



Jonathan Ball Publishers

March 2023 Children's Highlights



If you love heartfelt picture books perfect for Easter, daring adventures with unlikely main characters or horror and intrigue for teens, this is the place for you. Themes of climate change, self-confidence and facing fears run throughout these titles which make them such fantastic reads for 2023! Please do let me know if you'd be interested in featuring any of the titles below.

All the best,
Mieke Gottsche

March Spotlight

TIKTOK
AUTHOR



These Infinite Threads by Tahereh Mafi

9780008592233 / Farshore / TPB / R280

With the heat of a kiss, the walls between Alizeh, the long-lost heir to an ancient Jinn kingdom, and Kamran, the crown prince of the Arduanian empire, have crumbled. And so have both of their lives. Kamran's grandfather, the king of Arduania, lays dead, the terrible secret of his deal with the devil exposed to the world. Cyrus, the mysterious copper-haired royal, has stolen Alizeh away to Tulan, the neighboring kingdom where he rules. Cyrus has made his own deal with the devil—one that would require Alizeh to betray her feelings for Kamran if she's to reclaim the Jinn throne.

Alizeh wants nothing to do with Cyrus, or his deal with Iblees. But with no means of escaping Tulan, and with the tantalizing promise of fulfilling her destiny as the heir to the Jinn, she's forced to wonder whether she can set aside her emotions and finally become the queen her people need.

Kamran, meanwhile, is picking up the pieces of his broken kingdom. Facing betrayal at every turn, all he knows for certain is that he must go to Tulan to avenge his grandfather. He can only hope that Alizeh will be waiting for him there and that she's not yet become queen of Tulan.





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0 – 5 years



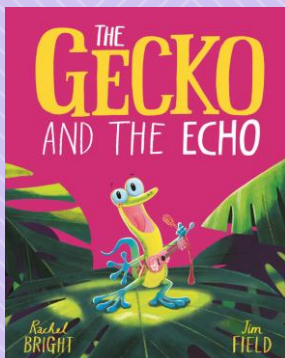
Thomas & Friends Pocket Library by W. Awdry

9780008587840 / Farshore / BRD BK / R155

This fantastic slipcase of 6 little board books features appealing images of Thomas and his friends from the All Engines Go TV show together with rhyming text.

This brightly coloured Thomas & Friends Pocket Library is the perfect size to go in a pocket or bag, so young children can enjoy it here, there and everywhere!

The six little books in this Thomas & Friends Pocket Library slipcase feature images of favourite characters from the All Engines Go TV show together with rhyming text, making it a pleasure for parents, grandparents, relatives and carers to read while children will enjoy looking at the pictures and helping to turn the sturdy board pages.



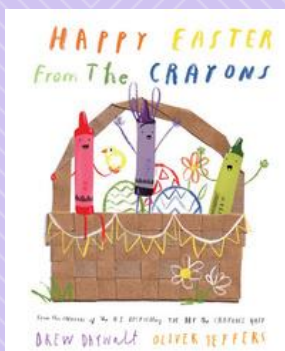
The Gecko and the Echo by Rachel Bright & Jim Field

9781408356074 / Orchard / PB / R170

Goldy wants one thing, and one thing only - to be a STAR. On the sunny island this gecko calls home, it's always THE GOLDY SHOW, morning 'til night.

But when you're dazzled by the limelight, it's easy to lose sight of the world around you. And when Goldy's performance starts to go wrong, the little gecko discovers that friendship means so much more than fame. Because when you treat the world with love, then love will come echoing back.

This funny and touching rhyming story is perfect for sharing, reminding us all that treating others with kindness makes the whole world a better and happier place.



Happy Easter from The Crayons by Drew Daywalt & Oliver Jeffers

9780008560782 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

Celebrate Easter with this hilarious adventure starring the crayons from the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Day the Crayons Quit!*

Easter is the perfect time for crayons! They get to learn new shapes and decorate one giant egg together ... but where will they hide it?! Blue Crayon has some ideas...

In a book perfect for Easter baskets, this story is sure to make kids – and grown-ups – giggle as they celebrate together!





