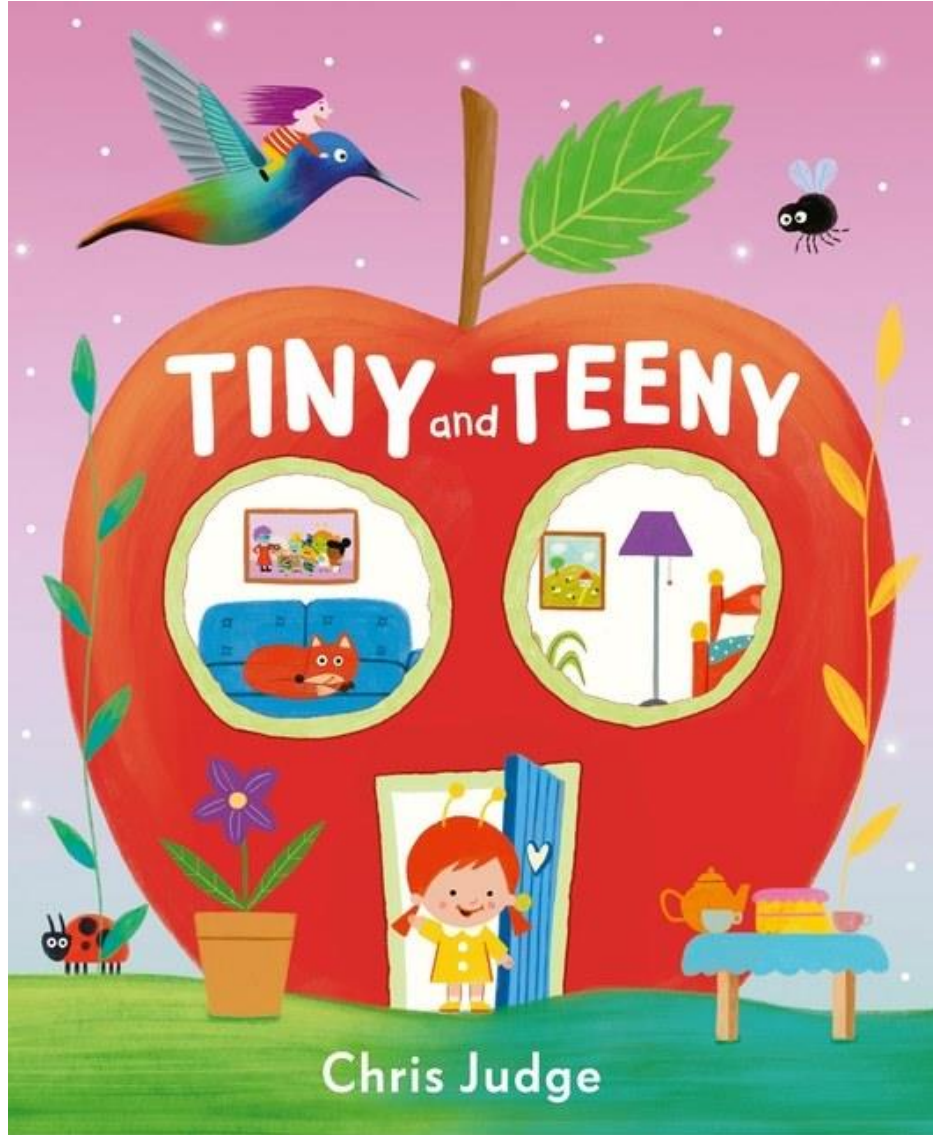


8 - Would You Like A Banana?

"Ismail's take on the fussy eating theme uses a mix of bold, expressive illustration and photography which brings a light, fun energy to what can sometimes be a frustrating experience for parents" - BookTrust

Gorilla is hungry but there is absolutely no way he's going to eat a banana. Not even a teeny taste. Not with some bread or standing on his head. Even if you eat one too, which is something you might do.

Day 8: Tiny and Teeny by Chris Judge



9 - *Tiny and Teeny*

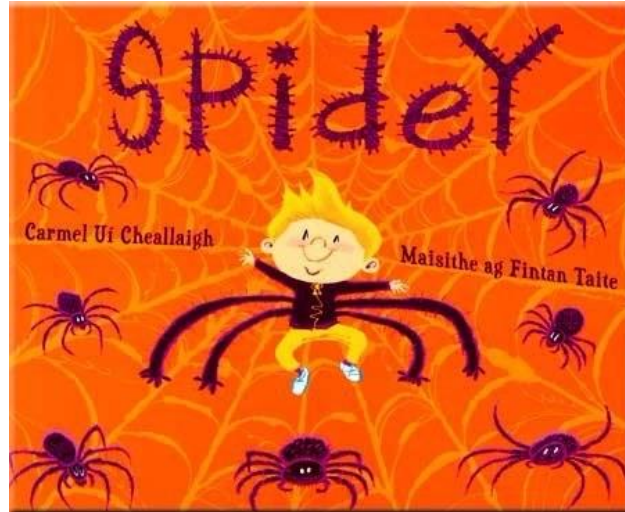
"...a gentle message about the good things that happen when we do nice things for others." - BookTrust

Welcome to Pocket Town, the teeniest, tiniest town around...Deep down, in between the blades of grass, lives Tiny. Can you see her? Keep looking.. closer still.. squint a bit.. yes, there she is!

Tiny keeps very busy in the buzzing place of Glengadget. Every day of the week, she has a different neighbour to meet - she does some gardening for Mandy Small, she reads to Bitsy McGee and she gives Minkin a hand with her lively twins.

But when disaster strikes (in the shape of a falling leaf), Tiny finds her teeny-tiny world turned upside down.

