



I had the pleasure of exploring the English Bookstore Maastricht and meeting with owner, Shakib. As you walk in, there is an explosion of colour which makes you want to spend time there and reminds me of the bookstores of my childhood in England. The bright selection of children's books are inviting to both adults and children and I could imagine the place filled with people browsing and making their selections in this cosy welcoming atmosphere.

Shakib explains that they wanted to create a space that would encourage a feeling of 'community', where people want to hang out. This is further helped by the coffee machine, drinks fridge, snacks and a beautiful

enclosed garden with chairs and tables.

The concept of this shop was formed by Shakib and his wife Hanna as they had difficulty finding a big selection of English language books for their children (who have lived so far in Germany and the USA and attend the international school here in Maastricht).

They were ordering so many books online that they decided they wanted to share this with others, so the English Bookstore was formed.

There is a large selection of children's and adult's books, games and now even records. Some are bought in and some acquired by donation with a mix of new and used.

I also met one of Shkib and Hanna's children and Lucky, the cat, adding to the family feel in this lovely little shop.



When the pandemic situation allows, they would also like to host small musical events for local musicians. Lots to look forward to and definitely a place to visit.



www.bookstoremaastricht.com