

READ. WRITE. LEAD.

Books From Children To Children

PARENT GUIDE · SUMMER 2026

Founded by a GWR title holder

A little guide to a **big adventure** in writing.

Dear parent or carer,

Thank you for helping your child take part in Books From Children To Children — the UK's first national child-led literacy movement. Whatever happens at judging, the story your child tells this summer will be theirs forever. This guide is here to help you and them enjoy the journey together.



AGES
4–11

ENTRY
Free

DEADLINE
11 Sept 2026

How the competition works

From registering to submitting a finished story, the whole process is designed to be simple. Four steps — as much or as little time as your child wants to give to it.

1

Register

60 seconds at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/register/. We'll email you the Guidelines PDF and a personal submission link.

2

Read the Guidelines

A quick read that explains what to write, what to include, and what to avoid. A few minutes over a cup of tea.

3

Help your child write

2026 theme: **Climate Change & The Environment**. Any length. Any style. Story or poem. Tips on the next page.

4

Submit by 11 September

Upload at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/submit/. Registered families get a shortcut link; if you didn't register, submit directly.

A note about registering

Registering isn't a requirement — you can submit your child's story directly. But registering means we send you the Guidelines, a few writing tips as the weeks go by, and a friendly reminder before the deadline. Marketing emails are opt-in — untick the box and you'll only receive transactional emails about your entry.

What we won't do

- ✓ We will not share your data with third parties.
- ✓ Your child's story is only shared with our judging panel and, if shortlisted, our anthology publishing team.
- ✓ Your child's full name, school, and any identifying photographs are never published without your separate written permission.
- ✓ You can withdraw your child's entry at any time before the anthology is committed to print — just email us.

How to help your child write

Every child writes differently. Some race to the page; some need a while to warm up. Here's what tends to work.

1

Let them talk it out first

Before pens or keyboards, ask your child to tell you the story out loud. Stories start as speech in every culture on earth.

2

Follow their imagination

The theme is Climate Change, but the story can be anything — a talking tree, a hopeful future, a superhero polar bear. Judges love originality.

3

Read Our Stories, Our World

The 2025 anthology is at jaycesworld.co.uk — £8.99 paperback or £1 digital. Reading it together shows what "published by a child" actually looks like.

4

Little and often

Fifteen minutes a day for a fortnight beats one long marathon. That's how writers really work — even the professional ones.

5

Type or handwrite

Handwritten stories can be photographed or scanned and uploaded as a PDF. Some children write more freely by hand.

6

Celebrate the finish

Every child who submits has done something extraordinary. The finished story is the real prize — the anthology is a bonus. Tell them so.

Common questions

How long should the story be?

There is no minimum or maximum. A poem of ten lines is as welcome as a story of two thousand words.

Can I type it up for my child?

Yes. Typing up a child's handwritten story is fine. Rewriting or improving the words on their behalf is not — the voice must be the child's.

My child has additional needs — can they still enter?

Absolutely. All abilities are warmly welcomed. Email info@jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk if we can help with any adjustments.

Can more than one child in my family enter?

Yes — one entry per child, and each child needs their own registration. No family limit.

Submitting & what happens next

- 1 Save the story as a single file.** PDF is easiest — .docx or .txt also work. Max 5MB. Handwritten stories can be scanned or photographed and combined into one PDF.
- 2 Visit the submission page.** Go to jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/submit/. If you registered, click the personal link in your email — most of the form is already filled in.
- 3 Upload and confirm.** Add the story title, upload the file, tick the parental and publication consent boxes, and hit Submit. Confirmation email within a few minutes.

Deadline · Thursday 11 September 2026 · 23:59 UK

What happens after you submit

Within 7 days	We acknowledge every entry by email.
October 2026	Judging panel begins shortlisting.
November 2026	Shortlisted authors and their families are contacted.
Early 2027	The 2026 anthology publishes; National Book Launch takes place.

If your child is shortlisted: winners are professionally published in the 2026 anthology, receive a certificate, are invited (with a parent) to the National Book Launch, and join the Young Literacy Advocates programme. There is no cash prize — the value is in the publication credit and the community that grows around it.

"Every child has a story. Every story deserves to be heard. Thank you for helping your child share theirs with us this summer — we can't wait to read it."

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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REGISTERED CIC

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