Day 9: Spidey by Carmel Uí Cheallaigh, illustrated by Fintan Taite



10 - Spidey

A special one for us, *Spidey* is a delightful picture book written by dlr Senior Librarian Carmel Uí Cheallaigh.

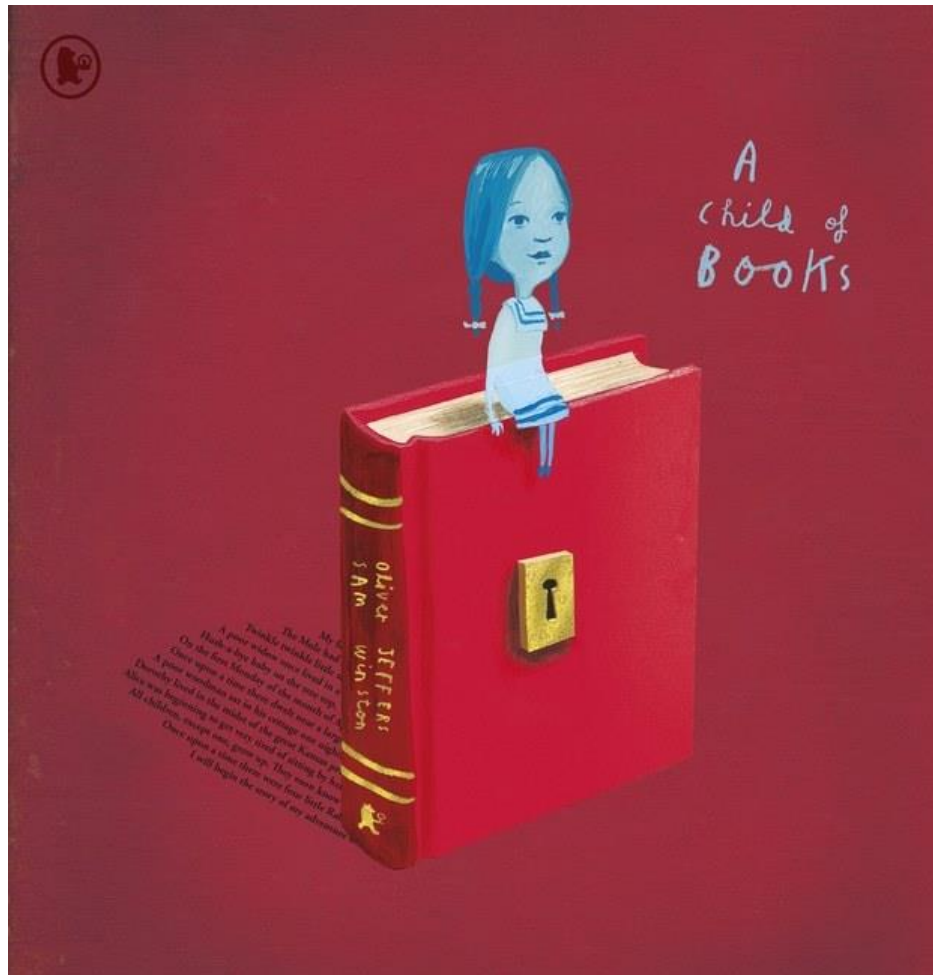
Tá suim an-mhór ag Séimí beag sna damháin alla. Bíonn siad le feiceáil i ngach áit, dar leis! Ba bhreá leis féin bheith ina Spidey lá éigin!

Little Séimí just loves spiders! No matter where he goes he can think of nothing else. If only he could be a spider himself!

Spidey is also currently featuring in a Scéal Trail at our [Shankill Library Garden](#).



Day 10: A Child of Books by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston

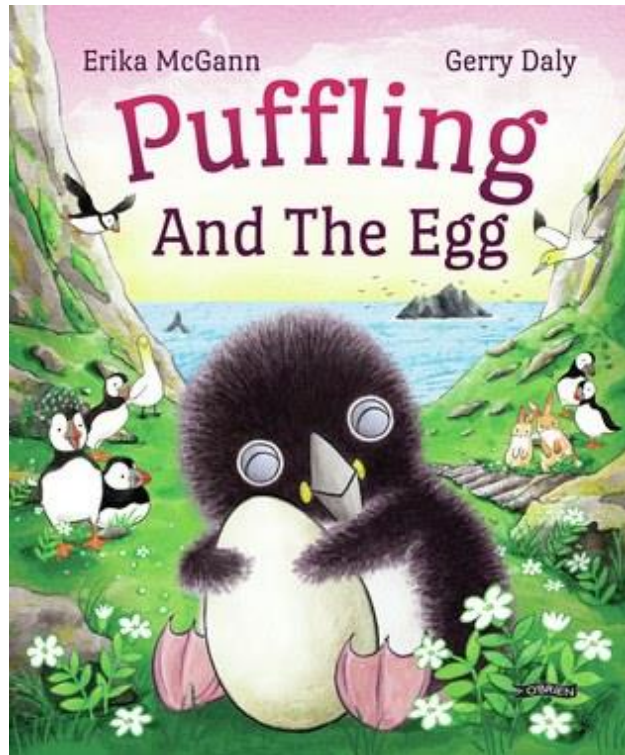


11 - A Child of Books

“A fresh and fascinating collaboration between two gifted masters” - The New York Times Book Review

A little girl sails her raft across a sea of words, arriving at the house of a small boy and calling him away on an adventure. Through forests of fairy tales and across mountains of make-believe, the two travel together on a fantastical journey that unlocks the boy's imagination. Now a lifetime of magic and adventure lies ahead of him . . . but who will be next?

