

**Scottish
Book Trust**
inspiring readers and writers



Close the attainment gap with reading 2024–25

With help from Scottish Book Trust

scottishbooktrust.com

Scottish Book Trust is a registered company (SC184248)
and a Scottish charity (SC027669).

Contents

Creating a reading culture	2
Reading Schools	3
Bag gifting.....	5
Learning resources	7
Author events	8
Book Week Scotland	11
Creative writing	12
CLPL	13
Book discovery.....	15
Sharing Sensory Stories	19
Funding and support.....	20
Our programmes and supporters.....	22

Creating a reading culture

At Scottish Book Trust, we want to support you in creating a vibrant reading culture in your classroom and across your school.

A vibrant reading culture is proven to help improve attainment across the curriculum, as well as pupils' creativity, health and wellbeing.

This guide highlights the variety of programmes we offer that will help you inspire a lifelong love of reading in your pupils. From Reading Schools, which puts reading for pleasure at the heart of Scottish education, to our Authors Live broadcasts, which stream author events directly to your pupils, there are lots of programmes, funding opportunities and resources available to support you.

Stay in the loop about upcoming events, opportunities and CLPL sessions by signing up to our schools and libraries newsletter at scottishbooktrust.com/newsletters and by and by bookmarking our [opportunities and events page](#).

We'd love to hear from you about how you are using our programmes, and to answer any queries you might have. Get in touch with us at schools@scottishbooktrust.com.

For Reading Schools enquiries, email readingschools@scottishbooktrust.com

For school events, tours and Authors Live enquiries, email schools@scottishbooktrust.com

For Read Write Count and school outreach enquiries, email readwritecount@scottishbooktrust.com

Reading Schools

Celebrate the magic of books and reading in your school with Reading Schools!

Reading Schools is an accreditation programme that puts reading for pleasure at the heart of the school and supports them to build a positive reading culture. Schools can work towards core, silver and gold levels, with their accreditation lasting three years.

Reading Schools has practical resources, friendly support and a variety of accreditation levels designed to champion your efforts as you build and sustain a reading culture.

The results

- There are now more than 390 Reading Schools in 31 local authorities with hundreds more working towards their accreditation.
- 96% of respondents from 2022–23 surveying felt that Reading Schools was inspiring and exciting.
- 93% felt that Reading Schools was designed with the needs of their school in mind.

‘We have loved being a part of Reading Schools and we feel that Reading Schools has helped improve our reading skills and encouraged us to read more for enjoyment.’ – Head Teacher, Aberdeenshire

Become a Reading School in 3 steps:

Step 1 – Planning

- Use our self-evaluation template, surveys and level quiz to find out which level of accreditation you should go for, and submit your action plan.

Step 2 – Enjoying

- Enjoy your reading across your school. Take photos, keep notes and share your journey with us and the Reading Schools community.

Step 3 – Celebrating

- Submit your evidence through your Reading Schools dashboard to gain your national accreditation and celebrate!

‘We have loved being a part of Reading Schools and we feel that Reading Schools has helped improve our reading skills and encouraged us to read more for enjoyment.’ – Head Teacher, Aberdeenshire

Find CLPL dates

Find out more

readingschools.scot

Bag Gifting –

All primary 1–3 pupils receive a free book bag to take home as part of the Bookbug Primary 1 Family bag and Read Write Count with the First Minister gifting campaigns funded by the Scottish Government.

Read Write Count with the First Minister

The Read Write Count bags are filled with books, maths games and writing materials, and are gifted to all P2 and P3 pupils in Scotland. They are gifted by Scottish Book Trust and are part of the Scottish Government's commitment to addressing the attainment gap. Read Write Count provides a great opportunity to build relationships with parents and strengthen links between home and school learning.

'I think Read, Write, Count is a great initiative. Many families cannot afford to buy new books and number games for their children so receiving this lovely gift is very exciting for the children.' – Teacher at Gilmerton Primary School

Learning resources

Visit our website to download CfE-linked resources for each item in the bags, which have been created with Education Scotland. You'll also find activities, videos and work sheets to help make the most of the bags at school and at home.

Bag gifting

Hold a celebration event and gift your bags during Book Week Scotland, and join one of our CLPL events for more ideas.

Key dates

- Giftng the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and Read Write Count with the First Minister Bag, Thursday 5 September, 4–4.45pm
- Supportng STEM learning with RWC and RAiSE PL session, Thursday 7 November 2024 4–4.45pm

- Book Week Scotland (recommended bag gifting time) 18 November – 24 November

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/readwritecount

Bookbug P1 Family bag

The Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag provides an ideal opportunity to build links between your school and home. Every Primary 1 child in Scotland receives a free Bookbug P1 Family Bag. Each bag includes books and materials to encourage families to read, write and play with their children.