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Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers

9780008266172 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

The exquisite and thought-provoking book from the multi award-winning, internationally best-selling picture book creator of *Lost and Found*, Oliver Jeffers. Our world can be a bewildering place, especially if you've only just got here. Your head will be filled with questions, so let's explore what makes our planet and how we live on it. From land and sky, to people and time, these notes can be your guide and start you on your journey. And you'll figure lots of things out for yourself. Just remember to leave notes for everyone else... Some things about our planet are pretty complicated, but things can be simple, too: you've just got to be kind.

Here We Are is the utterly heartfelt new book from Oliver Jeffers. We're glad you found it.



Mr. Men Little Miss: Easter Countdown by Roger Hargreaves

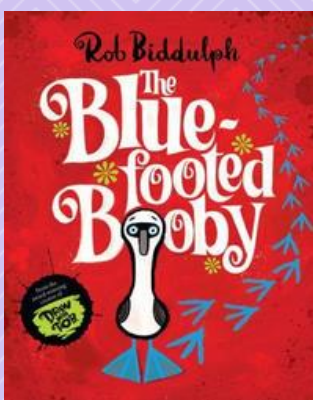
9780008582913 / Farshore / PB / R180

Join in the Easter fun with the Mr Men and Little Miss!

There are lots of things to count and see, including bouncing bunnies, cheeping chicks and leaping lambs, but it wouldn't be Easter without an eggstraordinary Easter egg hunt!

A fun-filled rhyming story, celebrating the joys of spring!

Mr Men and Little Miss Celebrations introduce children to all the exciting occasions that people celebrate including sports day, a visit from the tooth fairy, Halloween and Chinese New Year.



The Blue-footed Booby by Rob Biddulph

9780008413408 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

As everybody knows, Red-Footed Boobies are fabulous bakers. But when Desmond's frangipane tart goes missing amidst a flurry of footprints, the Blue-Footed Booby becomes the chief suspect. But all is not as it seems...

Featuring one of the stars of *Draw With Rob* (video number 24), this is a gloriously silly rhyming story about the perils of jumping to conclusions. Perfect read-aloud fun for children aged 3+!



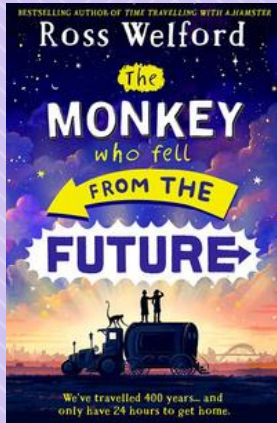


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10 – 12 years



The Monkey Who Fell from the Future by Ross Welford

9780008544744 / HarperCollins / PB / R180

The year is 2425. Centuries after a catastrophic meteor collision, nature has retaken the earth. In a small town in what was once England, young Ocean Mooney and the monkey-owning Duke Smiff have just dug up a 400 year-old tablet computer.

Meanwhile, in the present day, Thomas Reeve and his genius cousin Kylie create the Time Tablet – a device which they hope will allow them to communicate with the future.

But when the Time Tablet malfunctions live on television, Thomas and Kylie are sucked into the year 2425 – and have only 24 hours to return home, and save the future of humanity...



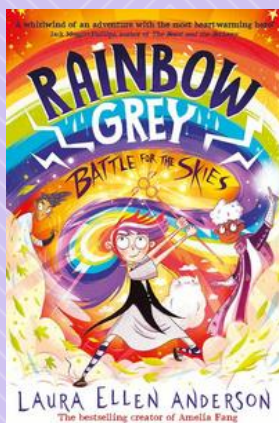
The Lost Whale by Hannah Gold

9780008412968 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

What if you could communicate with a whale?

Rio has been sent to live with a grandmother he barely knows in California, while his mum is in hospital back home. Alone and adrift, the only thing that makes him smile is joining his new friend Marina on her dad's whale watching trips. That is until an incredible encounter with White Beak, a gentle giant of the sea changes everything. But when White Beak goes missing, Rio must set out on a desperate quest to find his whale and somehow save his mum.

Dive into this incredible story about the connection between a boy and a whale and the bond that sets them both free.