Day 11: Puffling and the Egg by Erika McGann and Gerry Daly



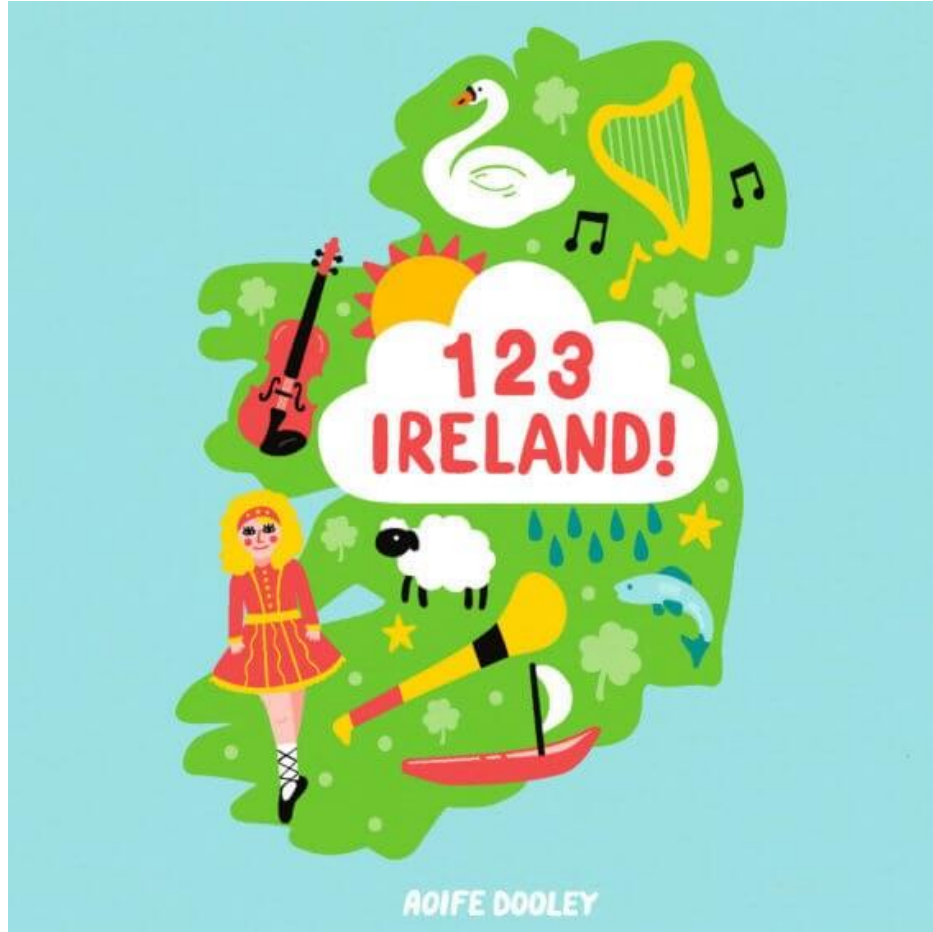
12 - Puffling and the Egg

“Young readers are sure to be captivated by this delightful tale and its wonderful artwork” - Irish Examiner

When Puffling finds a lost egg on Skellig Michael, she sets off to return the egg to its nest!

She travels all over the island searching for the owner of this stray egg, meeting lots of new friends along the way ... but who lost this mystery egg? And what kind of baby animal is going to hatch from it?

