



Reading events calendar

Below are listed annual celebrations of literacy and reading, with details, where available, of approximate dates when they take place each year and websites to visit for more information.

January

[Sign Up Now week](#)
[Costa Book Award](#) (formerly Whitbread)

February

[National Storytelling Week](#)
[Get London Reading](#)

March

[Blue Peter Book Awards](#)
[World Book Day](#)
[World Storytelling Day](#)

April

[International Children's Book Day](#)

May

[National Share a Story Month](#)
[Adult Learners' Week](#)
[Learning at Work Day](#)
[Bookstart Scotland Day](#)

June

[National Family Week](#)
[National Bookstart Week](#)
[Volunteers Week](#)
[Welsh Book of the Year](#)
[The Orange Prize](#)

July/August

[SHINE festival](#)
[Summer Reading Challenge](#)
[CILIP Carnegie and Greenway Awards](#)

September

[Early Years Book Awards](#)
[International Literacy Day /](#)
[International Adult Learners' Week](#)
[Roald Dahl Day](#)
[Sign Up Now week](#)
[European Day of Languages](#)

October

[Children's Book Week](#)
[National Schools' Film Week](#)
[National Poetry Day](#)
[Parents' Week](#)
[Everybody Writes Day](#)
[CSV Make a Difference Day](#)
[Family Learning Week](#)
[International School Library Month](#)
[Black History Month](#)
[The Man Booker Prize](#)
[Tell A Story Day](#)

November

[The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize](#)
[National Non-fiction Day](#)
[Dyslexia Awareness Week](#)

Ongoing events

January

Mid-January

Sign Up Now week

Campaign that runs alongside Adult Learners' Week, which takes place in May, to encourage adults to sign up for education courses to start in September. Promotional materials are available for adult education providers to publicise the event and their own activities. www.signupnow.org.uk

Costa Book Award (formerly Whitbread)

www.costabookawards.com

February

First full week in February

National Storytelling Week

National Storytelling Week, coordinated by the Society for Storytelling, takes place annually during the first week of February. www.sfs.org.uk

Get London Reading

Bi-annual campaign launched in 2004 to encourage Londoners to make space in their busy lives for books, celebrating London's books and readers.

www.getlondonreading.co.uk

March

Early March

Blue Peter Book Awards

The Blue Peter Book Awards are announced at the beginning of March to coincide with World Book Day. www.booktrust.org.uk

First Thursday of month

World Book Day

World Book Day traditionally took place on 23 April (Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day). From 2001 this was changed to the first Thursday in March to avoid clashes with Easter holidays and allow schools to take part consistently.

www.worldbookday.com

Spring equinox

World Storytelling Day

Formerly known as International Storytelling Day, the celebration aims to get people worldwide to tell and listen to stories, in a wide variety of languages, and at as many places as possible, during a single 24-hour period. It is hoped that by sharing stories and inspiration, they will learn from each other and create international contacts.

www.freewebs.com/worldstorytellingday/index.htm

April

2 April

International Children's Book Day

Held every year to commemorate the birth of Hans Christian Anderson in 1805, this day is coordinated by IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) as part of their regular schedule of activities to promote children's reading and international awareness and understanding of other cultures through children's books. IBBY branches in a number of countries arrange events to mark the day. www.ibby.org.

May

National Share a Story Month

Organised by the Federation of Children's Book Groups. www.fcbg.org.uk

Third week of the month

Adult Learners' Week

Annual celebration of adult learning that includes the ALW awards to recognise the good work of individuals and groups involved in the provision of adult education.

www.alw.org.uk

Thursday during Adult Learners' Week

Learning at Work Day

Annual awareness campaign, coordinated by the Campaign for Learning, promoting and supporting workplace learning events across the country. Over 5,000 organisations take part each year, celebrating learning achievements and promoting further learning opportunities. www.learningatworkday.com.

Third Thursday in May

Bookstart Scotland Day

Has a different theme to [National Bookstart Day](#) (which falls in Scotland's October school holidays) although it celebrates the same principles.

www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookstart-in-scotland-day

June

Beginning of June (half term week)

National Family Week

National Family Week is an annual celebration of family life that aims to highlight the importance of quality time together and promote the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle. It is supported by a huge range of voluntary sector organisations and supported by commercial partners. www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk

Beginning of June

National Bookstart Week

Annual celebration of sharing stories, songs and rhymes. www.bookstart.org.uk

Beginning of June Volunteers Week

Volunteers Week is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering that takes place at the beginning of June each year, giving volunteer managers and organisations the chance to say thank you to their volunteers. It is a UK-wide event, coordinated by Volunteering England in association with Volunteer Development Scotland, Northern Ireland Volunteer Development Agency, Wales Council for Voluntary Action and the National Association of Volunteer Bureaux. www.volunteersweek.org.uk

Welsh Book of the Year Award

Administered by Academi, the annual Book of the Year Award is made to a Welsh-language and an English-language work in the fields of creative writing and literary criticism. Prizes are awarded for the best book in the calendar year. www.academi.org