Rainbow Grey: Battle for the Skies by Laura Ellen Anderson

9781405298858 / Farshore / PB / R205

The third book in this magical series from best-selling author and illustrator, Laura Ellen Anderson!

Rainbow Grey may be only ten years old but the future of the whole world depends on her! It's up to Ray to defeat Tornadia Twist – the greatest villain that ever lived . . .

Ray has to figure out what her ultimate magical gift is and

use this power to stop Tornadia before she destroys the Weatherlands and Earth.

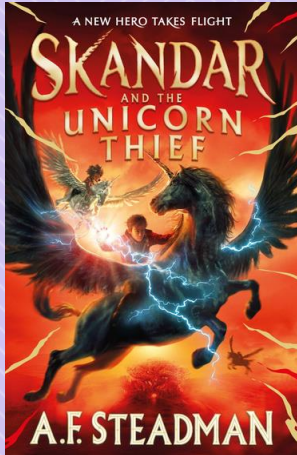
With epic adventures, magic galore and everything at stake, the battle for the skies is ON!





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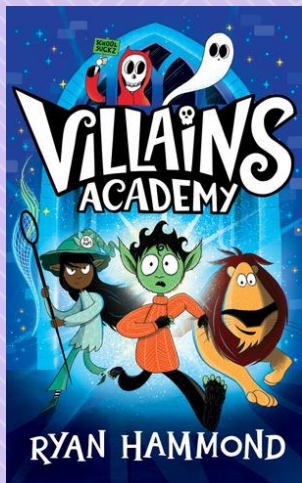
Skandar and the Unicorn Thief by A. F. Steadman

9781398502734 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R205

Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith has only ever wanted to be a unicorn rider. To be one of the lucky few selected to hatch a unicorn. To bond with it for life; to train together and race for glory; to be a hero.

But just as Skandar's dream is about to come true, things start to take a more dangerous turn than he could ever have imagined. A dark and twisted enemy has stolen the Island's most powerful unicorn – and as the threat grows ever closer, Skandar discovers a secret that could blow apart his world forever . . .

Get ready for unlikely HEROES, elemental MAGIC, sky battles, ancient secrets, nail-biting races and FEROCIOUS UNICORNS, in this EPIC ADVENTURE series that will have your heart soaring.

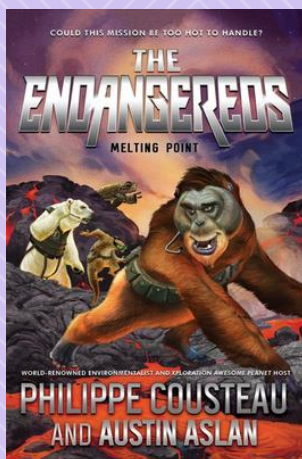


Villains Academy by Ryan Hammond

9781398514614 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R180

Welcome to Villains Academy – the most prestigious villain school in the ENTIRE land. You will either leave here as a fully-formed villain . . . or in tatters.

It's werewolf Bram's first day at Villains Academy. He really doesn't feel like a villain at all, but the coveted Villain of the Week trophy is up for grabs, and Bram knows he'll have to dig deep. With the help of new friends Mona the elf-witch, Bryan the lion, Shelia the ghost and Tony the skeleton, can Bram find his inner badness and become the villain he's always dreamed of being?



The Endangered: Melting Point by Philippe Cousteau & Austin Aslan

9780062894205 / HarperCollins / PB / R160

Around the world, temperatures are rising, ice caps are melting, and innocent animals are in trouble. Humans had their chance to fix it and failed. It's time for the animals to take their fate into their own paws. It's time for . . . the Endangered.

When word reaches the Endangered that one of the last of a species of nearly extinct sloths is in trouble, the team don't hesitate to strap on their gear, fire up their helicopter, and rush off into action. But this time their mission is complicated by the appearance an unexpected foe—an animal faction bent on saving the world by making humans extinct. It's the toughest assignment the Endangered have faced yet as the faction will stop at nothing to take back the world, one biome at a time.