Day 12: 123 Ireland! by Aoife Dooley

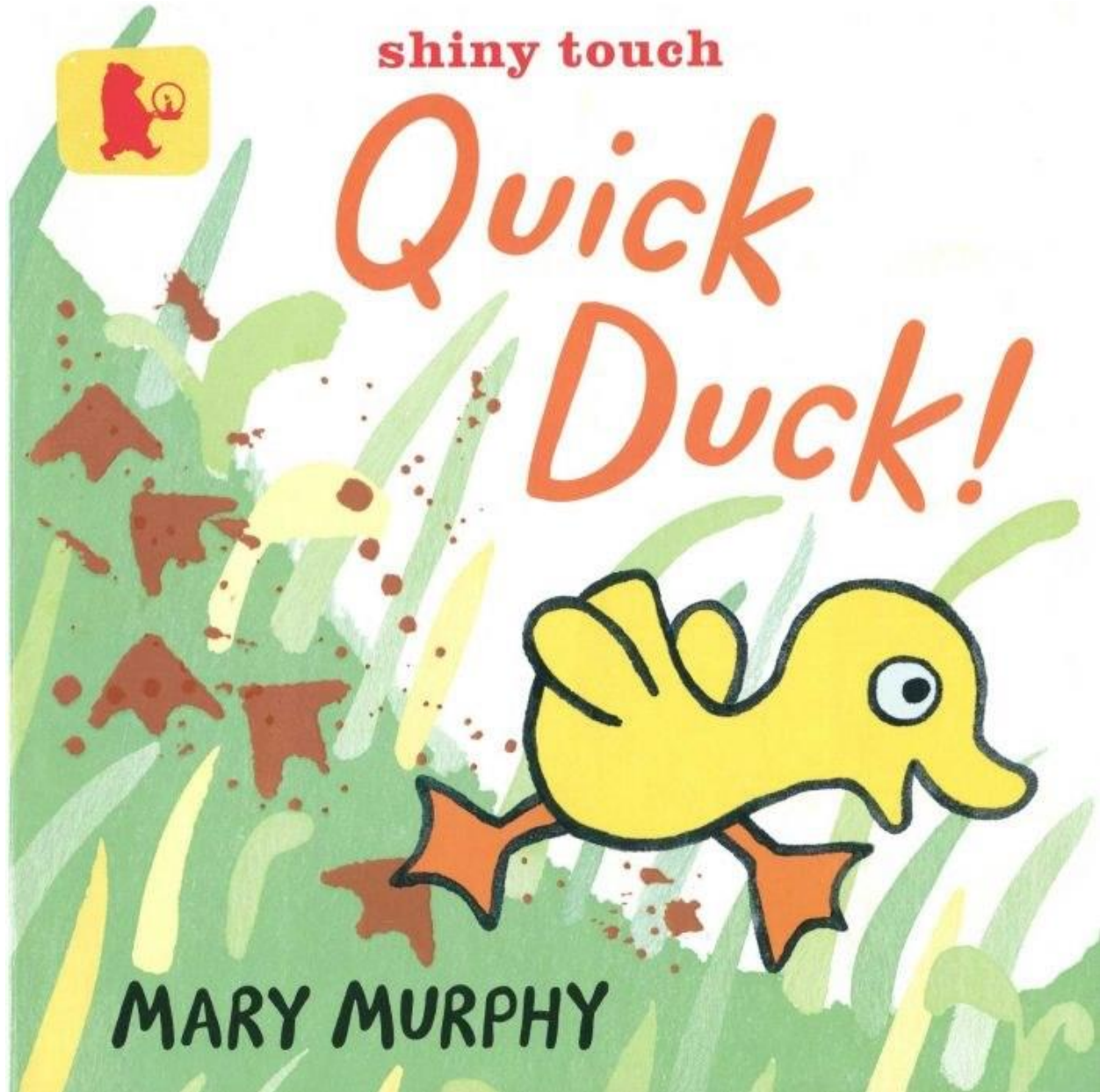


13 - 123 Ireland!

"This adorable board book is going to get your little one to get to know all the numbers..." - KidsActivites.ie

A light-hearted, funny and brilliantly illustrated counting boardbook which introduces all things Irish to baby readers – or at least the first ten things!

Day 13: Quick Duck! by Mary Murphy



14 - Quick Duck!

"A wide-eyed and enthusiastic yellow duck takes center stage in this unstuffy introduction to prepositions"
- Publishers Weekly

This little duckie needs to be quick-quack-quick -- leaping out of the mud, scooting under the hedge, running around the flowers, and skipping over the stones. Now he can splash into the river, where his mom and siblings are waiting and ready to go!

Day 14: Imagine! by Patricia Forde, illustrated by Elina Braslina



15 - Imagine!

"A lovely book to read and discuss, beautifully illustrated with lively, funny images throughout.." –Rich Simpson, What I Read

A little girl confides in her grandmother about her fears: pirates, monsters, the big dog down the lane ...

Each time, her grandmother suggests a funny situation to imagine, to help her overcome her fears and anxieties. The big dog isn't so scary anymore when you imagine him on rollerskates! And pirates aren't so frightening once they put away their swords and start playing with their dolls!

Day 15: Scúnc agus Smúirín by Muireann Ní Chíobháin, illustrated by Paddy Donnelly



16 - Scúnc agus Smúirín

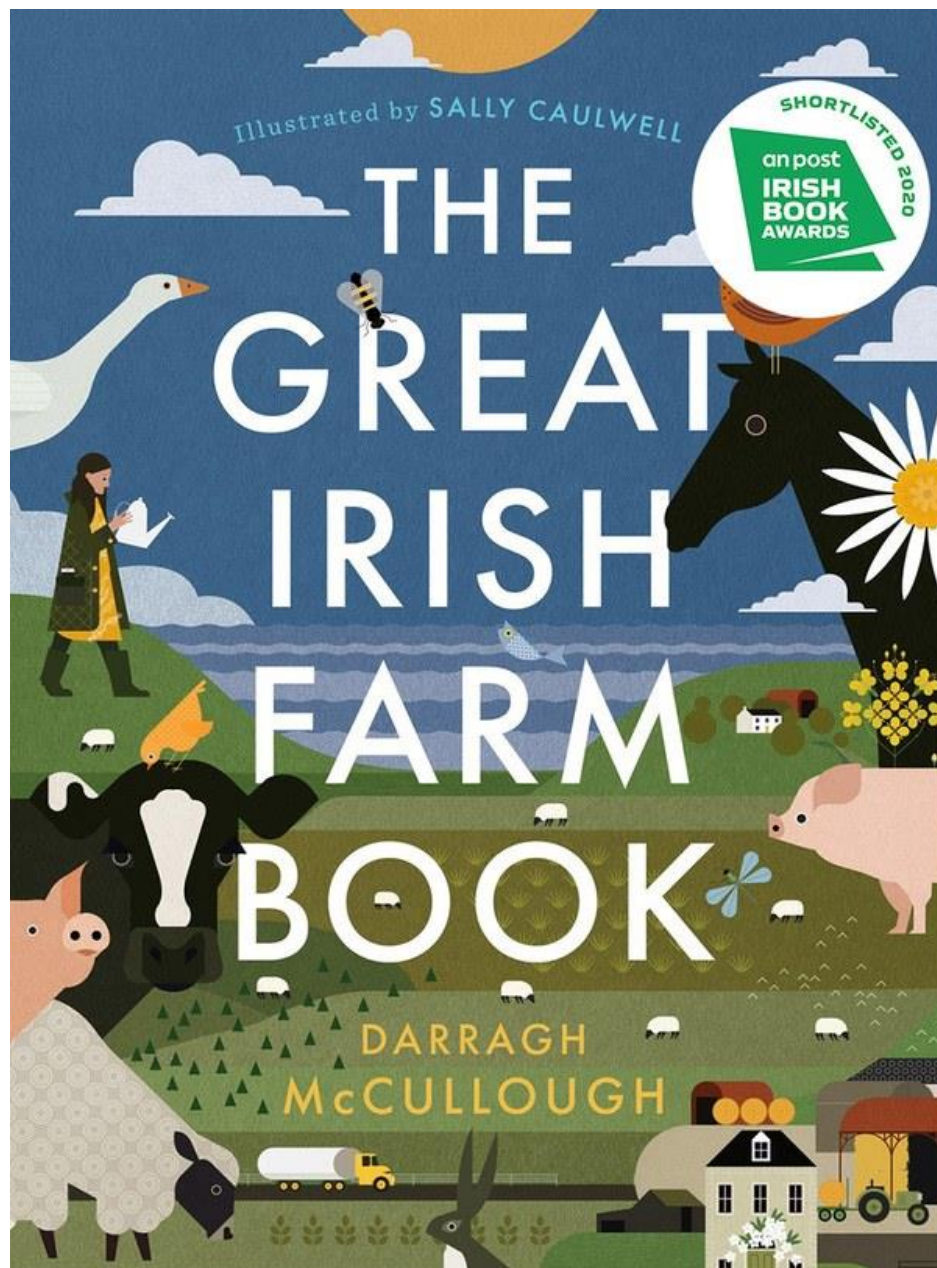
"Scúnc Agus Smúirín offers security galore to young readers in the form of Smúirín, the frog-shaped comforter that little Scúnc takes everywhere with him: "ag spraoi, ag siúl, ag ithe, ag ní, agus gach oíche is mé ag dul a luí". Smúirín is soft and cuddly, but Scúnc defines the comforter by its smell. When Mamaí washes Smúirín, then, disaster strikes: Smúirín is not Smúirín anymore." - The Irish Times

