



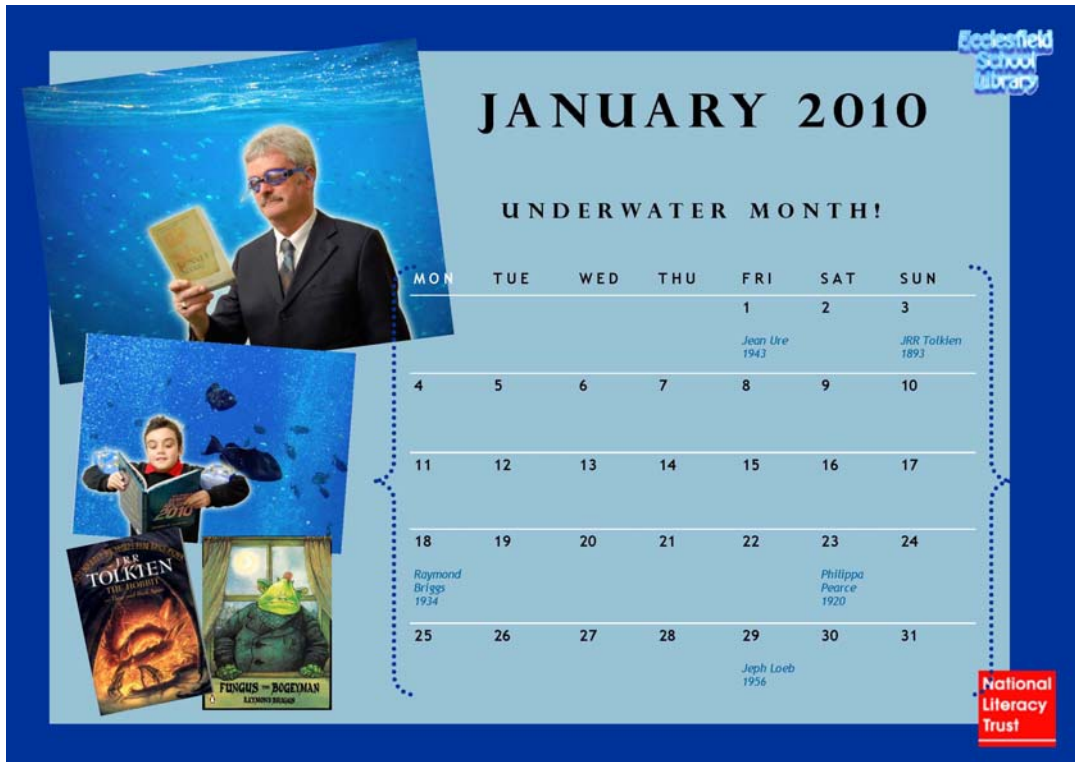
## Reading Champions

### From one extreme to the other

Reading under water...at a sumo wrestling match...whilst skydiving... this must be 'extreme reading'. Paul Register, Library Resources Manager at Ecclesfield School, Sheffield talks about their fantastic extreme reading calendar, which is encouraging students to read.

I wanted to raise the profile of the school library as well as reading in general, so I hit upon the idea of producing a calendar. Not just any calendar, but an Extreme Reading 2010 calendar.

The first person I got on board was our Headteacher. I believed that if I could showcase him as 'Mr January' then others would soon follow. And they did. To my surprise, lots of people wanted to be involved.



An extreme example: Reading under water

About 28 students were involved in the production and agreed to have their photos taken for the calendar, along with 12 enthusiastic members of staff. Props and clothing for the photo shoots were either bought from toy shops or borrowed from the Drama or Physical Education Departments. Each photo only

took about five minutes to shoot and it was a case of grabbing people when they were free in breaks.

The format of the calendar itself was designed by Alexandra from Year 10 and it contains the birthdays of famous authors and illustrators. The library's Friday lunchtime reading group, The Library Things, did all the research for this. We also enlisted the help of the IT teacher and his expertise with Photoshop. The printing and binding was done, in-house, by our own reprographics department. It took us about six weeks to make the calendar and print orders.



That's some extremely good work right there

What seemed like a simple idea at first, snowballed into something enormous very quickly. It has been more time consuming than I thought it was going to be, but great fun. Making the calendar has helped raise the profile of the library. Staff are encouraging students to use the library and read more and, as a consequence, the reading culture within the school is growing. Alexandra commented, "It's phenomenal, all my favourite authors' birthdays in one place. I can use the calendar to read someone different every month".

Next year's calendar will be easier due to the ground work we have done this year. Nevertheless, I will definitely get the ball rolling earlier for the 2011 calendar, probably in October. I cannot wait to see what other extreme reading scenarios will be fashioned.