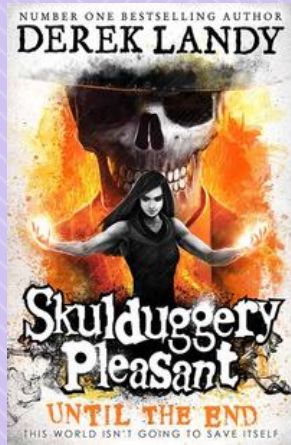
It's a rollicking new high-stakes turn in the thrilling environmental-adventure series by Philippe Cousteau, the world-renowned environmentalist and Emmy-nominated host of *Awesome Planet*, and Austin Aslan, the award-winning author of the *TURBO Racers* book series.





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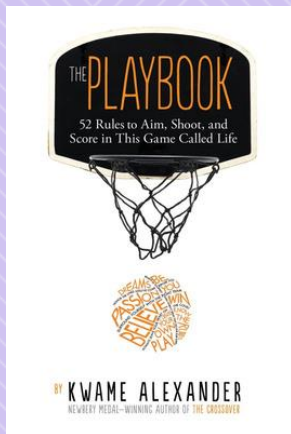


Skulduggery Pleasant: Until the End by Derek Landy

9780008386405 / HarperCollins / PB / R230

The Faceless Ones have returned to our universe. The bad guys have won. With the end of everything just days away – and no longer able to rely on Valkyrie Cain – Skulduggery must make allies of enemies if he's going to stand any chance of saving what's left of the world. And just when things are looking their bleakest, they manage to get even worse, with Omen Darkly suddenly having to step up when his brother, the Chosen One, falls.

There's a lot going on. Most of it is bad. Sorry about that.



The Playbook by Kwame Alexander

9780063288775 / HarperCollins / PB / R180

You gotta know the rules to play the game. Ball is life. Take it to the hoop. Soar. In this inspirational book full of poetry and inspiring lessons about the rules of life, Newbury Medalwinning Kwame Alexander shares uplifting quotes from all-star athletes like Stephen Curry and Venus Williams and other wonderfully influential figures like Sonia Sotomayor and Michelle Obama.



An Occasionally Happy Family by Cliff Burke

9780063286672 / HarperCollins / PB / R160

There are zero reasons for Theo Ripley to look forward to his family vacation. Not only are he, sister Laura, and nature-obsessed Dad going to Big Bend, the least popular National Park, but once there, the family will be camping. And Theo is an indoor animal. It doesn't help that this will be the first vacation they're taking since Mom passed away.

Once there, the family contends with 110 degree days, wild bears, and an annoying amateur ornithologist and his awful teenage vlogger son. Then, Theo's dad hits him with a whopper of a surprise: the whole trip is just a trick to introduce his secret new girlfriend.

Theo tries to squash down the pain in his chest. But when it becomes clear that this is an auditioning-to-be-his-stepmom girlfriend, Theo must find a way to face his grief and talk to his dad before his family is forever changed.





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Young Adult



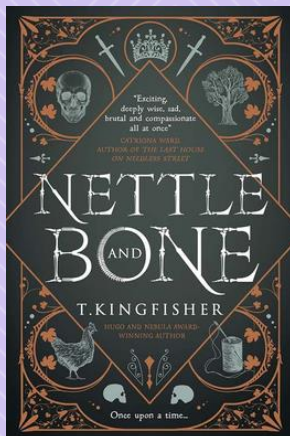
Throne of Glass (new cover) by Sarah J. Maas

9781526635297 / Bloomsbury / PB / R230

In a land without magic, an assassin is summoned to the castle. Celaena Sardothien has no love for the vicious king who rules from his throne of glass, but she has not come to kill him. She has come to win her freedom. If she defeats twenty-three murderers, thieves, and warriors in a deadly competition, she will be released from prison to serve as the King's Champion.

But something rotten dwells in the castle - and it's there to kill. When her competitors start dying mysteriously, one by one, Celaena's fight for freedom becomes a fight for survival - and a desperate quest to root out the evil before it destroys her world, and the people she has come to love.