Visit our website to download CfE-linked resources for each item in the bags, which have been created in consultation with Education Scotland.

You'll also find CfE linked activity suggestions and author videos to help make the most of the bags at school and at home.

'It highlights to parents the importance of reading, the joy reading together can bring and I think in the current economic times it gives families resources to promote reading at home.' – Class Teacher

Bag Gifting

Hold a celebration event and gift your bags during Book Week Scotland, and join one of our [CLPL events](#) for more ideas.

Key dates

- **Gifting the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and Read Write Count with the First Minister Bag**, Thursday 5 September, 4–4.45pm
- **Book Week Scotland** (recommended bag gifting time) 18 November – 24 November

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/primary-1-3-bag-gifting

Learning Resources

To help you to build a reading culture in your school we have a library of fantastic free CfE-linked learning resources on our website. The resources offer guidance and support as you embed reading for pleasure in your classroom.

Highlights include:

- Cross-curricular activities that can be used with any books, including resources for [early level](#), [primary schools](#), [secondary schools](#), [ASN settings](#) and for [outdoor learning](#)
- [Creative writing resources](#) and [resources for Young Writers](#) full of top tips and activities to support pupils to write for pleasure
- Resources and activities to help you make the most of our programmes, including videos and lesson activities for the [Bookbug](#) and [Read Write Count bags](#), and tie-in activities for our [Authors Live broadcasts](#)
- Resource packs and activities for [pupils with additional support needs](#)
- Resources on using and writing in [Scots](#)
- Resources to help you use stories and books to explore topics such as helping pupils [understand and challenge racism](#), [explore their human rights](#) and [understand climate change](#)
- Fun ideas for activities like [Book Jenga](#), [zine-making](#) and [expressive arts activities](#)
- [Book Discovery Guides](#) and [book lists](#) to help you find your next read!

[Find out more](#)

scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/

Author events

Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour brings the best authors and illustrators to schools across Scotland for fully-funded events. Previous authors on the tour have included Joseph Coelho, Cressida Cowell, Alex Wheatle and Ross MacKenzie. Giving your pupils the opportunity to meet brilliant authors and illustrators can inspire a life-changing love of reading, writing and illustration.

We now offer live, interactive virtual events for every tour, meaning you can bring the magic of an author visit into your school no matter where you are. You'll find information about tours and events on our website and in our schools and libraries newsletter as they are announced throughout the year.

'It was the best afternoon of my life. I loved it.' – P4 pupil after a tour visit to their school

We also regularly partner with Keep Scotland Beautiful, find out more about upcoming Keep Scotland Beautiful events on their website.

Keep an eye on our website and schools and libraries newsletter for dates as they are announced.

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/writing-and-authors/scottish-friendly-childrens-book-tour

Authors Live

Authors Live brings world-class author and illustrator events directly to your classroom, library or home for free, in partnership with BBC Scotland. Register to watch the live broadcasts with your pupils, and catch up with previous events through our on demand library. To help you embed reading for pleasure in the classroom, there are also free CfE-linked activities to support each broadcast.

On demand

Visit the Authors Live on Demand library to explore all of the author and illustrator events from the past five years. Highlights from the last year include events with Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Joseph Coelho and MG Leonard.

Keep an eye on our [schools and libraries newsletter](#) for dates of our 2024–25 programme.

‘The pupils who benefit the most are the pupils who don’t read and who wouldn’t dream of going to an author event. They are the ones that discover that authors are ‘real people’, often very similar to themselves.’ – Class teacher on Authors Live

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/learning-and-resources/authors-live

Live Literature

Live Literature helps to fund and support author events in communities and schools across Scotland. Meeting authors, illustrators, poets and storytellers face-to-face can inspire pupils with their own writing and reading. You can apply for part-funded visits with the authors, storytellers and other creative practitioners on our author directory. You pay just £85 plus VAT per session, and we cover the rest of the visitor’s fee and all travel expenses. All Live Literature events and residencies can take place remotely or in person.

Fully-funded residencies give you the chance to work with an author, storyteller or creative practitioner over a school year on a creative project you devise together. Fully-funded residencies give you the chance to work with an author, storyteller or creative practitioner over a school year on a creative project you devise together.

