



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the first Newsletter of 2026. We have had another busy start to the term with lots of lovely new learning in classes.

Year 4 wowed us with their parent learning assembly and shared everything they have learnt so far this year and of course Years 2 and 3 attended Young Voices at the O2 Arena.

As the weather is still really cold, could we please ask you to ensure the children have jumpers and coats in school.

Thank you

Mrs Collens & Mrs Fletcher

YOUNG VOICES - O2 ARENA



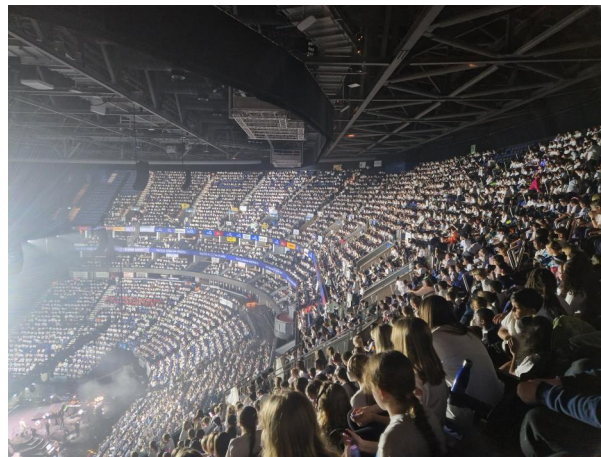
Years 2 & 3 and children from the school choir were lucky enough to have the opportunity to perform at the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena with lots of other schools. The children

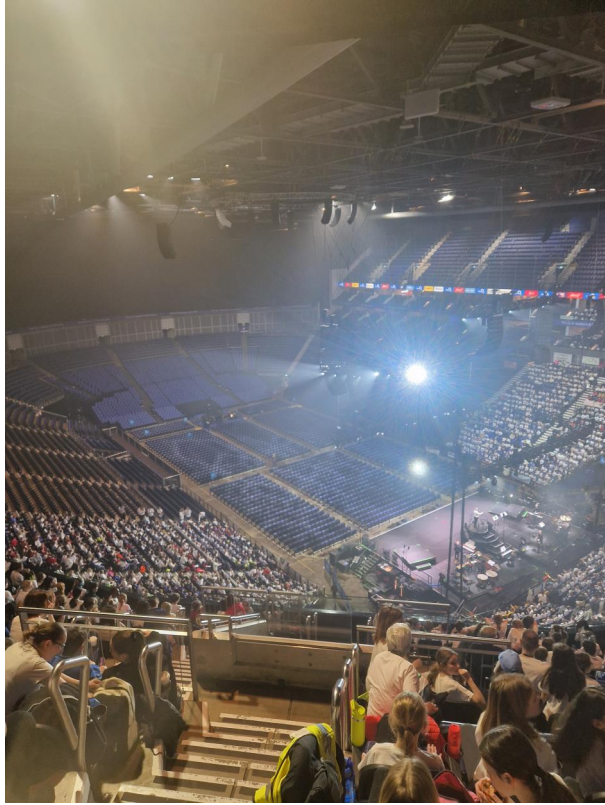
had a full day of practice with nearly 9000 other children, a full orchestra and lots of professional singers and dancers.

In the evening, when all the audience were seated and the real performance began, the children sang beautifully and really made us proud. They were lucky enough to sing alongside 'Elphaba' from the stage show *Wicked*, vocal artist **Aneesa Folds**, singer-songwriter **Alex Spencer** and *Britain's got talent* star **Connie Talbot**.

It was such an amazing atmosphere and we were so proud of all the children who kept going through a very long day, not returning to school until 11:30pm!

Please see our school website for the videos of the performance.





SQUIRREL'S WINTER WALK IN VICTORIA PARK



Squirrel Class went on a 'Winter Walk' to Victoria Park, they were given a list of things to find and once found mark them off their tick sheets and compare the walk to the autumn walk they did last term. They really enjoyed exploring the wooded area to discuss how it has changed this season.