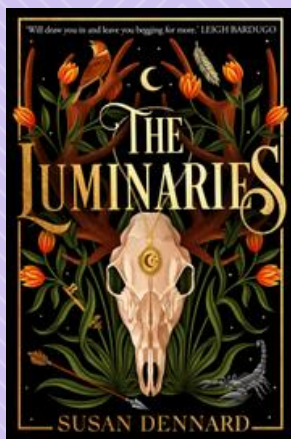
Thrilling and fierce, *Throne of Glass* is the first book in the #1 New York Times bestselling series that has captivated readers worldwide.



Nettle and Bone by T. Kingfisher

9781803360997 / Titan Books / PB / R230

After years of seeing her sisters suffer at the hands of an abusive prince, Marra—the shy, convent-raised, third-born daughter—has finally realized that no one is coming to their rescue. No one, except for Marra herself. Seeking help from a powerful gravewitch, Marra is offered the tools to kill a prince—if she can complete three impossible tasks. But, as is the way in tales of princes, witches, and daughters, the impossible is only the beginning. On her quest, Marra is joined by the gravewitch, a reluctant fairy godmother, a strapping former knight, and a chicken possessed by a demon. Together, the five of them intend to be the hand that closes around the throat of the prince and frees Marra's family and their kingdom from its tyrannous ruler at last.



The Luminaries by Susan Dennard

9781837840007 / Titan Books / PB / R230

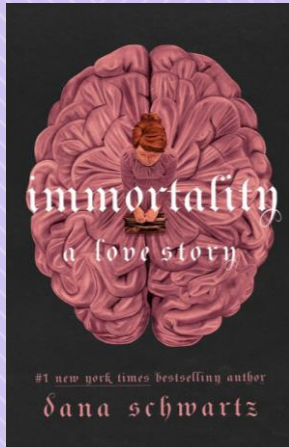
Hemlock Falls isn't like other towns. You won't find it on a map, your phone won't work here, and the forest outside town might just kill you... Winnie Wednesday wants nothing more than to join the Luminaries, the ancient order that protects Winnie's town—and the rest of humanity—from the monsters and nightmares that rise in the forest of Hemlock Falls every night. Ever since her father was exposed as a witch and a traitor, Winnie and her family have been shunned. But on her sixteenth birthday, she can take the deadly Luminary hunter trials and prove herself true and loyal—and restore her family's good name. Or die trying. But in order to survive, Winnie must enlist the help of the one person who can help her train: Jay Friday, resident bad boy and Winnie's ex-best friend. While Jay might be the most promising new hunter in Hemlock Falls, he also seems to know more about the nightmares of the forest than he should. Together, he and Winnie will discover a danger lurking in the forest no one in Hemlock Falls is prepared for. Not all monsters can be slain, and not all nightmares are confined to the dark.





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Immortality: A Love Story by Dana Schwartz
9780349433400 / Hachette YA / TPB / R355

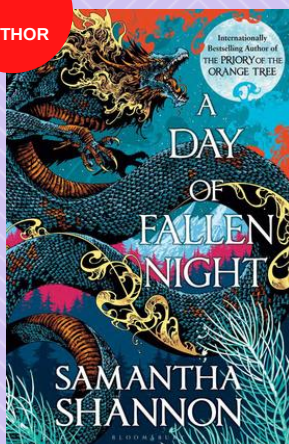
Hazel Sinnett is alone. She's half-convicted the events of the year before - the immortality, Beecham's vial - were a figment of her imagination. She doesn't even know if Jack is alive or dead. All she can really do is run her free clinic, helping people and maintaining Hawthornden Castle as it starts to decay around her. When saving a life leads to her arrest, Hazel seems doomed to rot in prison until a message intervenes: Hazel has been specifically requested to be the personal physician of Princess Charlotte, the sickly daughter of King George IV. Soon Hazel is dragged into the glamour and romance of a court where everyone has something to hide, especially the ladies of the princess's close circle, who never seem to stay hurt for long . . .

Meanwhile, Jack Curren has been trying to find a way to die. He's been traveling across the Atlantic, hoarding any information that could cure his immortality and let him spend a normal life with Hazel. When he hears that Beecham has died, he immediately goes to London to find out how he achieved it - and reunites with Hazel once again. As their search for the immortality cure entangles them more and more with the British court, Hazel and Jack realize that a life together is not the only thing at stake. Malicious forces are at work in the monarchy, and they are very interested in living forever . . .



