



Christmas Stickers

It's that time of year again and you can add that Bag Books feel to your own Christmas Cards with our range of Christmas Stickers. The stickers can also be used to seal envelopes or to wrap up presents.

We have two ranges available: 20 small gold stickers for £2 per sheet or 12 larger contemporary stickers for £3 per sheet. The important thing is that each sticker represents a donation to Bag Books.

Order at www.bagbooks.org/stickers.html or call us for an order form.

Christmas Shopping

Another way of supporting Bag Books is to use our links when you are shopping online so that we earn commission. If you buy through the tinyurl.com/BagBooksAmazon link to Amazon we will get 5 - 10% commission at no extra cost to yourself. Plus if you register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bagbooks you can shop with dozens of well-known retailers such as John Lewis, Argos, Boots and WHSmith whilst earning us commission.

Regular Giving

One of the best ways to support our work is to make regular donations which enable us to plan and develop our work more effectively as it gives us a regular income. It also allows the donor to spread the cost evenly. With a Standing Order, the donor is in complete control and can cancel at any time.

Our Standing Order Form can be downloaded from tinyurl.com/BBSOForm. Alternatively, you can make a regular donation via www.justgiving.com/bagbooks/donate

Storyline is published two or three times a year and is available in email and print versions. If you would like to change the format you receive in future please contact us. Similarly, please let us know if you'd rather not receive future editions.



1 Stewart's Court, 218-220 Stewart's Road, London SW8 4UB
Tel: 020 7627 0444 Fax: 020 7627 0999
email: office@bagbooks.org web: www.bagbooks.org
Registered Charity No. 1026432

X marks the spot



Last year our most popular title was "Band Rehearsal" but although it's still in demand it has now been overtaken by "A Pirate Adventure." So far this year we have distributed 100 copies of the book.

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018

Storyline

December 2017

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



Multi-sensory book commissions



Bag Books has formed an exciting partnership with Arsenal Football Club. In addition to hosting multi-sensory storytelling sessions and our Build-a-Book project at both the Emirates Stadium and the training ground,

Arsenal has now commissioned the creation of a bespoke Arsenal themed multi-sensory book. 23 copies of the book will be made and donated to special schools and an adult day centre in the local area where Arsenal has a big community presence.

Luke Howard, Disability Officer at Arsenal says, "Arsenal is delighted to be working alongside Bag Books. Our partnership with Bag Books has enabled us to reach out to more people and bring the joy of multi-sensory storytelling to the Emirates Stadium. We look forward to using the story in our newly opened multi-sensory room at the stadium."



Luke presents our Storytelling Manager, Nina Martinez, with a shirt worn by an Arsenal player.



Bag Books has also received a commission from the Starlight Children's Foundation in Australia to create a bespoke multi-sensory book based on Captain Starlight, the Foundation's mascot. This follows a visit from a member of the Starlight team to observe some Bag Books storytelling in the UK earlier this year.

Laura from Starlight explains, "I've worked for Starlight for nearly eight years and over that time I have noticed a gap in our provision for severely disabled children. I realised that they miss out on the mythology of who Captain Starlight is and why he is our mascot. After observing Bag Books in action, I realised that a multi-sensory books would be the perfect way to bring the Captain Starlight story to life!"

The Starlight Children's Foundation aims to brighten the lives of seriously ill children and their families in Australia. They have successfully secured funding and the new book has been written. The Bag Books team look forward to creating the new bespoke book and working alongside the Foundation to bringing the story of Captain Starlight to the attention of children with profound learning disabilities in Australia.

Volunteer boost

Our new full-time Volunteer Co-ordinator, Christie Monahan, joined us in March and, supported by our Workshop Manager, Sophie Baker, has been busy recruiting new volunteers. Thanks in part to some free adverts in the Metro and the Evening Standard, we'd already broken our previous annual record for volunteer hours by the end of August!

We are still looking for more volunteers who are able to either come into our craft workshop near Vauxhall or are able to do sewing or knitting tasks from home. If you can help please contact Christie Monahan, email christie@bagbooks.org



A team of volunteers from Citibank.

Build-a-Book

We have received funding to expand our Build-a-Book project to include a greater number of adults with learning disabilities. A generous donation from QBE enabled us to visit eight adult day centres over the last few months.

"Our service users really benefitted from using the different equipment, including the hammer and drill and we saw the fun in their eyes. It was a great experience and lovely to see their expressions when read the completed book."

Build-a-Book comprises a day long craft workshop where participants are helped to use a range of unfamiliar tools and equipment such as a saw, drill, hammer and glue gun to create a bespoke multi-sensory book "The Queen's Visit" for ongoing use.



Books for Hospices

Bag Books has been fortunate to receive funding from the Berkeley Foundation and Aberdeen Asset Management to donate some multi-sensory books to children's hospices. In addition to some wonderful thank you cards, we have received the following quotes.

"Young people with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions, particularly those with PMLD and multi-sensory conditions, often get donations but rarely are they suitable or adaptable to the specific limitations of these young people's conditions. Bag Books however have got it just right with their sensory and interactive stories and to have them donated means so much to us. The stories give so much pleasure and indeed learning experiences and so much fun! That in itself is priceless." Little Harbour Children's Hospice, Cornwall.

"As a charity we rely heavily on the good will and generous donations of others, and gifts like these really do go a long way to enhance the quality of lives for some of our patients which is a real joy to be part of." Ellenor Children's Hospice, Kent.

Fantastic efforts



11 year old Claudia Woolf wanted a challenge and decided to do a 5k run with her mum, Marnie, something neither of them had done before.

Claudia said, "I wanted to support Bag Books because I love reading. I want to do more than just raise money so I intend to visit Bag Books' workshop to see the books being made and then personally deliver them to the schools and hear them being read to and enjoyed by the classes." Nearly £1,200 was raised from sponsors and Claudia will be donating multi-sensory books to two Special Schools.



Well done to Lucy Grice who completed the Hever Castle Triathlon for us. Lucy said, "I completed my first sprint triathlon - it was the hardest physical challenge I have ever attempted. But I did it and it was amazing. I can't thank everyone enough for all the good luck messages and shouting on the day. And not to mention all the sponsorships for Bag Books. I aimed for £150 but ended on £627 - I can't believe it. Just feeling the love in many directions. Such a great experience; now I need to see if I can persuade more people to sign up next year!!!"

Now is it your turn?

Have Claudia and Lucy's efforts inspired you? Would you like to do something similar to raise funds for Bag Books?

We have a number of guaranteed places at the 2018 Prudential Ride London-Surrey cycle. This 100 mile cycle around the Surrey countryside has become a bucket list event for any keen cyclist and a fantastic event for anyone wishing to challenge themselves next summer.

The event takes place on Sunday 29th July 2018. If you would like to take part for Bag Books, please email camilla@bagbooks.org for more details.

