

## Spring Term 2015 Literacy News

I hope the new term has started well for you and you are looking forward to a happy 2015. I've got an exciting year of promoting reading through rugby (and football, of course), writing about RAF planes and touring schools and libraries from Edinburgh to Plymouth, via Cardiff.

*"Over the Line shows the special place of football in creating a whole regiment during the first world war"* **The Guardian**

I hope my latest newsletter will help you to promote reading for pleasure. Please do pass this on to other teachers, librarians or organisations who may be interested.

Find out more at [www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk) or via twitter [@tompalmerauthor](https://twitter.com/tompalmerauthor). Please email me back with any questions or for a free signed poster pack. **Thank you for your continued support.**

### New rugby book out 14 February

My **Rugby Academy** series launched in October 2014 is going down well. **Combat Zone** has even made it as book of the month for **Rugby World Magazine**, which is great news.

I'm happy to say that my second Rugby Academy story, **Surface to Air**, is out on 14 February 2015. Here's a special link to the [first chapter](#).

Click here for more

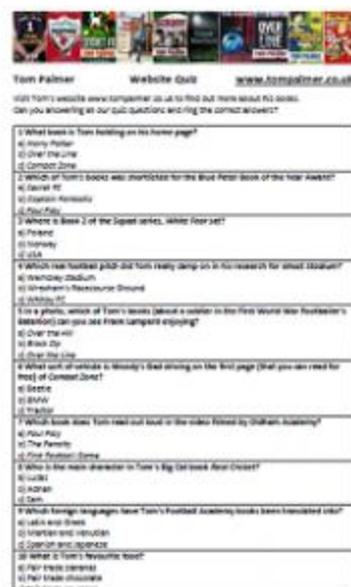
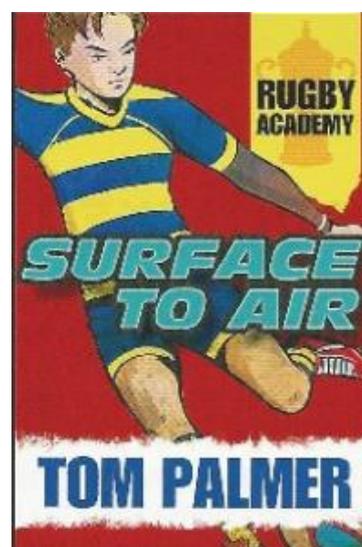
<http://tompalmer.co.uk/surface-to-air/>.

### World Book Day 5 March

If you haven't been able to book an author yet for World Book Day, I am afraid I am already booked. Do get in touch if you'd like any free signed materials to offer as prizes. Here are some new resources that might be useful, especially that week.

- a **website quiz about my books and writing** <http://tompalmer.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Website-Quiz.pdf>
- a **World Book Day competition** – guess which famous author I am pictured with to win a class set of my new Rugby Academy book, **Combat Zone** <http://tompalmer.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/World-Book-Day-competition-2015.pdf>
- a **World Book Day message poster** <http://tompalmer.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/World-Book-Day-Poster-2015.pdf>

Click here for more resources <http://tompalmer.co.uk/schools-librarians/literacy-resources/>



## Six Nations & Rugby World Cup 2015

The 2015 rugby union year is underway, including the Six Nations tournament, beginning on 6th February and the Rugby World Cup in September and October, hosted in the UK.

So now is the time for children to read more about the game that is capturing their imagination: Websites. Fiction. Non-fiction. Newspapers. Magazines. Rugby can help children enjoy reading for pleasure.

With this in mind, I've written a **Top ten tips letter for rugby families to encourage reading** <http://tompalmer.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Ten-top-tips-2015-rugby.pdf>

Watch out for my projects with **England Rugby** this year, to mark this autumn's **Rugby World Cup**.

- A toolkit of ideas to use rugby to help encourage reading for pleasure.
- Fifteen classroom lesson plans about writing and reading through sport.
- A live online story during the Rugby World Cup.
- A summer tour of libraries with my Rugby Reading Game.

