

# 14 authors vie for Oscar's book award



Louise Jury Chief Arts Correspondent

A **LONGLIST** of 14 books was unveiled today for the book prize established by the Evening Standard in memory of the son of City editor James Ashton, who died suddenly at the age of three.

Oscar's First Book Prize will be awarded to the most magical book for pre-school children. Judges will include Dame Marjorie Scardino, former chief executive of the educational publisher Pearson, and Rupert Thomas, marketing director of Waitrose, which is sponsoring the £5,000 award.

Oscar Ashton, who loved stories, died in December 2012 from an undetected heart condition. A play area in Oscar's memory, funded by donations from friends, family and sponsors, was opened last weekend at Deen City Farm near Morden Hall Park.

## WHO'S IN THE RUNNING



**Child favourites:** the longlist for Oscar's book prize includes Helen Docherty, in dark top, and illustrator Nicola O'Byrne

**Spaghetti With The Yeti:** words Adam and Charlotte Guillain; illustrations Lee Wildish (Egmont)

**Ten Little Pirates:** words Mike Brownlow; illustrations Simon Rickerty (Orchard)

**The Snatchabook:** words Helen Docherty; illustrations Thomas Docherty (Alison Green/Scholastic Books)

**Dinosaurs In The Supermarket:**

words Timothy Knapman; illustrations Sarah Warburton (Scholastic Children's Books)

**Open Very Carefully:** words Nick Bromley; illustrations Nicola O'Byrne (Nosy Crow)

**Lollipop And Grandpa's Dinosaur Hunt:** words Penelope Harper; illustrations Cate James (Phoenix Yard Books)

**Penguins Can't Fly!** by Richard Byrne

(Andersen Press)

**The Adventures Of The Owl And The Pussycat:** words Coral Rumble; illustrations Charlotte Cooke (Parragon)

**The Storm Whale:** Benji Davies (Simon and Schuster)

**The Black Rabbit:** Philippa Leathers (Walker Books)

**Dustbin Dad:** words Peter Bently; illustrations Russell Ayto (Simon and Schuster)

**Weasels** by Elys Dolan (Nosy Crow)  
**Pigeon Pie, Oh My!** words Debbie Singleton; illustrations Kristyna Litten (Oxford)

**Dot to Dot:** words Malcolm Cossons; illustrations Neil Stevens (Thames and Hudson)

■ The shortlist will be announced at the end of this month and the winner announced at a ceremony in May.