



Free Author Event!

Authors Aloud UK and Puffin Books invite your school to celebrate Christmas early by joining author **Catherine Doyle** who will be doing a **free multi school event** where she will be talking about her book **The Miracle on Ebenezer Street** which has just been published in paperback.

The event will take place on **Friday 10th December 10 – 10.45am on Zoom**. The target audience is Years 4,5,6 and possibly Year 3 or Year 7. Please register to attend here: <https://tinyurl.com/AAUKDoYI2>

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with the link to join on the night.

Signed bookplated copies of the book will also be available for sale via H & H Spalding at a price of £ 8.99 per individual copies or £7.00 if a school orders 6 or more copies including postage and packing. The link for ordering is <https://spaldingbooks.square.site/>

Information about the Book:

Three years ago, George's mum died in a car accident on Christmas Eve. Since then, his dad Hugo has cancelled Christmas entirely, much to George and his Nana Flo's sadness. Then one day George stumbles upon Marley's Curiosity Shop and in it he finds a mysterious snow globe that seems to show a scene from a past Christmas, a time when he and his family were happy and celebrating. What he doesn't know is that "Old Marley's magic leaked out" and that night he and his Dad and intrepid Nana Flo are swept away on an adventure, visiting a past, present, and future Christmas, along with Randolph the purple reindeer and Trixie the miniature elf who somehow always manages to cause chaos!! This is a heart-warming, modern re-imagining of *A Christmas Carol* and I absolutely LOVED it. It has a wonderful cast of characters, is full of magic and humour, but also deals very sensitively with the issues of grief. There is something almost 'Narniaesque' about it and it is definitely in my top 5 books I've read this year. There are 26 chapters, and it would be the perfect book to read a daily chapter, to a class, in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Winter Mini Challenge



Be a Wild World Hero this Winter!

This year, The Reading Agency teamed up with WWF UK for the Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge - exploring nature and action for the environment through reading. Now the Heroes are back to help with the Winter Mini Challenge!

How does the challenge help?

The Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books. Over the school holidays children can experience a 'dip' in reading skills and learning. With the persistent disruption to education caused by Covid-19 this is predicted to have an even greater impact on learning loss.

We hope the Winter Mini Challenge can provide reading encouragement and fun for children and families.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children can read at least three books between **1 December** and **16 January** and add them to their online profile at www.wintermini.org.uk to unlock the special virtual badge and certificate. They will be able to find other fun activities on the website too, including games, book reviews, and author content.