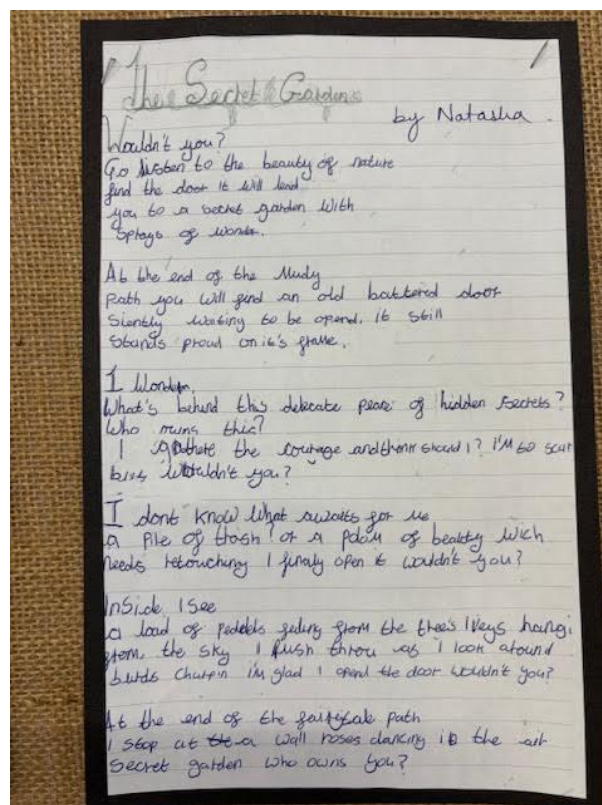
Afterwards they had a treat and went to play in the park







Look what we have been learning!



Wednesday 28 January 2026
LO: write a flashback.

I have lived with Livia as long as I can remember and it has been wonderful. Our village is peaceful and small unlike the great, amazing city that we call Pompeii. We are happy but our hearts will always carry a bit of sorrow when we remember the last city of our memories.

When I was a child, I would fill up my days with lots of ^{different} activities. My favorite game to play was to rattle bones with Livia and to go to the lovely harbour. One day when I was at the theatre with my father when all of a sudden the ground shook and the building cracked. From that day Livia

I ran to get Livia, we both ran to the harbour for safety we climbed on a boat as the great city shook harder. We left in time as soon as we left burning magma rush down to the city, destroying anything in its way. Pumice fell from the dark, ashy sky.

Me and Livia saw people running, trying to escape in terror both of us could touch the falling pumice stone.

✓
DP

Wouldn't you?
Go and see the night
Under the last pumice through
the door

Wouldn't you?
I reach beyond the path
Beneath the beam with my feet
Strike the chestnut door
Whisper me in the mist
I breathe in silence
as if I'm asking me to stop

What's on the other side of you?
Am I the first to be here?
Why does it feel like time is ticking?
I reach for you, I think
My heart leaps
waiting for you to be here

I don't know what awaits you me -
Will it be splashing sunlight?
The orange trees full of secrets?
Or perhaps, your whispering
the air holds its breath
So do I!

Inside I feel there

Letting the secret garden -
I fell as if I were in a dream
I took photos with my mind
I walked in the night

At the end of the path
I broke the leaves with my feet
And the chestnut door
It whispered me in the mist
I reached out
As if I had seen the secret

by Chloe T.



It's what's behind the door

Wouldn't you?
Go and open the door, explore,
Through the door,
I see,
A magnificent paradise,
awaiting me.


