



## Secondary Network Meeting: Professional Updates Spring Term 2026

### Interesting articles and reports

An up to date report on teenage reading habits and challenges

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/teenage-reading-reframing-the-challenge/>

House of Commons debating World Book Day

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2026-0044/>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2026-03-05/debates/D38E69EF-A2DD-4B8D-960D-E54C4C57CF91/WorldBookDay>

### Resources and webinars

Authorfy is free for the National Year of Reading 2026.

[Home - authorfy](#) there are also Newsletter for ages 11-18 which would be great to print for the library <https://authorfy.com/bookdrop-newsletter/>

Shakespeare Week 23 – 29 March

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/hot-topic-literacy-and-shakespeare/>

Live event with Maz Evans, whose most recent title is The Last Bard. 26 Mar 2026

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/events/shakespeare-week-maz-evans/>

A Library Lesson Book-Pitch Activity from Lucas Maxwell

<https://glenthornelrc.blogspot.com/2026/01/a-library-lesson-book-pitch-activity.html>

The Traitors: Library Edition

<https://glenthornelrc.blogspot.com/2026/01/the-traitors-library-edition.html>

Free access for schools to the Carnegie 2026 shortlisted digital titles

<https://company.overdrive.com/carnegies/>

Promote reading for pleasure in your school with our virtual events with favourite writers and illustrators. These events are open to all schools in the UK.

[https://justimagine.co.uk/childrens-authors-live-virtual-events/?mc\\_cid=16caf7c34a&mc\\_eid=9653d4ec6d](https://justimagine.co.uk/childrens-authors-live-virtual-events/?mc_cid=16caf7c34a&mc_eid=9653d4ec6d)

The Education White Paper - Every child achieving and thriving

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6996ee6a047739fe61889e05/Every\\_child\\_achieving\\_and\\_thriving\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6996ee6a047739fe61889e05/Every_child_achieving_and_thriving_web_accessible_version.pdf)

### Books and Reviews

Lucas Maxwell's debut novel, [A Million Tiny Missiles All At Once](#), will be out on 9th April.

Check out the latest edition of [Books For Keeps – The Children's Book Magazine Online](#)

## Book awards and shortlists

Read for Empathy 2026 collection is now available.

<https://empathylab.uk/rfe-2026-collection/>

The Carnegies shortlist announced:

<https://carnegies.co.uk/medals/>

The 2026 Information Book Award Shortlist

<https://www.sla.org.uk/Public/News/Articles/2026/IBA-Shortlist-2026.aspx>

The shortlist for the Branford Boase Award will be announced on Thursday 23 April 2026. The winner will be announced on Wednesday 8 July 2026.

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

The 2026 Book of the Year shortlists for The British Book Awards (aka 'the Nibbies')

<https://www.thebookseller.com/british-book-awards-content/book-of-the-year>

## Events and competitions

National Year of Reading 2026

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

The School Library Association and Barrington Stoke launch new Reader of the Year Award

[The School Library Association and Barrington Stoke launch new Reader – Collins](#)

Hay Festival Programme for Schools 2026. Thursday 21 May and Friday 22 May.

<https://www.hayfestival.com/education>

<https://www.hayfestival.com/c-247-programme-for-schools.aspx?resetfilters=true&localesetting=en-GB>

ALCS (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society) invites every shadowing group to design a poster that encourages others to read. The winning entry will receive a £1,000 prize for its school library plus your poster will be displayed at The Carnegies Awards ceremony 2026.

<https://www.alcs.co.uk/carnegies/>

## Politics - Some further reading and resources

Create a free account to access resources and lessons to empower students with the tools and knowledge to address misinformation in a "post-truth" world.

[About the curriculum | Leadership for Change Prize 2025 | The Economist Educational Foundation | Topical Talk](#)

Free workshops, webinars and resources from The Guardian Foundation [Behind the Headlines](#) with NewsWise for primary age pupils [NewsWise](#)

Also run by The Guardian Foundation are the [Emerging Voices Awards](#) a political writing competition for 16 to 18 (&18 -25) year olds.

A comprehensive reading list for all ages

[Politics books for children and teens | School Reading List](#)

[Behind the Headlines](#) Guardian workshops and sign up for resources.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools/political-impartiality-in-schools>