Tá grá mór ag Scúnc beag dá bhréagán bog, Smúirín. Is é Smúirín an compánach is ansa leis ar domhan.

An rud is deise faoi Smúirín ná an boladh atá uaidh. Ach lá amháin, cailleann Smúirín a bholadh.

An féidir le Mamaí an scéal a chur ina cheart?

Day 16: The Great Irish Farm Book by Darragh McCullough, illustrated by Sally Caulwell

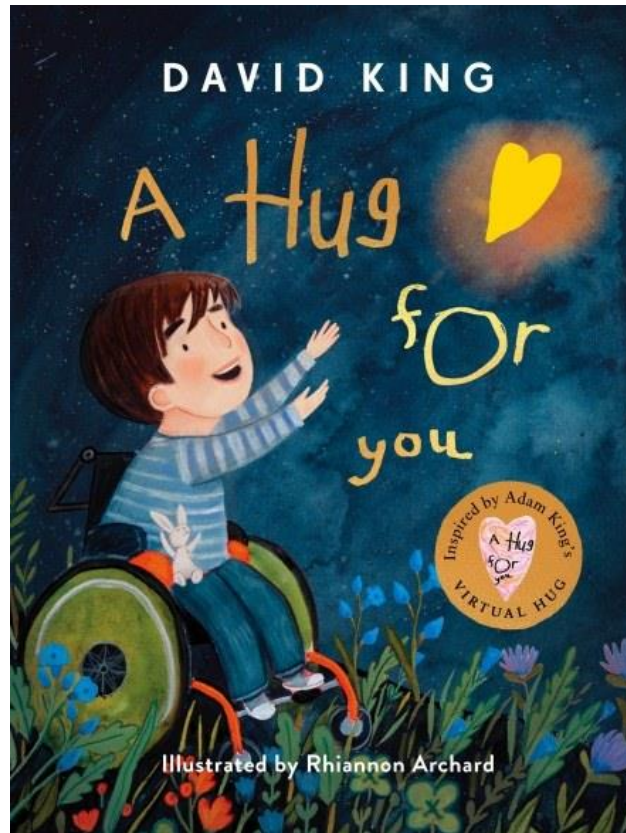


17 - The Great Irish Farm Book

"A wonderful reflection of the gorgeousness of Irish rural life" - Damien O'Reilly, Irish Farmers Journal

Everything your child needs to know about Irish farms! From the farmer's day to the changing of the seasons, from animals and crops to machinery and technology, and from ancient times to the modern day, *The Great Irish Farm Book* will take you on a fascinating journey through life on an Irish farm.

Day 17: A Hug For You by David King, illustrated by Rhiannon Archard



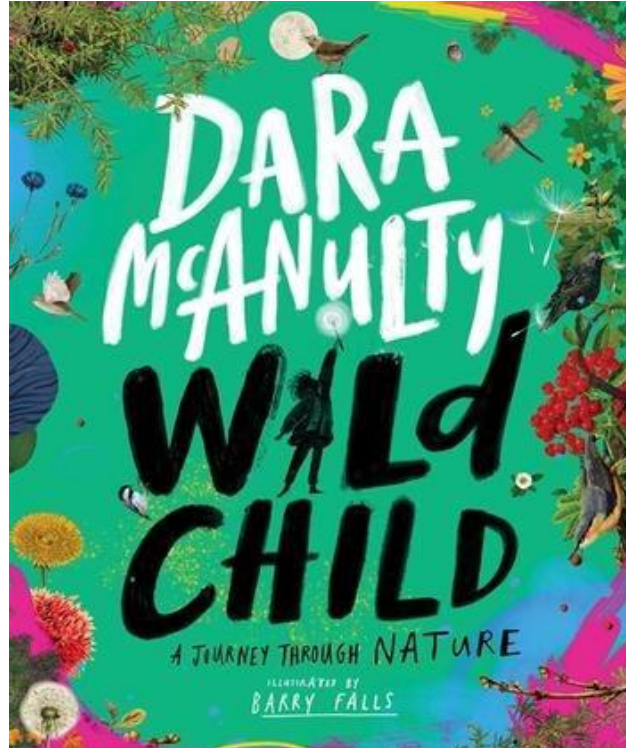
18 - A Hug For You

"A gorgeous, moving book" - The Irish Times

Adam King stole the hearts of the nation when he introduced us to his Virtual Hug, a heart-shaped sign he carried during the COVID-19 pandemic to help him stay connected to his teacher while he was learning from home. He also took it to his regular hospital appointments to show his doctors, nurses, and care staff that he was still giving them a hug, just in a different way.