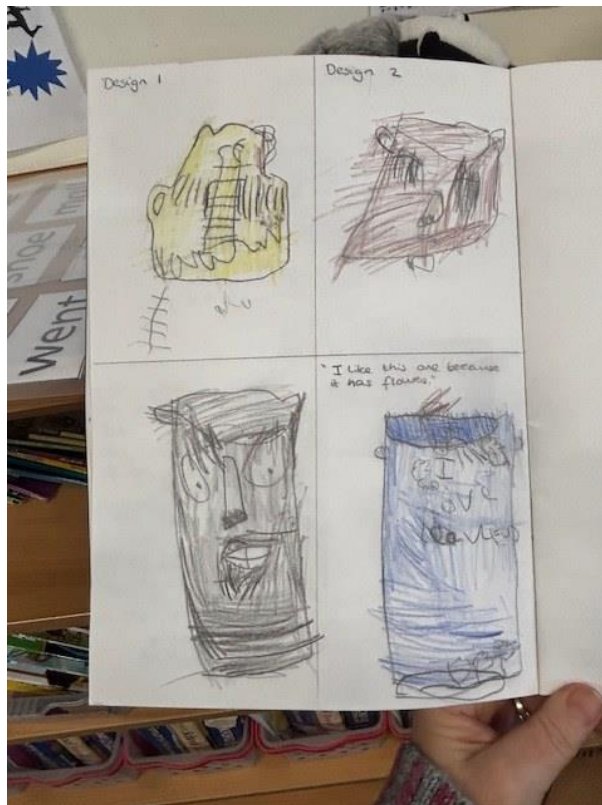
Near to the end of the path,
Where Ivy trails still spread,
Spread like snails,
A handle watches me,
Waiting to be turned,
The temptation is hurting me.

What's lurking beyond you?
I hold my breath,
What if it's only darkness lurking?
My hands reach for the door,
But I pause,
It feels like everything wants me to be brave.

I don't know what's inside,
Will there be trees pouring out
emerald leaves?
Enchanted fountains spray the surroundings?
Birds singing melodies?
I wonder, wouldn't you?

Inside I feel better,
Somehow the air feels lighter,
This is a secret just for me,
Rose petals lay in the sun,
Everyone else is having fun.

Near to the end of the path,
Where Ivy trails still spread,
Like snails,
The handle watches me again,
Waiting to be turned,
The temptation hurt me once,
It won't hurt me anymore.





SPORTS EQUIPMENT



We wanted to say a *HUGE* thank you to parents and carers for their wonderful support with our sporting equipment day this week. Your donations were so generous and mean that the children will have more activities at playtime and Mr C and Mrs Evans can supplement the resources for PE lessons.

We thank everyone for their generosity and support of our school.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY



VALENTINE'S
DISCO

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

YR R.1 AND 2
3.15PM - 4.15PM

YR 3, 4, 5 AND 6
4.30PM - 5.30 PM

£2.50 PER TICKET

The poster features a light pink background with scattered red hearts and a large red heart in the top left corner. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



WORLD

Coffee Morning!

Hello! مرحبا
Hola!

Monday 2nd February
at 9am

Victoria Road Primary School

Join us for coffee, cake & a friendly chat!

The poster has a warm, yellowish-brown background. At the top, the word 'WORLD' is written in large, blue, block letters, with a globe as the letter 'O'. Above it are several national flags. Below the title, there are illustrations of a red polka-dot coffee cup, a blue coffee cup, a globe, and a small house. The text is in a mix of fonts, including a cursive script for the title and a bold sans-serif for the date and school name.

Online Safety

Follow the SMART rules to stay safe online

S

Stay **safe** online by not sharing personal information



M

Do not **meet** anyone who you have only made friends with online



A

Do not **accept** messages or friend requests from strangers



R

Not everything online is **reliable**. Some people online are strangers and may try and trick us



T

Tell an adult you trust if anything happens online that you don't like



JAN & FEB 2026

MORE AT AUTHORFY.COM

A free children's book newsletter by **authorfy.**

BOOKDROP

Featuring

GUY BASS

Discover the 'Stitch Head' series, the graphic novel, and now...

**Stitch Head
THE MOVIE!**

Coming to cinemas
February 2026



MORE INSIDE ↓

Also featuring: **Phil Earle** **Emma Swan** **Rob Biddulph** **Rashmi Sirdeshpande** **Eric Huang** and more

JAN & FEB 2026

Q&A

WITH GUY BASS →



PHOTOGRAPH © GUY BASS

READ THE 'STITCH HEAD' SERIES,
ENJOY THE GRAPHIC NOVEL,
AND NOW... WATCH THE FILM!

STITCH HEAD (for ages 8+) follows the story of a small, forgotten creature living in a long-abandoned castle. Awoken by a Mad Professor, **Stitch Head** is tasked with protecting the professor's other wildly inventive creations from the suspicious townspeople of Grubber Nubbin.



