

Every year, Coleridge Primary School takes part in the Alexandra Book Awards, and send a group of Year 5 and Year 6 children to the book award ceremony. This year, the ceremony has been cancelled, but they are replacing the event with a series of online activities which everyone can access and take part in.

Alexandra Palace are organising online events, with the shortlisted authors, from May 4th for two weeks. More information can be found on the Ally Pally website:

<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/creative-learning/schools-and-colleges/biblio-buzz/>

There will be author videos posted online on alternate days from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, with authors responding the following day to children's responses and questions. The whole thing will culminate on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May with the winning book being announced by a special guest (we can't say who at the moment as it is embargoed, but it is a famous author).

Obviously most of you in Year 5 & 6 won't have read the shortlisted books, but the hope is that the online author events will be engaging for everyone, as they will use the books as a starting point for writing activities – for example, Helen Peters is working on an interview challenge to encourage young people to record family history.

Also, for any of you with a public library card, most of the books are available as eBooks from the Haringey libraries.

The schedule is as follows:

A Pocketful of Stars – Aisha Bushby / Monday 4 May  
The Middler – Kirsty Applebaum / Wednesday 6 May  
Malamander – Thomas Taylor / Friday 8 May  
Can you See Me? – Libby Scott/Rebecca Westcott / Monday 11 May  
Check Mates – Stewart Foster / Wednesday 13 May  
Anna at War – Helen Peters / Friday 15 May  
**Winner Announcement: Saturday 16 May**

A brief note on the shortlisted books:

**Can You See Me? - by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott.** Libby Scott is an autistic 11 year old, who has co-written this novel about an autistic girl starting secondary school.

**Anna At War by Helen Peters.** About a girl arriving in England on the Kindertransport.

**Check Mates by Stewart Foster.** About a boy with ADHD and his German granddad who teaches him to play chess.

**Malamander by Thomas Taylor.** Eerie-on-Sea has a local legend of the Malamander which lives in the sea...

**The Middler by Kirsty Applebaum** - everyone in the village knows that the war is going on, far away. Eldest children are sent away to the war, but the middlers are less important. Dystopian tale of corruption.

**A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby.** Safiya loves video games and, when her mother becomes seriously ill, she finds herself inside her mother's memories of a childhood in Kuwait.

We hope you take part and enjoy the event,

All the Year 5 and Year 6 Team