



# READING

## Newsletter



### *Can we eat all the chocolate yet?*

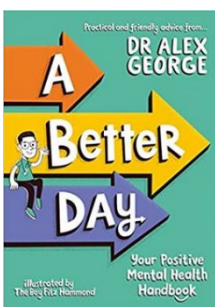
Hip, hop hooray – 'tis the season of the Easter bunny and the best excuse (second to Christmas) to get our 5-a-day confectionary fix. The days have finally got lighter, the snow and ice are almost a thing of the past and lazy days in the garden are on the horizon. Is there are better reason to finally buy that book you've been waiting for? A bit of sunshine and a springtime breeze will suffice. So, hop to it!

### *What's new with reading?*

More research into reading for pleasure has shown that finding enjoyment from reading has a bigger influence on a child's educational success than their family's socio-economic status. Socioeconomic status includes income, education, occupation and place of residence and studies have shown that the combination of these things can affect how well your child performs in school. So this news is both significant and positive for all families: you don't need the best house on the best street with the best job and the highest pay...put a great book in the hands of your child and their chances of succeeding at school increase with every page they read.

### *Building literacy in UK prisons*

The National Literacy Trust has secured two years of Government funding for an innovative scheme to engage people in prisons with reading and writing. The Literacy Innovation Fund will see over £700k pledged to helping address the issue that less than half of men in prison have literacy levels of an 11-year-old. Across six prisons, activities will respond directly to the needs of the prisoners and will include creative writing workshops, author panel events, and sessions on reading and writing with children. The program aims to help develop the skills and confidence of prisoners and their reading as well as equipping them for a future outside of prison with a wider scope of opportunities.



### *Mental health and young people – from reality star to children's author*

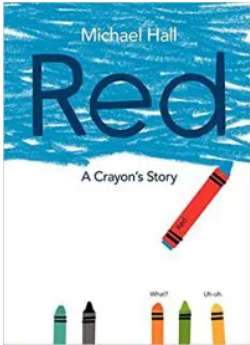
Dr Alex George became famous during his stint on Love Island in 2018; he then went on to become the government's specially appointed Youth Mental Health Ambassador and has a mission to help young people handle depression, gender identity and body positivity among a raft of other common issues. His book, 'A Better Day: Your Positive Mental Health Handbook', gives great advice on creating healthy strategies and routines as well as useful advice on dealing with the problems that can come as part of everyday teenage life.



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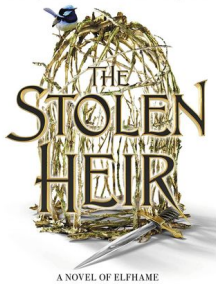
### *Tip of the month*



Are you finding it tough to tackle some more challenging subjects with your young people? Books can be a fantastic tool in dealing with those tricky times and sticky subjects that might make both adults and children want to run away and hide. DEATH IS STUPID BY Anastasia Higginbotham is a great book for exploring death and loss with a young person; AND TANGO MAKES THREE BY Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell and Henry Cole beautifully handles the idea of 'family' and all the different shapes that it can take and RED: A CRAYON'S STORY BY Michael Hall is a wonderful book for exploring gender, identity and personal expression.

### *Recommended Reads*

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
HOLLY BLACK



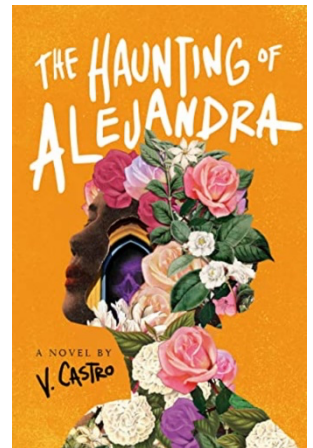
#### *"The Stolen Heir" by Holly Black*

Holly Black's *The Stolen Heir* is the first book in a duology series from the author. The novel returns to Elfhome and chronicles the perilous adventures of a prince and a changeling queen.

(And for the grown ups)

#### *The Haunting of Alejandra by V. Castro*

Weaving in the popular Mexican folklore legend of La Llorona, this horror novel centers on a woman exploring her family's past deals with an unexplainable inner darkness that wants to consume her. The provocative novel is haunting and packed with dark secrets.



### *Where next?*

BorrowBox – for your free books – and [info@bedlingtonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@bedlingtonacademy.co.uk) for any help