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**January Children and Families Library News**

Manchester City Council sent this bulletin at 18-01-2024 09:00 AM GMT

Library e-bulletin January 2024

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Happy New Year and welcome to the first Children and Families newsletter of 2024. We have lots of ideas to keep you busy during January. Why not join us for a fantastic celebration of Chinese New Year at Central Library or simply choose something new to read from the Great Books Guide 2023, take 10 minutes and switch off with a good book- what a great start to the year!



### Design a Library Card competition!

Manchester Central Library is 90 this year! Help us mark this very special birthday by designing a new limited-edition library card. Using Manchester Central Library as an inspiration (either what's inside the building or the building itself), create a picture we can use on our children's library cards this summer. Open to children 5-16 years old. Find out how to enter on our [blog](#).

### Chinese New Year celebration

Join us at [Manchester Central Library](#) for a spectacular Chinese New Year celebration of the Year of the Rabbit. We will have amazing crafts, Chinese performance and workshops and talented face painters. All free, drop-in on Sunday 11 February 12 noon-4pm everyone welcome!



### 6 brilliant bookish New Year's Resolutions

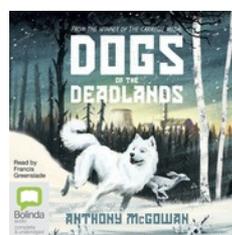
It's a shiny new year, full of possibilities. If you have children in your life, or work with children, how about making some resolutions linked to books and reading? Check out these [great ideas](#) from our friends over at [Booktrust](#).



### Childrens eaudio & ebooks

[Dogs of the Deadlands](#) by Anthony McGowan (suitable for children aged 10+). **Nominated Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024**

It's April 1986 and, not far from the Chernobyl nuclear plant, a little girl can't sleep- the puppy she had always dreamed of is finally hers and she is overcome with excitement and love. However, her joy turns to heartbreak after a cataclysmic nuclear disaster: she is evacuated with her family but without her beloved puppy, Zoya. In a land now abandoned by humans, the pets left behind must adapt or die. This is their story. Available as an [eBook](#) and [eAudiobook](#) on [Borrowbox](#).



### Spanish Storytime at Manchester Central Library

It's time to say 'hola' to our fabulous Spanish storytime volunteer, Maria once again! Join Maria in our popular Storytime on Saturday 3 February at 2.30pm in [Manchester Central Library](#). There will be a story and craft activity suitable for children aged 4-7. Places are limited, so booking is essential! To book your place, please email [Angela](#)!



### Children's Mental Health Week

Children's [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) will take place from 5-11 February, with the theme of My Voice Matters. It was set up by children's mental health charity [Place2Be](#) and shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. Please see this [article](#) from the National Literacy Trust about Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 2024!



### Portico Sadie Massey Awards

The annual [Portico Sadie Massey Awards](#) reading and writing competitions are now open for entries. Children and young people (aged 7-18) are invited to write a short story set in the North of England or review any book of their choice to be in with a chance of winning some exciting prizes. Closing date: Friday 22 March. Free to enter.

Take a look at the Portico Library's [website](#) for all details, watch author videos offering writing tips and find book suggestions from northern based authors associated with these prestigious awards.



## Spotlight on Services

Whether you're a life-long library member or newly signed up, make sure you're using all the free library services available to you. Did you know there's an...

[Online catalogue](#) and an app so you can search for and reserve or renew books from anywhere.

Our [Online reference library](#) gives you access to free language courses, digital newspapers and magazines, music streaming and business resources.

[Free ebooks and audiobooks](#) mean you can download the latest bestsellers to read or listen on any device, there are no overdue charges, they return themselves and they're free to download.

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