How many **STITCH HEAD** books are there?

There are six novels altogether. Also, two graphic novels so far with a third on the way! They're aimed at ages 8+ and are illustrated by Pete Williamson.

STITCH HEAD will hit UK cinemas on 13th February 2026, and the books are available in bookshops and online.



What inspired you to write **STITCH HEAD**?

I wanted to write a gothic horror story about misunderstood monsters. It was more of a straight up comedy at first, but I liked the idea that a monster-making mad scientist had forgotten about his first creation. There was a sadness to it – the tale of a creature who longed to be remembered by his creator.



What was it like seeing **STITCH HEAD** brought to life on screen?

It was superbly surreal. The characters moved and spoke like they do in my head – watching the film for the first time was more or less an out-of-body experience. The filmmakers made changes to the story but at its heart, like the books, it's a story of friendship and acceptance. And monsters.

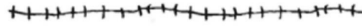


Click here to watch video

- READ AN EXTRACT
- DOWNLOAD RESOURCES
- HEAR GUY INTRODUCE 'STITCH HEAD' & MORE

AT AUTHORFY.COM

READ THE BOOK
BEFORE YOU SEE THE FILM!



Coming to UK cinemas
13th February

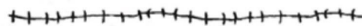


Illustration copyright © Pete Williamson 2011

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Cover art courtesy of Kazoo Films.

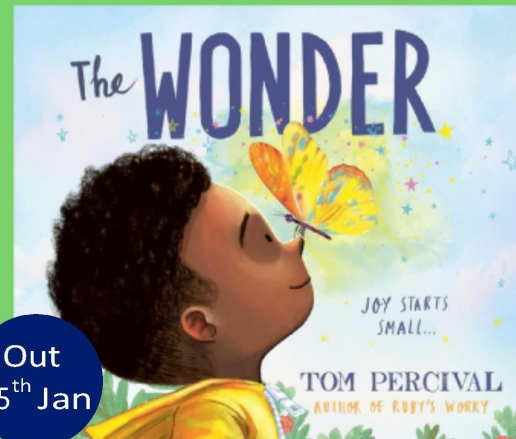


NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS: Picture Books & Early Readers



Out
8th Jan

A laugh-out-loud picture book about dreams, friendship, and spectacularly silly space tractors. 'Will have little ones giggling from lift-off to landing.'



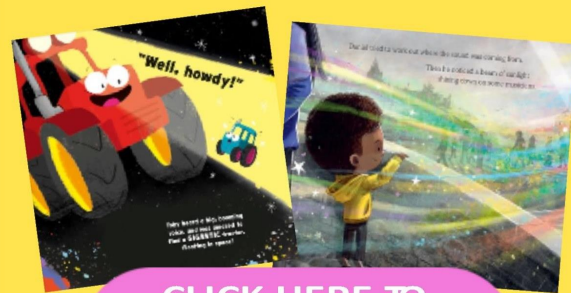
Out
15th Jan

A poignant picture book that encourages us to take notice of all the wondrous little things that happen to us each day.



Out
12th Feb

'Perfect rainy day reading!' When a drop of rain turns into a storm, a small mouse must find courage, ingenuity and resilience to make it home safely.



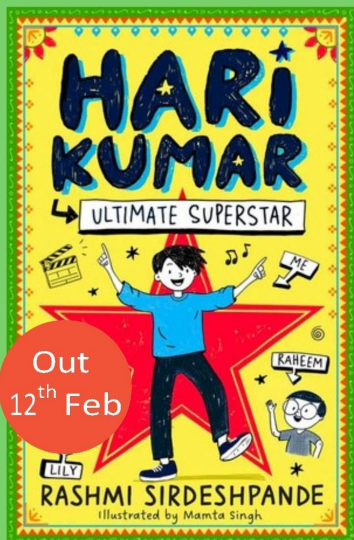
[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACTS
FROM THESE BOOKS](#)



Mouse has a parcel.
The perfect gift for someone special.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 7+



Hari Kumar: 10 years old, 75% Indian, 25% French, and 100% going to be a superstar. All Hari needs to make it big is a lucky break.

