



Primary Library Network: Spring 2026

Library Information and Resources

Focus: Families as reading partners

1. Why is this important?

Children spend less than 20% of their waking hours in school, so embedding family involvement in a child's reading journey is crucial.

'Parents who read or show reading enjoyment at home shape children and young people's motivation.' [Reading and Writing for Pleasure review](#)

To build a reading community, the school should seek to build relationships and develop a collaborative partnership with families. This will involve a genuine two-way conversation to understand shared values and goals and any barriers to achieving these, both at home and at school. [Parent Powered Learning Practitioner Guide](#)

2. How can this be achieved?

Consider the environment, from the school gate to the classroom. Respectful communication and ethos will build an inclusive and welcoming school.

[Relationships Project | Creating the conditions for relationships to flourish](#)

Examine your school's book provision, is it appealing and does it cater for everyone? Show that your school values reading, for example;

- Teachers and parents having conversations around reading for pleasure. Provide opportunities for modelling through workshops, cafes, and open classrooms.
- Free choice books readily available for frequent/daily borrowing with opportunities for parents to be involved.
- Regular activities, competitions, events that highlight the enjoyment of reading and encourage book conversations at home.
- Ensure that pupils and parents continue to read together throughout primary school with activities to encourage this.

Further reading and resources

[Building an outstanding reading school](#)

[Library resources - Engaging parents](#)

Professional Updates: Spring 2026

Interesting articles and reports

National Year of Reading - The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to inspire more people to make reading a regular part of their lives. [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)

Reflecting Realities Report – A Survey of Ethnic Representation within UK Children’s Literature [CLPE Reflecting Realities Report](#)

An interactive resource that summarises the evidence on how reading benefits children. [Benefits of Reading English](#)

Internet Resources and Webinars

Authorfy is FREE for the National Year of Reading 2026! <https://authorfy.com/>

FREE virtual events with favourite writers and illustrators

<https://justimagine.co.uk/childrens-authors-live-virtual-events/>

The Reading Agency <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources>

Book Awards and shortlists

- The Carnegie shortlists for Writing and Illustration to be announced 10 March 2026. [The Carnegies](#)
- UKLA Book Awards shortlist announced in March 2026 [UKLA Book Awards - UK Literacy Association](#)
- Jhalak Prize Longlist to be announced 17 March 2026 and shortlist to be announced 14 April 2026 [Jhalak Prize - Book of the Year by a Writer of Colour](#)
- The CLPE Poetry Award shortlist announced in April [CLIPPA — The CLPE Poetry Award | Centre for Literacy in Primary Education](#)
- Oscar’s Book Prize picture book shortlist announced in April [Oscar's Book Prize](#)
- The Branford Boase Award shortlist to be announced in April [2026 BBA Details – The Branford Boase Award and The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition](#)
- The Alligators Mouth Award shortlist to be announced [The Alligator's Mouth Award for Illustrated Early Fiction](#)

Events and Competitions

World Book Day Quiz - The Great Big Footy & Booky Quiz 2026

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/events/world-book-day-live/>

Design a National Book Token competition 2026 – closing date Friday 27 March 2026.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/competitions/design-a-national-book-token-competition-2026/>