'I noticed that so many pupils were reluctant to start writing as they thought they can't be good writers if they struggle with spelling words or grammar. I think it was very important that the author residency encouraged them to write anyway and don't focus on mistakes, and showing them that anyone can be a writer.' – Teacher after taking part in a Live Literature school residency

Key Dates

- 16 September 2024: Application deadline for events taking place up to March 2025
- Early 2025: Applications open for events taking place from April 2025 to March 2026
- Spring 2025: Applications open for school residencies taking place in 2025-26

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/writing-and-authors/live-literature

Book Week Scotland

Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books and reading. Book Week Scotland 2024 will take place from **18–24 November** and is supported by Creative Scotland and SLIC.

This year's theme is Hope. Hope is the promise of a brighter future. It's not blind faith that things will work out in the end, it's the trust we place in ourselves and those around us, that the choices we make in difficult moments will lead us to better times. That the path we are on, and our story, matter.

There are lots of ways to get involved:

- Host an event to gift your [Bookbug P1 Family Bags and Read Write Count bags](#) to get your pupils and their families excited to use them
- Enjoy events from the [Authors Live on Demand](#) library
- Use the resources on our website to create a school-wide celebration of books and reading, with fun activity ideas and printable display materials

There will also be ways to take part online, and events taking place in communities across Scotland. Keep an eye on our social media channels and website for details on these as they're announced.

[Find out more](#)

scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland

Creative writing

Our website supports teachers with creative writing lessons and projects, featuring a mix of learning resources, top tips and fun activities.

Encouraging pupils to write creatively can improve their writing across the curriculum, as well as boost:

- emotional resilience and regulation
- creative problem-solving skills
- social, communication and critical-thinking skills
- confidence and pupil voice
- engagement with the wider curriculum

Highlights from the hub include:

- Creative writing toolkit linked to HGIOS4
- Top tips for getting started with creative writing
- Research on the benefits of creating a writing culture in your school
- Resources on creative writing in Scots
- Phil Earle's writing masterclass
- Fun writing activities, including using poetry stones, story cubes and story sticks
- Printable display materials, including our Why Write? poster, an interactive journal and a template for making story cubes

Get involved with our regular writing competitions such as [Fifty Word Fiction](#) and [Young Scots Writer o the Year](#).

[Find out more](#)

scottishbooktrust.com/creative-writing-for-schools

CLPL

We deliver a huge range of CLPL and training online and in-person each year.

Our sessions cover topics such as:

- Creating a reading culture in your classroom and across your school, and working towards your Reading Schools accreditation
 - Gifting the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and Read Write Count bags
 - Boosting staff knowledge of contemporary books
 - Using books to support outdoor learning, STEM and sustainable development
- CLPL sessions will help you to engage with our programmes and ensure they have a deep and lasting impact on your pupils.

You will gain practical ideas to implement in your school, as well as the opportunity to share ideas and experience with professionals in your area and across Scotland.

This year, we will also have pre-recorded CLPL webinars that you will be able to watch on demand and offer bespoke training on request. If you are interested in attending or arranging a CLPL session, please get in touch at

schools@scottishbooktrust.com.

'I thought the session was really helpful and the information is easily applied by teachers because the research and the ideas for learning are already there.' – CLPL participant

Key dates

Find our [full calendar of sessions](#) on Eventbrite.

Upcoming training sessions

- [Book Discovery: Recently published texts you need to know about \(Secondary\)](#) – Wednesday 28 August, 4–5pm
- [Book Discovery: Wordless picture books \(Primary\)](#) – Wednesday 30 October, 4–5pm
- [Book Discovery: Winter reads \(Primary\)](#) – Wednesday 20 November, 4–5pm
- [Book Discovery: A rights-based approach using picturebooks \(primary\)](#) – Wednesday 2 October, 4–5pm

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/clpl

Book Discovery – Bookzilla

Whether a pupil always has their nose in a book or hasn't picked one up for a while, our Bookzilla app is here to help them find their next great read.

Regularly updated with the latest book releases, Bookzilla helps upper primary and lower secondary pupils to:

- browse and discover new books to read for pleasure
- keep track of what they've read and bookmark a wish list of titles they'd like to read next
- find tailored recommendations based on the genres they like
- check the book ratings from other Bookzilla users
- take on reading dares
- set themselves reading challenges
- find their nearest bookshops and libraries

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/bookzilla

Book Discovery – Bookzilla Book of the Month

Each month we have five copies of Bookzilla Book of the Month to be won alongside a written interview with the author.

To enter, simply answer the short question on our website.

Look out for the latest Book of the Month in our newsletters and on our social media channels.

[Find out more](#)

scottishbooktrust.com/competitions

Book Discovery – Book Discovery Guides

Research by the Open University shows that teacher knowledge of contemporary children's books makes a big difference when it comes to instilling a love of reading in pupils.