This picture book, inspired by true events, tells the story of one little boy with a big idea that came straight from the heart. The virtual hug makes its way onto mugs, postage stamps and even all the way to outer space, spreading warmth and connection to people all over the world.

Day 18: Wild Child by Dara McAnulty, illustrated by Barry Falls



19 - Wild Child

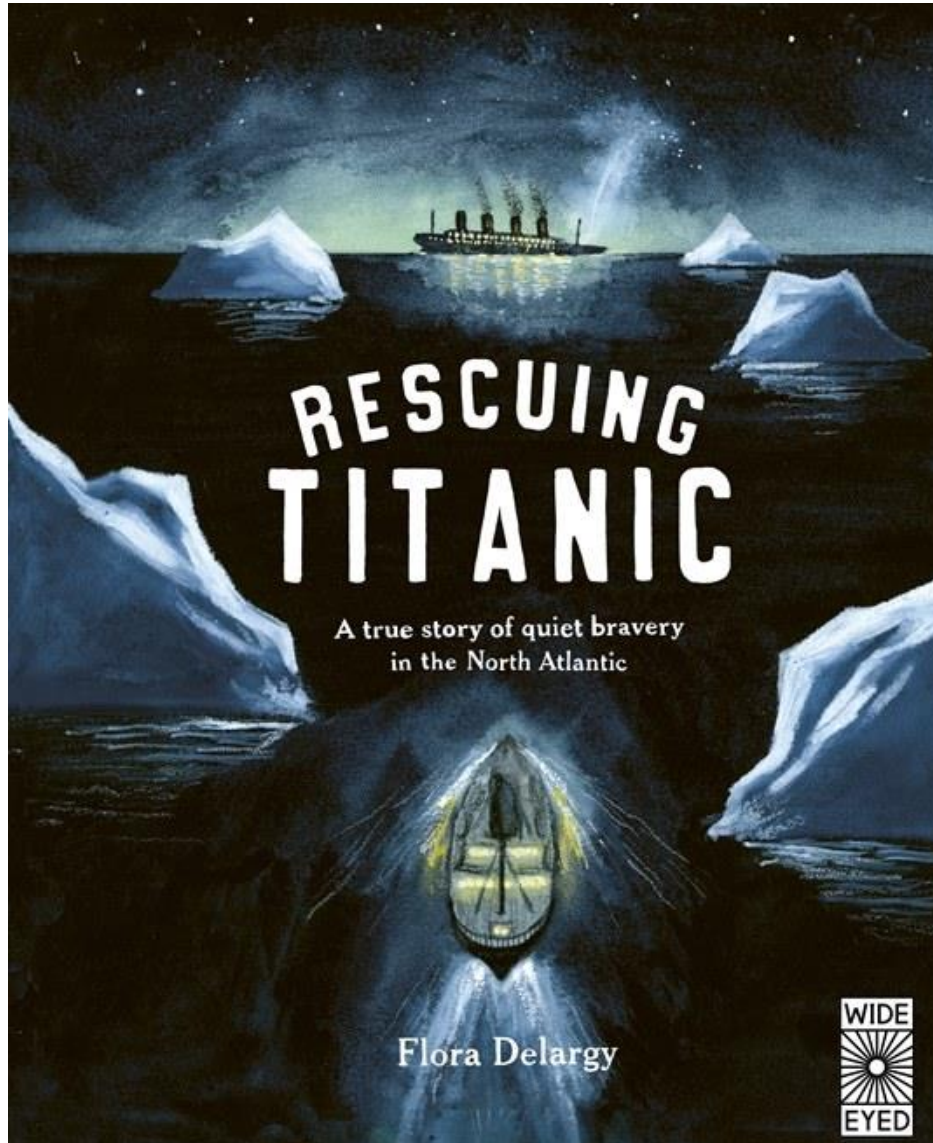
"...this is a dreamy dive into the natural world to thrill wildlife fans of six-plus" - Imogen Russell Williams, The Guardian

Wild Child: A Journey Through Nature is divided into five sections: looking out of the window, venturing out into the garden, walking in the woods, investigating heathland and wandering on the river bank.

Dara pauses to tell you about each habitat and provides fantastic facts about the native birds, animals and plants you will find there –including wrens, blackbirds, butterflies, tadpoles, bluebells, bees, hen harriers, otters, dandelions, oak trees and many more.

Each section finishes with an activity to do when you get home: plant wild flowers, make a bird feeder, try pond dipping, make a journey stick and build a terrarium.

Day 19: Rescuing Titanic by Flora Delargy



20 - Rescuing Titanic

"A visual feast [...] Exquisite artwork [...] A triumphant debut" - The Observer, Best Picture Books

Written and illustrated by debut Northern Irish artist Flora Delargy, whose grandfather and great grandfather both worked in the Belfast Shipyards where the *Titanic* was built.

