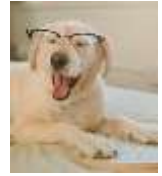


Great  
Christmas

Gift!



## Mrs McHugh's Library News 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.



***The shark was beneath my bed, growing large as the room, large as the lighthouse, rising from unfathomable depths until it ripped the whole island from its roots. The bed was a boat, the shark a tide, and it pulled me so far out to sea I was only a speck, a spot, a mote, a dying star in an unending sky...***

**Julia has followed her mum and dad to live on a remote island for the summer - her dad, for work; her mother, on a determined mission to find the elusive Greenland shark. But when her mother's obsession threatens to submerge them all, Julia finds herself on an adventure with dark depths and a lighthouse full of hope...**

### **Julia and the Shark wins an award from Waterstones**

It was a BBC article about a **400-year old Greenland shark** which sparked Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Tom de Freston's children's novel **Julia and the Shark**. This beautifully written and illustrated book has just been named as **the children's gift of the year by Waterstones.**

This is what Hargrave said recently about the inspiration behind the novel.

"I read about Greenland sharks when they discovered one that was **400 years old**. Normally with sharks, they date them by their bones, which grow rings like trees. Greenland sharks have very soft bones, so they can't do that. The way they date them is this parasite that creates crystals in their eyes and in those crystals gets trapped light from hundreds of years ago. So the way they age them is **they date the light in their eyes**. *It's so magical.* I still get goose bumps - it was one of those alchemical moments you get when you're like: 'Oh, there's a story!'"

Hargrave goes on to say that the pandemic had a "huge impact" on the novel..."It's a lot more of a hopeful book, and the mental health strand came very much to the fore. During the pandemic, it became so clear, especially for children, you're navigating such a difficult situation, and you don't have your usual support structure, and that's quite similar to how Julia has found herself on this island without her usual support structure around her, in this very strange situation where her mum is becoming a stranger....I really wanted to say in this book that it's not your responsibility to fix things. You don't have to save your mum. She's a grownup. Often children try and take responsibility for so many aspects of their parents' lives and their parents' happiness, which is a lot of what this book is about. Julia tries to be a saviour. But that's not her job. She's a kid.

EPCHS library has '**Julia and the Shark**' available to loan. Why not read it over the Christmas break or borrow it from your local library!



## Christmas Chocolate Event and Blind Book Dating!



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December saw EPCHS celebrate champion readers throughout the school! Congratulations to: Austin M, Rosalie J, Esme L, Ash L, Ruby H, Ava Mc, Aussie S, Beth R, Lily T, Stan S, Abbie H, Isabelle S, Kian A, Ashling P, Katie R, Lewis P, Emily-Kate L, Noah C, Joseph B, Dan R, Kyra-Marie T, Charlie C, Tobias B, Damian G, Charlie R, Ellie B, Favour I, Jade B, Lloyd J, Alexis H, Olivia P, Bethany G, Flourish U, Kira Mc, Stan K, Rosie P, Evie-Rose D, Ruby S, Mateusz B, Lucas C, Aleksandra O, Sebastian L, Kaysi F, Sophie D, Imogen CB, Isabelle L, Madison L, Dannielle J, Rheanna P, Arnee P, George B!

**A huge thank you** to **Morrisons** Ellesmere Port, **Tesco** Little Sutton and **Tesco** Sutton Way who kindly donated Christmas chocolate to recognise reading achievement at EPCHS!

**Merry Christmas and happy reading to all students, parents and staff!**

**Seasons blessings to you all from the Library Team.**