



BOOKSPARKS

TOGETHER ACROSS DERBY AND NOTTINGHAM



June 2024 Newsletter

Booksparks: a strand of Priority Literacy, aiming to boost the profile of reading for pleasure and support raising attainment, whilst creating a community of readers.

Welcome to the Summer Term 2 newsletter!

We hope this finds you after an enjoyable half term break! Included in this edition: an overview of remaining opportunities this term for primary and secondary, other Booksparks and related news, plus key dates for your diary.

Primary book challenges and FREE author talks

For those primary schools taking part in the InspiREAD Book Award, we hope your school community is so far enjoying reading the shortlist! More information about the Award, a wide range of free resources available to all schools and how to get involved can be found [here](#) or by emailing elsg@inspireculture.org.uk



Has your school signed up to take part in this award's **free** virtual author talks? **All primary** schools are invited to NINE free virtual talks with shortlisted authors, taking place w/c 17th and 24th June. (Schools do not need to be taking part in the award to attend). To view the exciting events on offer and to register your attendance, please click [here](#).

Any questions about the author events, please email hayley.carter@sdsa.net

Secondary book challenges and FREE author talks

We are now heading into the final weeks of the Chapter Chasers and Book Alert reading challenges for this year and students will soon be voting for their favourite book. Who will be the winners? We also hope that students are enjoying reading the Page Pals shortlist and that there is lots of chatter about these books among peers and staff!

Not signed up to attend the remaining FREE live and virtual author talks this term? Please see below for remaining opportunities for students to hear from inspiring authors and to ask the author questions. Staff need to register in advance and be present with students during events please.

- Monday 10th June - 10am - [Richard O'Neill \(A Different Kind of Freedom\)](#)
- Monday 10th June - 2pm - [S.J. Wills \(Bite Risk\)](#)
- Wednesday 12th June - 2pm - [Zana Fraillon \(The Way of the Dog\)](#)



Interested in finding out more about Chapter Chasers (book challenge for Y7/8) and Page Pals (Y10 book group) as a way to support students' reading next academic year? Participating universal schools can receive all the author talk recordings and the resources to support the running of these projects (except the book stock). Schools can find out more [here](#) and register to participate in these projects [here](#).





Empathy Day

Thursday 6th June is Empathy Day: celebrating and growing empathy's power to create a better world. It shines a light on books' role in raising an empathy-educated generation. How can this day be recognised in school and encourage reading for pleasure?

The Empathy Lab has a wide variety of free ideas and resources, including a toolkit, free author events and challenges. Explore the growing collection of Empathy Shorts too from brilliant authors such as Joseph Coelho and Caryl Hart!

Check out the below for further ideas to support reading for pleasure:

- Euro 2024 Book Battle Reading Challenge - a celebration of men's football on the pitch and reading for pleasure in the classroom!
- Help shape the provision of poetry in the UK by signing up for your school to take part in the children and young people's engagement with poetry in 2024 NLT survey. Your school will receive a school-specific report of your survey data to support you.
- Looking for new inspirational book titles? Check out the latest edition of Books for Keeps online magazine.
- Watch the "Overcoming barriers to reading for pleasure" webinar series from The Open University.



Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge aims to prevent the summer reading 'dip', by encouraging children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading goal over the holidays.

This year the challenge starts on 6th July and its theme is getting creative. Pupils can take part by signing up at their local library or by registering online.

There are a range of resources available to support schools to promote the challenge and to encourage pupils to love reading.

Young people aged 14+ can volunteer at their library to support the Summer Reading Challenge and this counts towards the volunteering section of their DofE Award.

Priority Literacy - Communities of Practice

As a reminder, have you booked your place at this term's Communities of Practice event, focusing on developing reading? Depending which event you attend, you will also hear either from the fantastic author Richard O'Neill or A. M. Dassu. This event is for primary and secondary colleagues.

BOOK NOW



For more information and to book your place at an event, please click below:
Tuesday 11th June 2024, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, Trent Vineyard, Nottingham Conference Centre
Monday 15th July 2024, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, Derby Conference Centre

Contact: nicola.gale@sdsa.net



Dates for your diary

Please see below for upcoming opportunities for schools to engage with literacy activities and cultural moments in the school calendar and an overview of activities brought to you by Booksparks/Priority Literacy.

w/c 3rd June

Book Alert - author talks (secondary schools)

6th June

Empathy Day

w/c 10th June

Chapter Chasers - author talks (secondary schools)

11th June

Communities of Practice - Nottingham event

17th June

Book Alert - voting deadline (secondary schools)

w/c 17th and 24th June

InspiREAD - author talks (primary schools)

24th June

Chapter Chasers - voting deadline (secondary schools)

29th June

InspiREAD - voting deadline (primary schools)

6th July

Summer Reading Challenge begins!

15th July

Communities of Practice - Derby event

NEWSFLASH

City-wide Readathon across Derby and Nottingham City

Following feedback, a decision has been made to postpone the city-wide Readathon event from w/c 8th July 2024 until the Autumn Term to coincide with National Poetry Day at the beginning of October. It is anticipated that it'll be a great way to create a buzz around reading at the start of a new academic year!

We are very much looking forward to supporting schools, pupils and families to take part in the Readathon. Reading can be tracked in school and at home and your school will have the option to take part in a variety of activities and author events to promote reading for pleasure.

We'll be in touch with more information at the start of the academic year.