Extasia by Claire Legrand
9780062696649 / HarperCollins / PB / R240

Her name is unimportant. All you must know is that today she will become one of the four saints of Haven. The elders will mark her and place the red hood on her head. With her sisters, she will stand against the evil power that lives beneath the black mountain—an evil which has already killed nine of her village's men. She will tell no one of the white-eyed beasts that follow her. Or the faceless gray women tall as houses. Or the girls she saw kissing in the elm grove. Today she will be a saint of Haven. She will rid her family of her mother's shame at last and save her people from destruction. She is not afraid. Are you? This searing and lyrically written novel by the critically acclaimed author of Sawkill Girls beckons readers to follow its fierce heroine into a world filled with secrets and blood—where the truth is buried in lies and a devastating power waits, seething, for someone brave enough to use it.



A Day of Fallen Night by Samantha Shannon
9781526619761 / Bloomsbury / TPB / R335

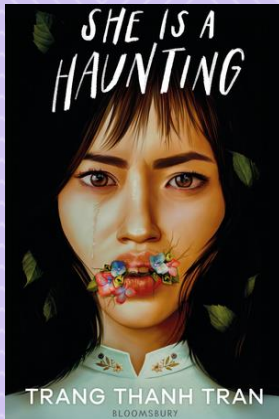
Tunuva Melim is a sister of the Priory. For fifty years, she has trained to slay wyrms - but none have appeared since the Nameless One, and the younger generation is starting to question the Priory's purpose. To the north, in the Queendom of Inys, Sabran the Ambitious has married the new King of Hróth, narrowly saving both realms from ruin. Their daughter, Glorian, trails in their shadow - exactly where she wants to be. The dragons of the East have slept for centuries. Dumai has spent her life in a Seiikinese mountain temple, trying to wake the gods from their long slumber. Now someone from her mother's past is coming to upend her fate. When the Dreadmount erupts, bringing with it an age of terror and violence, these women must find the strength to protect humankind from a devastating threat.





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She is a Haunting by Trang Thanh Tran
9781526657084 / Bloomsbury / PB / R230

Jade Nguyen has always lied to fit in. She's straight enough, Vietnamese enough, American enough - at least for this summer with her estranged father in Vietnam. Just five weeks of ignoring the quietly decaying French colonial house he's fixing up, then college and freedom are hers.

But soon Jade begins waking up every morning certain that something has clawed down her throat . from the inside. Then the ghost of a beautiful bride visits her with a cryptic warning: DON'T EAT.

When her father and little sister don't believe her, Jade decides to scare them into leaving by staging some haunting events of her own. She recruits Florence, the daughter of her dad's business associate (and more of a distraction than Jade bargained for) to help. But the house has other plans. It's hungry. A home, after all, is only as powerful as those who breathe new life into its bones. And this one is determined never to be abandoned again .



Six Times We Almost Kissed (And The One Time We Did) by Tess Sharpe
9781444967876 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R190

A completely compelling will-they-won't-they slow-burn romance from the author of *The Girls I've Been*, perfect for fans of Leah on the Offbeat and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*.

Penny and Tate clash. Their mothers have an epic friendship that's spanned decades, deaths and divorces. So, since they were toddlers, the girls have always been...a reluctant, quarrelling twosome.

But when a medical event forces their moms to move in together, Penny and Tate call a truce. There's just one little hitch: Penny and Tate keep almost kissing.

It just...happens. They've never talked about it. They've always ignored each other after. But now, the girls find themselves living across the landing from each other. And when an almost kiss finally goes from almost to I am now wearing your lip gloss, they have to face the music...right?



Last Violent Call by Chloe Gong
9781399712538 / Hachette YA / TPB / R355

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Chloe Gong comes two captivating new novellas surrounding the events of *Foul Lady Fortune*!





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NB! Deadline for requests:

Wednesday, 8 February 2023

Click [here](#) to get your wish lists in!

Thank You.

