

Secondary Network Meeting:

Professional Updates Summer Term 2026

Interesting articles and reports

Children and young people's reading in 2026. This report presents the latest findings from our Annual Literacy Survey on children and young people's reading enjoyment, frequency and experiences in 2026.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/children-and-young-peoples-reading-in-2026/>

Report from Renaissance – What Kids Are Reading is the UK and Ireland's most comprehensive view of children and young people's reading.

<https://uk.renaissance.com/resources/what-kids-are-reading/>

The Reading Agency is an Approved Activity Provider for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. This means that when young people aged 14+ volunteer in the library to support the Summer Reading Challenge, it counts towards the volunteering section of their Award.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/19680>

Third of disadvantaged white pupils in England leave primary school without being able to read properly.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2026/jul/04/third-white-disadvantaged-pupils-england-below-secondary-reading-level>

Social media to be banned for under-16s in landmark government move to give kids their childhood back.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-media-to-be-banned-for-under-16s-in-landmark-government-move-to-givekids-their-childhood-back>

New Children's Laureate: Patrice Lawrence.

<https://www.waterstones.com/waterstones-childrens-laureate>

Resources and webinars

Authorfy. Free during the National Year of Reading. Alice Oseman – Find out how Alice Oseman created her phenomenal graphic novel series and the Netflix adaptation.

<https://authorfy.com/masterclasses/alice-oseman/>

Authorfy Bookdrop Newsletter <https://authorfy.com/bookdrop-newsletter/>

Authors in the Spotlight.

<https://ourfp.org/texts-authors/>

Lucas Maxwell – free virtual author visits

<https://www.lucasmxwell.co.uk/#schoolvisits>

Listen up! Audiobook toolkit for libraries [https://tra-resources.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/18916/Listen Up - Audiobook toolkit for libraries.pdf](https://tra-resources.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/18916/Listen_Up_-_Audiobook_toolkit_for_libraries.pdf)

Summer Book Club is a fun transition activity where everyone reads the same book together with an engaging set of questions and activities.

<https://bookclubsinschools.org/summer-book/>



Spark Space Course: A learning module and toolkit, co-developed with children and young people with diverse lived experiences, which explores what it really means to create safe, inclusive and youth-led library spaces. Free.

<https://librariesrising.org.uk/sparkspace-course-intro/>

Books and Reviews

Books for keeps - the UK's leading, independent children's book magazine.

<https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/bfk-278-may-2026/>

World Mental Health Day – Saturday 10 October 2026

To support the National Year of Reading 2026 and to mark World Mental Health Day, The Reading Agency will launch a new Mood-boosting Books collection chosen by young adults (18-25) in October 2026. Mood-boosting Books is a national promotion of uplifting titles, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and short stories, all recommended by readers. Check the website in September for details. <https://readingagency.org.uk/>

Book awards and shortlists

The Carnegie Award winners

<https://carnegies.co.uk/the-2026-winners/>

Spark! Book Award winners announced.

Get involved in September – <https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/home>

Fidan Meikle has won the Jhalak Children's and YA Prize with her debut novel, My Name is Samin.

<https://www.jhalakprize.com/childrens-ya>

YA Bookprize 2026 Shortlist announced: <https://www.thebookseller.com/young-adult-book-prize-content/ya-book-prize-shortlist-2026>

Events and competitions

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. The competition is open to anyone aged 11-17. The deadline to enter your poem/s is midnight BST 31 July 2026. Free entry.

<https://foyleyoungpoets.org/>

Future Voices is an Autumn Term reading challenge, supported by our partner Amazon, for children across the UK aged 5 to 14 years. This year it is centered on community action, social justice and making a difference. This challenge will introduce young readers to a wide range of impactful picturebook texts, helping them see reading as a powerful way to understand the world and their place within it.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/future-voices-reading-challenge/>