Our Book Discovery Guides are full of book recommendations for primary and secondary school pupils, including:

- New highlights from Scottish publishers
- Guest recommendations from booksellers, librarians and more
- Themed booklists
- Top picks from Scottish Book Trust staff

Browse our latest Book Discovery guide, or take a look through some of the previous issues below. You can view these in PDF format or download PowerPoint versions to share with colleagues.

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/book-discovery-guide

Book Discovery – Book lists

Among our carefully curated book lists, you can find up-to-date recommendations for all ages and stages.

Whether you're looking for something that covers a specific theme (like historical fiction, books with LGBTQ+ characters, stories that feature maths and science), or just searching for a spark of inspiration – there's something for everyone to discover.

Our most recent book lists include:

- [Short stories for teens](#)
- [Sensory books for all](#)
- [Reimagined fairytales](#)
- [Empowering books for girls](#)
- [Great middle grade LGBTQ+ books](#)
- [Books for your computer science classroom](#)

[Find out more](#)

scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists

Sharing Sensory Stories

Sharing Sensory Stories brings the magic of author visits, books and sensory storytelling to pupils with additional support needs. Multi-sensory storytelling is a great way to empower children with a range of needs to express their thoughts and ideas. The programme is open to special schools, ASN settings and pupils with additional support needs in mainstream education.

The offer includes:

- Author residencies and in-person storytelling events
- CLPL for learning professionals
- Free digital resources
- Funding for books and sensory resources
- Inclusive Stories Tour that explores stories and lived experiences of neurodiversity and disability

‘The project has empowered staff to be creative and bring storytelling into different situations for our pupils in the future. Most importantly, Gill was very positive about what makes all our pupils super, and by personalising each workshop, every pupil was able to engage with the project and tell their story.’ –School reflecting on a recent author residency

Read about the [impact of an ASN School Residency at Rowanfield School](#)

Find out more

scottishbooktrust.com/sensory-storytelling

Funding and support

Author residencies

Live Literature part-funded sessions:

- Scottish Book Trust pays over half the fees to run in-person or remote author events and sessions in local communities and schools. The author is paid £200 plus expenses per session. We also cover all of their expenses, within set guidelines.
- Applications open in **September** for events taking place before September 2025

Live Literature school residencies:

- We fully fund 14 sessions with an author from our author directory: a planning meeting; two staff CLPL sessions; 10 sessions with pupils; and a reflection session for the author to collect pupil feedback. Schools also receive a £500 grant to buy any resources needed to support the project.
- Applications open in **Spring 2025** for school residencies taking place in 2025–26

ASN school residencies:

- The four schools chosen by our panel receive 15 fully-funded sessions with an author from our author directory including training sessions for your staff and time to plan the project, a training session with the author for staff at your setting and a £500 grant to buy art supplies, books, AAC and other resources.
- Applications open in **September**

Grants

Sensory Storytelling

- Our Sensory Stories Fund provides a £500 grant for schools and groups working with children and young people with additional support needs to promote a love of stories in their setting.
- Grant opens Monday 2 September

Reading Schools

- Our Reading Schools fund projects and purchases that will help your school achieve their accreditation. Grants of up to £500 are available to purchase books and create appealing reading spaces.
- Grant opens Monday 2 September

For more information or support please contact us at schools@scottishbooktrust.com

To keep up to date with funding deadlines, sign up to our [schools newsletter](#) and keep an eye on our [opportunities and events](#) page.

Programmes and supporters

Our school programmes

- Authors Live
- Bookbug
- Book Week Scotland
- Bookzilla app
- Live Literature
- Reading Schools
- Read Write Count
- Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour

Scottish Book Trust would like to thank

- Creative Scotland
- Scottish Government
- CALL Scotland
- BBC Scotland
- Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (The Gaelic Books Council)
- Scottish Friendly
- Smarter Scotland
- Parent Club
- Education Scotland
- Browns Books
- Walter Scott
- The Mohn Westlake Foundation

- Better World Books
- Northwood Charitable Trust
- The Badenoch Trust
- The National Lottery
- Nancie Massey Charitable Trust
- Russell Trust
- The W M Mann Foundation
- The William Grant Foundation
- The AMW Charitable Trust
- The Schuh Trust
- The Stafford Trust
- Dr David Summers Charitable Trust
- The W M Mann Foundation

About Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity that believes everyone living in Scotland should have equal access to books. Our work provides opportunities to improve life chances through books and the fundamental skills of reading and writing.

Access to books and a love of books bring many important benefits from family bonding and advancing children's learning, to unlocking creativity, helping employability and improving mental health and wellbeing. Scottish Book Trust aims to support all communities across Scotland, with particular focus on those who are vulnerable and under-represented.