

Primary Network Meeting

Professional Updates: Autumn 2025

Interesting articles and reports

Children and young people's reading in 2025

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/children-and-young-peoples-reading-in-2025/>

The Booktrust: Meet the new Writer in Residence Matt Goodfellow

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/about-us/news-updates/meet-our-new-writer-in-residence-matt-goodfellow/>

The Verse Novel Challenge is open to all UK schools and is for students aged 8 to 14 years.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/the-verse-novel-challenge/>

The government is committing funding to ensure every state primary school in England will have a library by the end of this parliament.

<https://www.librariesforprimaries.org.uk/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/28/rachel-reeves-pledges-a-library-in-every-primary-school-in-england>

Internet Resources and webinars

Barrington Stoke's Book Squad will be hosting a **FREE online event for schools** for Black History Month with author Catherine Johnson.

<link.collins.co.uk/view/664f64d837ff9b131274498e0rlvx.k2/f05a1e45>

British Library Website - events

<https://events.bl.uk/?menu%5BeventCategoriesWhere%5D=Online>

Drop Everything and Listen – The Audio Agency has recently announced an innovative new literacy campaign launching in November 2025. To find out more about DEAL or to register for your free audiobook access, please contact

hello@audio-agency.co.uk

Resources: Lit in Colour Teacher Conference 2025

https://padlet.com/discovering_literature/resources-lit-in-colour-teacher-conference-2025-a613rjij851roiuj

BookTrust Represents is a programme created to promote and improve the representation of people of colour in children's books

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/programmes/booktrust-represents/>

Book Awards and shortlists

Spark! School Book Awards: Register in the Autumn Term to participate.

<https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/>

The Diverse Book Awards – Shortlist out on September 8th and 2025 winners announced on October 9th.

<https://www.thediversebookawards.co.uk/>

The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize – Shortlist to be announced in November

<https://royalsociety.org/medals-and-prizes/young-peoples-book-prize/>

Excelsior Award – shortlist announced in December

<https://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/>

Nero Book Awards

<https://nerobookawards.com/>

Events and Competitions

The Children's Bookshow Exeter: Alom Shaha and Sarthak Sinha performance for years 1, 2 and 3.

<https://thechildrensbookshow.com/performances/autumn-performances-2025/alom-shaha-and-sarthak-sinha-performance>

500 Words Competition: The deadline for entries is 7th November 2025.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Black History Month

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

National Non-Fiction November.

<https://fcbg.org.uk/nfn/>

National Poetry Day: Thursday 02 October 2025

<https://forwardartsfoundation.org/national-poetry-day/>

Michael Rosen Day

<https://www.walker.co.uk/michael-rosen-day/>

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 runs from 10th-14th November

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/anti-bullying-week-2025>

Empathy Action Month - November

<https://empathylab.uk/empathy-action-month/>

Winter Mini Challenge

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>