A superstar in the making

Packed with friendships, doodles and drama

Brilliant neurodiverse representation

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)



The forest Biao calls home is dying and she's determined to save it. With time running out, can the Guardians help Biao save her home - and the Year of the Tiger - before it's too late?

Exciting, funny and jam-packed with action

The 4th book in the 'Guardians of the New Moon' series

Full of mythical creatures and legends

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)



Bob and Archie are two hapless but enthusiastic koalas who are just getting to grips with their new superpowers. Can our furry heroes thwart a feathered supervillain? Definitely, maybe...

A perfect early reader for ages 7+

A chapter book and graphic novel in one

For fans of the movies Sing and Zootropolis!

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 9+



The third title in the bestselling fantasy adventure series where 10-year-old Luca has to race across an island that comes to life when he uses his imagination.

'Brilliant, bonkers and visually spectacular.'

'Pacy, funny and gloriously inventive'

Book 1 was an instant bestseller

[WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO & READ EXTRACT](#)



Finn just wants to survive Year 7, but his life is destined to be a series of epic fails! A hilarious new series by bestselling author Phil Earle.

Told in a hilarious diary format

Perfect for readers of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid', 'Loki' and 'Tom Gates'

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)



'The Goonies' meets the legend of the werewolf in this thrilling adventure by superstar author and illustrator Rob Biddulph, creator of #DrawWithRob

'A spine-tingling adventure'

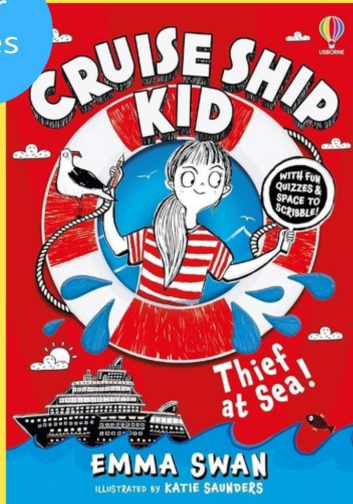
100+ black and white illustrations

Short chapters and a pacy plot

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)

BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For
ages
7+

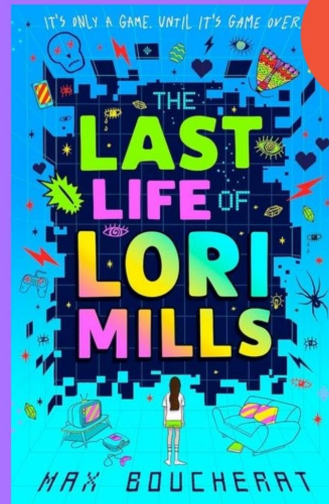


CRUISE SHIP KID is a seriously fun trip around the Med with 10-year-old Silver (who lives on the cruise ship because her mum works on it), and her friends called 'the Gang' (a group of 80-year-olds who do back-to-back cruises!). In her pursuit of finding a friend her own age, Silver stumbles upon a mystery that she and the Gang have to solve. The book is filled with interactive prompts and quizzes, messages of accepting your uniqueness, and brilliantly fun illustrations and doodles!



**Year 4 teacher
Miss Cross**
@_tarasteaching
on Instagram

For
ages
9+



THE LAST LIFE OF LORI MILLS is exciting and so original. It's a clever sci-fi story based on a video game world and we've never read anything like it. It's funny and fast-paced but also very creepy and at times a real heart-pounding read. It's such a mix of things but most of all, it's super creative and so well written. If, like us, you love gaming, or if you just love brilliant books that have you hooked right from the start, this is one for you! We're already on the edge of our seats waiting for the next one.



**Ishaan, 10 &
Anaya, 8**
@bookmuncher_duo
on Instagram

Reading for Pleasure

Tips from the Open University team

Reading Aloud

Reading aloud isn't just for little ones - it helps us relax, build confidence and connect. A few minutes together every day can make a BIG difference.

- **Find a brilliant book**
(Let your child choose)
- **Choose a comfy spot**
(Sofa / bed / cushions on the floor)
- **Read, relax and respond**
(There is NO right way to do this)
- **Pause regularly**
(This may trigger talk)
- **Chat about it informally**
(Make connections to your lives)
- **Keep it light-hearted and fun**
(Enjoy!)