This exquisitely illustrated story of quiet bravery tells in rich detail how the little ship *Carpathia* saved 705 passengers of the *Titanic* from the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

Day 20: Evie's Christmas Wishes by Siobhán Parkinson, illustrated by Shannon Bergin

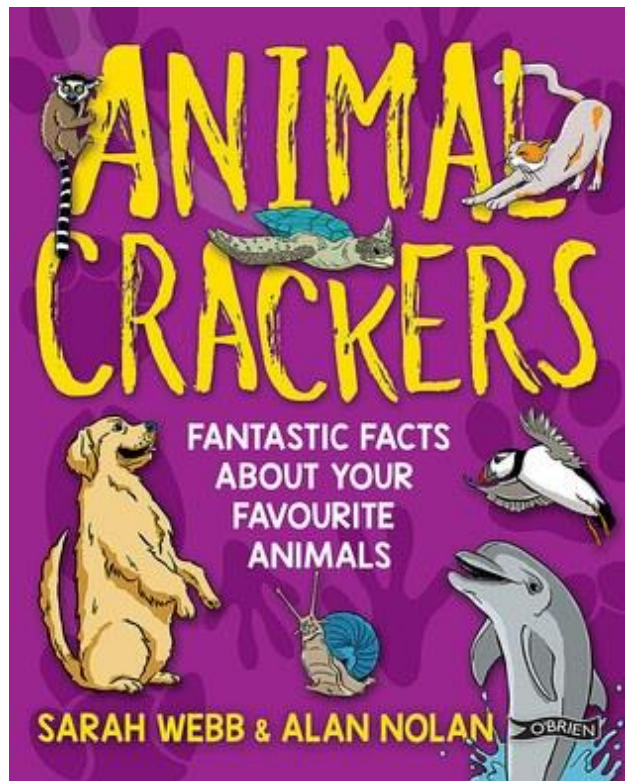


21 - *Evie's Christmas Wishes*

"A sheer delight from cover to cover." – RTÉjr

Christmas is coming and Evie is getting excited! There's lots to be done to prepare for the big day. She helps her mammy and daddy to make the pudding, ice the cake, and decorate the tree, and rehearses with her class for the Nativity play. As she partakes in all the festive fun, she makes a series of wishes, which suddenly begin to come true: just not in the way she expects!

Day 21: Animal Crackers: Fantastic Facts About Your Favourite Animals
by Sarah Webb & Alan Nolan



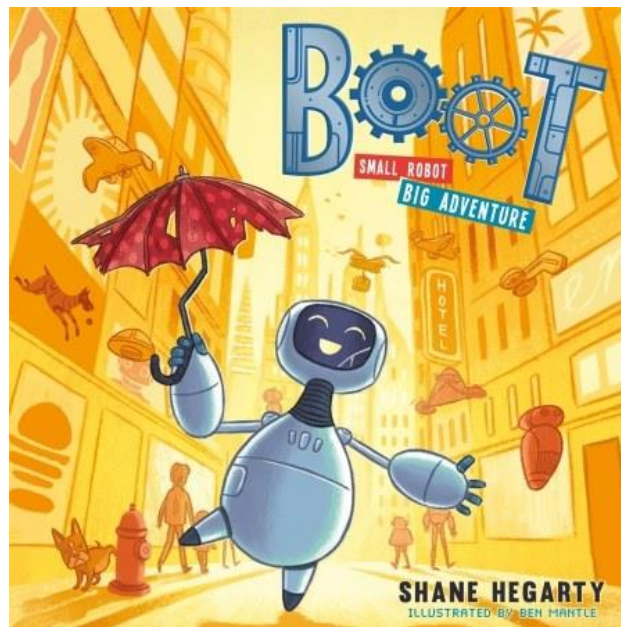
22 - Animal Crackers

"a mini encyclopaedia about animals, domestic and wild, laced with humour and hilarious illustrations" - Irish Examiner

Which are the biggest and smallest animals? Which are the most dangerous? Why do dogs love people so much? What animals can live in the heat of the desert, or deep below the oceans? Sarah Webb is animal crazy and has put the answers to all these questions and more in *Animal Crackers*, a book bursting with information about animals of all types!

Crammed full of pictures, cartoons and more from Alan Nolan this is the perfect book for children who want to know more about our furry, feathered (and scaly!) friends.

Day 22: Boot: Small Robot, Big Adventure by Shane Hegarty, illustrated by Ben Mantle



23 - Boot

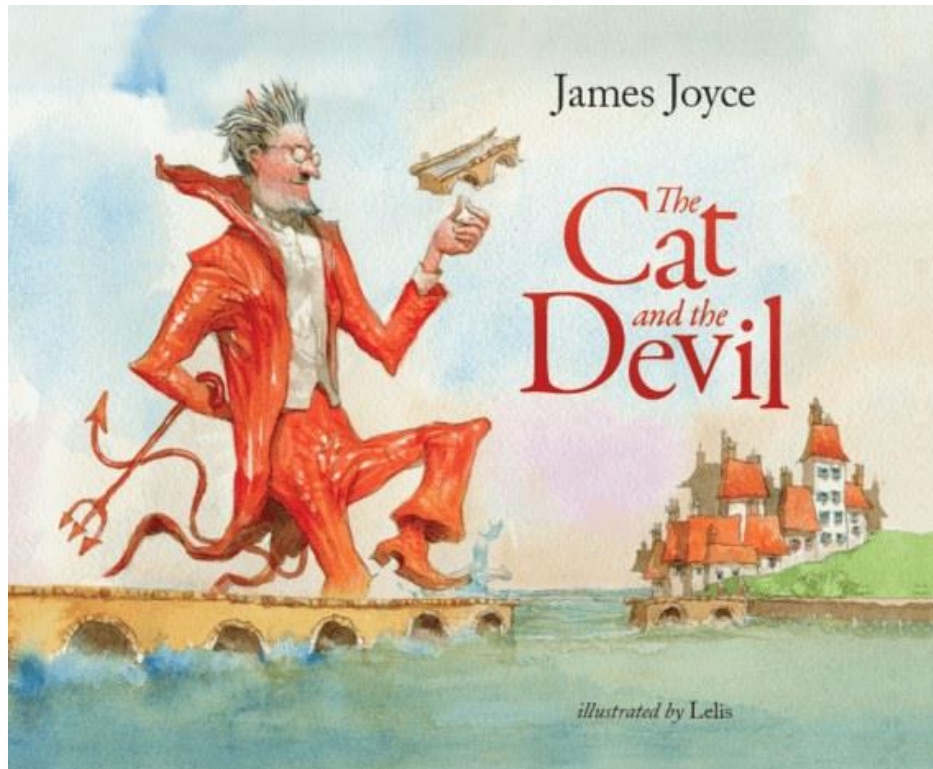
"Fast, funny and furious. These are definitely my favourite robots" - Eoin Colfer

When toy robot, Boot, wakes up at a scrapyards, it has no idea how it got there and why it isn't with its owner, Beth. It only has two and a half glitchy memories, but it knows it was loved, which means something important to humans.

