

Dear Children of Balfour Primary School

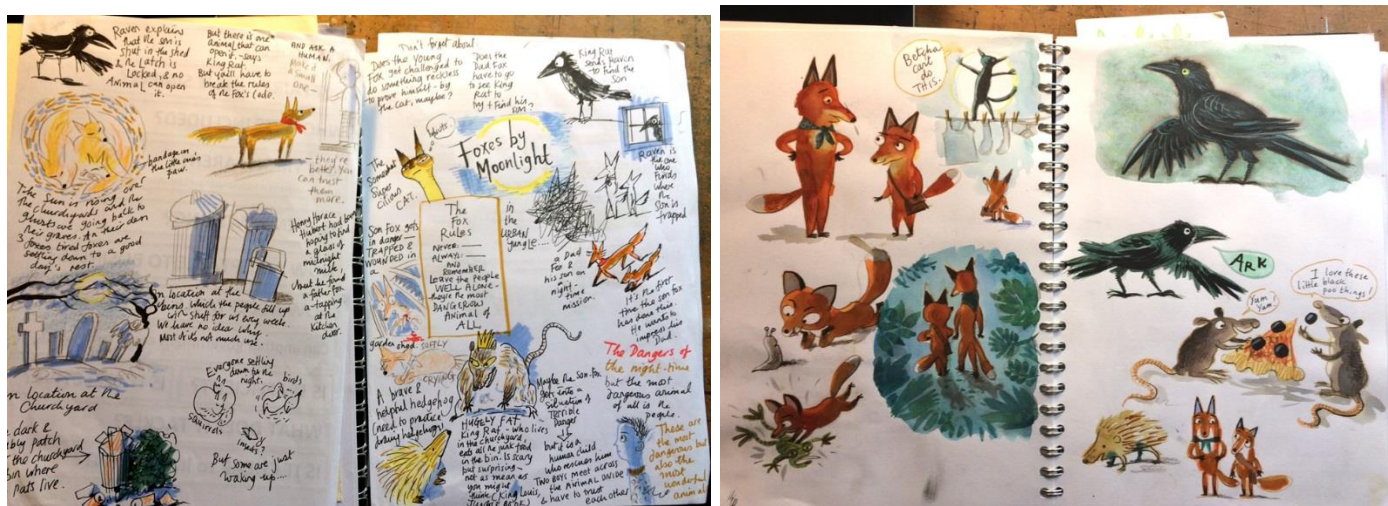
Ms Rhodes let me know that you've been looking at my book Traction Man, and using it as inspiration to make your own stories. That sounds really exciting.

I always make my stories with words and pictures together, so the words and the pictures BOTH tell the story. Here are most of my books so far.



Here's a bit about making Picture Books:

Making a picture book is a bit like making a cake: the first thing to do is collect your delicious ingredients – which are ideas to go in your story. I keep my ideas in my sketchbooks and stick in anything I think might be a good ingredient for a story. So when I want to make a new story I can look in my sketchbook and see if anything in it might be a good starting place for a story. I do have favourite starting points, like: fairy tales/toys having adventures/pets with jobs.



Here's some sketchbook pages where I'm trying to collect ideas for a story about a dad fox and his son exploring the town at night. I haven't made it into a proper story yet!

But AF Harrold (I've just made a book with him, he writes poems) has another place he gets ideas from: (Here's AF Harrold so you can see him)



The Idea Of It

They ask:
Where do you find your ideas?

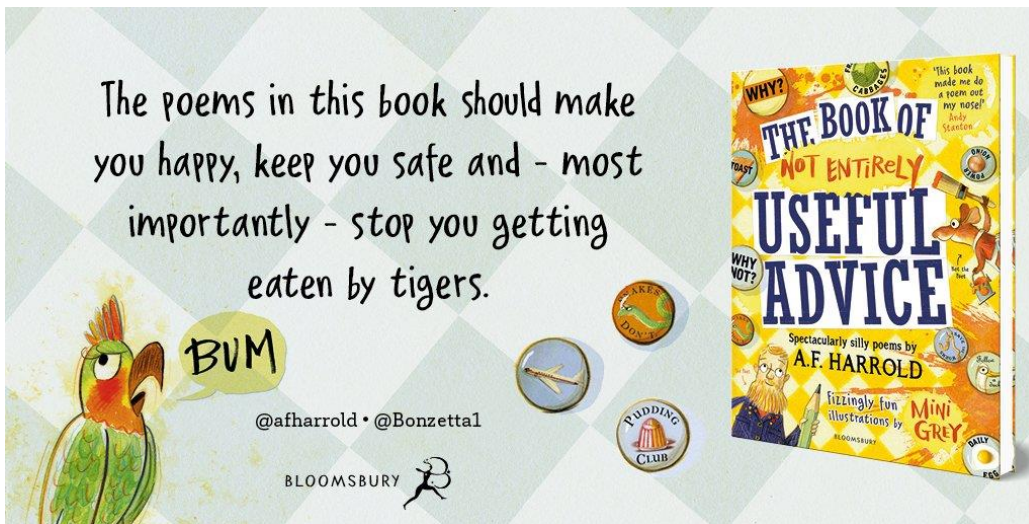
I say:
There's a shop
down an alley
in a town
that's only open
once a year
on a Thursday
when the moon is full
and a cat hums Mozart on TV,
where ideas are sold
to poets
and writers
on a first come
first inspired basis
for reasonable sums of money.

And they say:
Really?

And I say:
No. Not really.
But it's an idea.



That was a poem from *The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice*, with poems by AF Harrold and pictures by me. I'm putting a pdf of snippets from the book in with this message.



The poems in this book should make you happy, keep you safe and - most importantly - stop you getting eaten by tigers.

BUM

@afharrold • @Bonzetta1

BLOOMSBURY



So Balfour Children, keep up your fantastic reading, writing, and making.

And lastly, please give your teachers a **Big Cheer** (always!)

from me,
because they do an important and fantastic job.
from



MINI