This is your special time to read, share and chat! For more advice, click here [Reading aloud to children - 7 steps to make it magical - Reading for Pleasure](#)



The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...



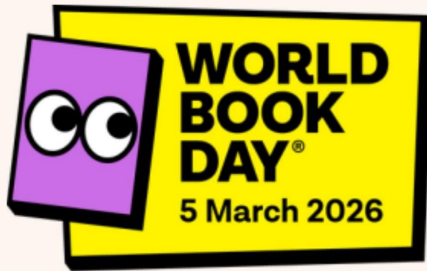
Ages 5+

A real-world family story

Short chapters & pictures

Busting stereotypes

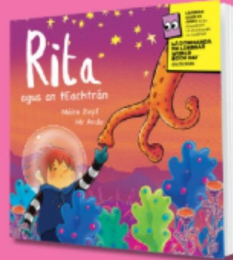
Heartwarming!



Use your World Book Day® charity £1/€1.50 book token to get one of these brilliant reads for free between 12th February and 15th March 2026. Ask your school or local bookshop for more details. Find your participating retailer: worldbookday.com/participating-retailers



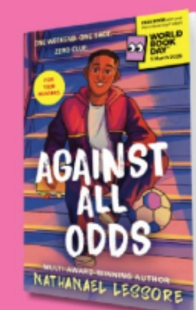
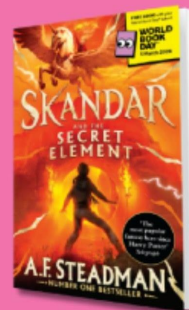
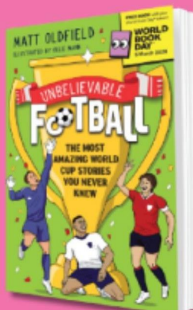
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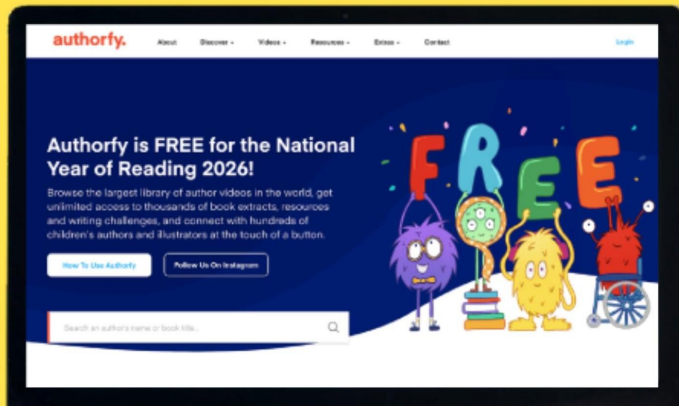
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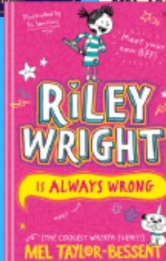
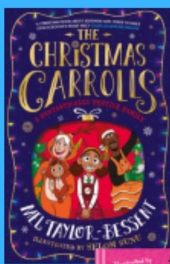
Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

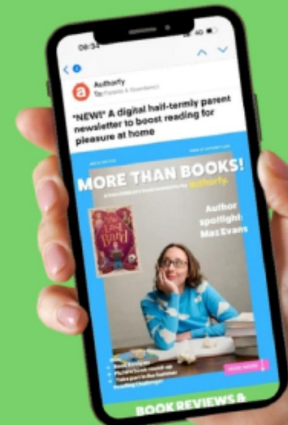
CLICK TO BROWSE
AUTHORFY.COM

MEL TAYLOR-BESSENT

Bestselling children's author & founder of Authorfy

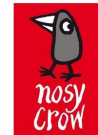
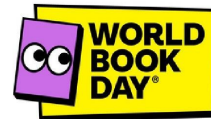


BOOKDROP for ages
11-18 – launching in
March 2026!



BOOKDROP!

In partnership with the UK's publishing industry...



Penguin Random House CHILDREN'S