## Events

I am very busy this term, visiting lots of schools, libraries from Edinburgh to Plymouth, via Cardiff.

I'm also working with the **Royal Air Force Museums** who have made me their **Children's Writer in Residence**. They are helping me to research a new children's series with the RAF which will be out in 2016. I'll be blogging about all that very soon at

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/2015](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/2015).

I shall be at the **RFU Rugby Store at Twickenham** on **14 February** if you'd like to meet me.

I am the keynote speaker at the National Literacy Trust's conference on **Closing the Literacy Gap for Boys** on **4 March**.

I am doing open schools events this year in Newcastle, Burnley, Leicester, Leeds, Hull and Hampshire with their school library services, so do let me know if you are in those areas.

I shall be at **Shrewsbury Book Festival** and **Edinburgh Book Festival** this year.

Click here for more <http://tompalmer.co.uk/meet-me/>

Dear Parent or Guardian

The 2015 rugby union year is underway, including the Six Nations tournament, beginning on 6th February - and the Rugby World Cup in September and October, hosted in the UK.

So if you are a rugby family, now is the time for children to read more about the game that is capturing their imagination. Websites. Fiction. Non-fiction. Newspapers. Magazines. Rugby can help your children enjoy reading for pleasure.

Here are my ten top tips to encourage your rugby mad children:

1. Visit your home page on your computer to a decent rugby website <http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/ten-top-tips>
2. Get your children on form for the year with one of the guides to playing the game. Know the Game: Rugby Union is a great book to start with. Ask if your local library stocks it.
3. Deliver a newspaper rugby supplement to your child's room on Saturday or Sunday morning to get them used to reading previews, match reports and other speculation.
4. Buy them a copy of one of the popular rugby magazines, Rugby World or The Rugby Paper.
5. Read together a cartoonish player autobiography full of statistics, pictures and over-the-top stories. Check that the content is appropriate for him. A popular one is by Johnny Wilkinson.
6. Play one of the fantasy rugby games running in newspapers, requiring a close eye on who is injured and who has been dropped from teams. Another reason to read the rugby pages.
7. Discover superb fiction in libraries and bookshops. Rugby Jumper by Ian Anthony, Rugby Spirit by David Higgins. Make a Playlist by Chris Higgins and my Rugby Academy series.
8. Leave rugby newspaper articles and match reports in regular places like on the fridge door.
9. Check out the RFU's website and all its free library resources.
10. Try reading more yourself! You'll enjoy it and your children will want to join in too.

Best wishes

*Tom Palmer*

Tom Palmer, author of *Sonnet* and the *Rugby Academy* series, presented by *Barrington Stoke*

16 Olympic Road, ... Rugby Store, The Daily Telegraph.  
[www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk)



**READ ABOUT RUGBY AND MEET THE AUTHOR!**

**RUGBY ACADEMY**

Tom Palmer, author of *Rugby Academy*, will be here signing books on Saturday 14th February 11.45-12.45 pm at the Rugby Store, South Stand, Twickenham.

Come and meet him and get a signed copy of this new fiction series.



**TOM PALMER**

[WWW.BARRINGTONSTOKE.CO.UK](http://WWW.BARRINGTONSTOKE.CO.UK)

## First World War / Football Resources

I am excited to say that England striker **Adam Lallana** from **Liverpool FC** has recommended [\*Over the Line\*](#) in a video for pupils for the National Literacy Trust here:

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/plrs\\_2015/Liverpool](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/plrs_2015/Liverpool)

I have written a free story, "*Call of Duty*" about a modern footballer going to war on the Reading War website [here](#).

Click here for more <http://tompalmer.co.uk/over-the-line/>

Liverpool FC  
Adam Lallana



## Awards News

[\*Over the Line\*](#) is on the prestigious **Recommended Reads** list in the **Historical fiction** category for [Read for My School](#).

Click here for more <http://tompalmer.co.uk/about-tom/awards/>

Thanks for Reading

Tom