Boot soon realises its emotions make it different to other robots, who just function and don't think. Boot is scared but tries to be brave, which is hard when its screen keeps showing a wobbly, worried face. Luckily Boot meets Noke and Red – other 'advanced' robots who have learned to survive in secret.

With new friends by its side, Boot is determined to find Beth and the gang set off on a dangerous adventure. Everything Boot thought it knew about the world is changing, and things aren't as simple as it remembers...

Day 23: The Cat and the Devil by James Joyce, illustrated by Lelis



24 - The Cat and the Devil

“Probably the most impressive book I’ve seen this year for younger readers. ... Adult Joyce fans would also be impressed with a gift of this book, it is exquisite.” – Anne Cunningham, The Meath Chronicle

On 10 August 1936, James Joyce wrote a letter to his grandson Stephen. In the letter he told, in simple language, the story of how the Devil built a bridge across the river at the town of Beaugency.

As usual, the Devil wanted a high price for his gift. But the clever mayor of the town outwitted the Devil by making use of the Devil’s fondness for cats. It was an old French story but Joyce gave the mayor the name of a famous mayor of his own home town of Dublin in Ireland: the popular politician and character, Alfie Byrne.

Long out of print as a children’s book, this classic tale was brought back into circulation by *Little Island* in 2021.

Day 24: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas by Clement C. Moore,
illustrated by P.J. Lynch



25 - 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

"Stunningly atmospheric art also abounds in PJ Lynch's illustration of the classic Christmas verse 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. A book to treasure forever." - The Irish Independent

P.J. Lynch brings his rich and atmospheric art to the well-loved Christmas verse. From the stockings hung by the chimney to the bundle of toys flung over St Nicholas's back, children will love to pore over the detailed images inside. A book to return to again and again.

Day 25: Reindeer Down! An Irish Christmas Tale by Natasha Mac a'Bháird, illustrated by Audrey Dowling



26 - Reindeer Down!

"...illustrator Audrey Dowling brings the reader on a visual journey through the Irish landscape ... some very cute, smiling reindeers" - The Irish Times

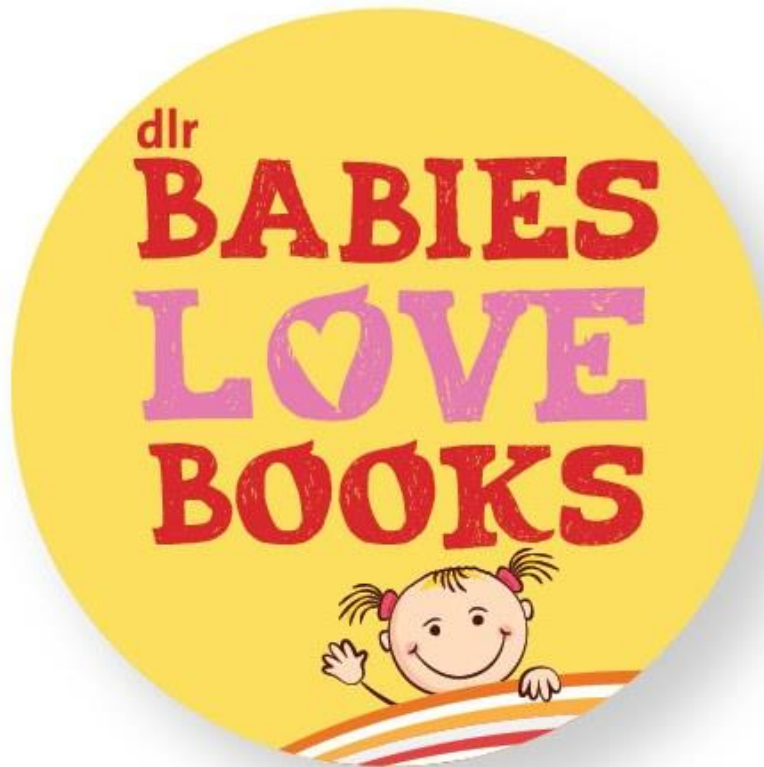
Santa's sleigh is flying over Ireland, delivering presents to all the boys and girls. But then Dancer hurts her leg and can't pull the sleigh.

What will Santa do?



What is a Scéal Trail?

dlr Scéal Trail is an outdoor story walk that everyone can enjoy. It's a picture book delivered in an exhibition format that you can follow, from beginning to end, as you walk with your family or friends. The aim of a Scéal Trail is to encourage reading in an outdoor setting, promote the use of books beyond the confines of library spaces and encourage engagement where parents, children, grandparents, siblings and friends can engage together with a book. We have featured three Scéal Trails across our Library branches over the past year and they will continue into 2022 at four new locations which you'll find more information about [here](#).



What is Babies Love Books?

dlr Babies Love Books is a book gifting scheme brought to you by dlr Libraries. Every child born in the county of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown is entitled to collect a free book bag at their local library. The scheme encourages parents and children to read together from birth. Sharing books and stories with your child has lots of wonderful benefits and it is never too early or too late to start. You can find out more information [here](#).