



Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Derby Picture Book Awards**

This year to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the annual Derby Book Festival there will be a new Picture Book Award. The Award aims to celebrate picture books that children can relate to and in which the diversity and challenges of modern life are represented in age appropriate ways. I was delighted to have the opportunity to be part of a group of twelve Derby primary school teachers who selected the shortlisted books from the original longlist of nine.

The books shortlisted are:

- **The Girls** by Lauren Ace, illustrated by Jenny Løvlie
- **The Only Way is Badger** by Stella J Jones, illustrated by Carmen Saldaña
- **Ruby's Worry** by Tom Percival
- **Nimesh the Adventurer** by Ranjit Singh, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini

I am even more excited to inform you that Year 2 pupils at Ridgeway have been selected as one of six schools in the city who will vote for the winner. Five copies of each book will be provided to the schools, thanks to the sponsorship of local businesswoman, Deborah Fern. The winner will be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. The Picture Book Award is initially being run as a pilot in 2019 but depending on the success, it is hoped that all schools will participate across the city in 2020.

Although only the votes of the Year 2 children will be counted towards the official award, we hope to share these books with our Reception and Year 1 classes, who will subsequently vote within school so that we can announce our own book award winner in April.

It most definitely is an exciting project for us to take part in as it will provide our children with a real-life purpose for reading. We also hope to take a group of children in Year 2 to attend the 'Meet the Author' event with Jeanne Willis in June. More information about this will follow later in the term.

I will look forward to sharing the book that is voted as the most favourite by our children at the end of this half term and then the winner as part of the official voting in May from the schools across the city. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

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