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Friday, 20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled to say that we have decided to take part in the East Sussex Children's Book Awards this year. The East Sussex Children's Book Award promotes reading for pleasure to children at the upper age of primary school (8 – 11 years). It introduces children and adults to new or less established children's authors, in order to encourage a 'county-wide conversation' about books.

The six newly-published books chosen for the Book Award are particularly aimed at children in Year 4 and above. Over the coming months, I will be running a book club during Tuesday lunch time for a group of children in Year 4 and above to meet and discuss the six books that are up for the award. We will write book reviews; discuss what we have liked/disliked about each book; write questions for the authors and we will also have the option to enter competitions!

On 9th May we will cast our votes for our favourite book out of the six that we have read. Then, on 10th June there will be a celebration event at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea announcing who the winner is!

The shortlisted books, which include enchanting fantasy, thrilling adventure and gripping mystery, are:

- 'Koku Akanbi and the Heart of Midnight' by Maria Motunrayo Adebisi
- 'The Night Train' by Sarah Driver
- 'Storm Child' by Ele Fountain
- 'Hercules' by Tom Vaughan
- 'The Beasts of Knobbly Bottom. Attack of the Vampire Sheep' by Emily-Jane Clark
- 'Arkspire' by Jamie Littler

If your child would like to take part in the Book Awards Book Club, they will need to be committed to reading all six books and sourcing the books either from the local library/Lewes e-library <https://eastsussexlibrary.overdrive.com/library/kids/> or purchasing them. We will have a couple of the books available at school for the children to borrow. The children will be given a timetable to follow (with dates for starting/finishing the books) and ideally we will read the books at the same time.

We will focus on a different book each month starting with 'Koku Akanbi and the Heart of Midnight' as it is the longest book.

There is only space for 10 children so places will be first come first served and we may have to create a reserve list. Please do complete the MS Forms if you would like your child to attend: <https://forms.office.com/e/9qEdSEkDW5>

We will have our first book club meeting on Tuesday, 6th January.

Yours,

Mrs Bishop