The Orange Prize

www.orangeprize.co.uk

July/August

Early July SHINE festival

The SHINE festival is a week-long schools festival to celebrate the talent in everybody. www.shineweek.co.uk

Throughout the school summer holidays National Summer Reading Challenge in Libraries

The National Summer Reading Challenge (launched in 1999) is coordinated by The Reading Agency and supported by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Books for Students and leading children's publishers. It is aimed at encouraging four to 12-year-olds into libraries to maintain their reading over the school summer holidays. www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

Shortlists for the two awards are announced in April and the winners are announced in July. During this period, many children's reading groups in schools and libraries take part in a "shadowing" scheme, reviewing the nominated books and talking about who they think should win.

www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk

September

Early Years Book Awards

This award, created by Booktrust, gives prizes for fresh methods of communicating with pre-school children. The shortlist and winners are chosen by a panel of six judges, including a children's book consultant, a nursery nurse, and children's authors.

www.booktrust.org.uk

8 September

International Literacy Day/International Adult Learners' Week

Since 1967, International Literacy Day has been celebrated around the world, to recognise that the basic learning needs of all people of all ages should be met in each and every country, both developing and developed. In 2000, the event was expanded to become International Adult Learners' Week.

www.adultlearnersweek.org/about/international.html

First full week of the month

Sign Up Now week

NIACE, the national organisation for adult learning, coordinates Sign Up Now week, a national campaign held twice a year (January and September) to encourage adults to participate in learning. www.signupnow.org.uk

13 September

Roald Dahl Day

Annual celebration of Roald Dahl's life and work, first held in 2006 to mark what would have been his 90th birthday. Roald Dahl Day includes special events, activities and a Roald Dahl Day Challenge. www.roalddahlday.info

26 September

European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages (EDL), a Council of Europe initiative, is held annually on 26 September to celebrate linguistic diversity, plurilingualism and lifelong language learning. The EDL was first celebrated in 2001, the European Year of Languages.

Resources to help celebrate the day are available from Scottish CiLT (Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research). www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/

October

First full week of the month

National Children's Book Week

Annual celebration of children's book and reading. www.booktrust.org.uk

First full week of the month

National Schools' Film Week

During this week, Film Education provides lots of advice and support materials for schools to use in promoting the use of film in an educational context.

www.filmeducation.org

Thursday of the first full week of the month

National Poetry Day

Organised by the Poetry Society, National Poetry Day takes place on the Thursday during National Children's Book Week (see above). www.nationalpoetryday.org.uk

Middle of the month (half term)

Parents' Week

Run every year by the National Family and Parenting Institute, to raise awareness of the concerns of parents and families and the people who work with them.

www.familyandparenting.org/parentsweek

End of the month

Everybody Writes Day

Everybody Writes Day is an annual celebration of writing in schools. Primary and secondary schools collapse the curriculum for one whole day to celebrate writing in all its forms, and pupils and staff take part in fun writing events – including catering staff, site managers and parent volunteers. www.everybodywrites.org.uk/everybody-writes-day/

CSV Make a Difference Day

CSV Make a Difference Day is the biggest day of direct volunteering and community action. You can access activity ideas, register for free resources and promote your activities and projects through your local BBC radio station. The campaign also recruits reading mentors. www.csv.org.uk/difference

Family Learning Week

Annual celebration of family learning that has activities taking place in diverse locations such as zoos, shopping centres, libraries and community centres. For more information contact the Campaign for Learning on 020 7930 1111. www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk. In Scotland, Family Learning Week is coordinated by the Scottish Adult Learning Partnership: www.salp.org.uk

International School Library Month

Started by the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) in 1999 as International School Library Day. In 2008, the event expanded to cover the whole month of October, with schools being invited to take part for a day, a week or even the whole month. www.iasl-online.org/events/islm

Black History Month

www.black-history-month.co.uk

The Man Booker Prize

www.themanbookerprize.com

Tell-a-Story Day

National Tell-a-Story Day gives people of all ages the opportunity to hear and tell stories by organising or taking part in local events. Launched in 2001, the celebration takes place at the end of October with stories told in all sorts of venues - schools, libraries, hospitals, care centres, residential homes for the elderly, visitor centres, prisons, hotels and restaurants, castles, caves, forests, theatres, churches, and people's own homes. www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

November

The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize

www.guardian.co.uk/books/guardianchildrensfictionprize

First Thursday in the month

National Non-fiction Day

Launched in 2010 by the Federation of Children's Book Groups and Scholastic as an annual celebration to show that it's not just fiction that can be read and enjoyed for pleasure.

www.nnfd.org

**First full week in the month
Dyslexia Awareness Week**

Dyslexia Awareness Week is run by the British Dyslexia Association. www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk

Ongoing events

Readathon

Readathon is an ongoing initiative through which children undertake to read books, or do other literacy-based activities, in return for pledges of money from family and friends. Participating groups are provided with sponsor forms, display materials and a teachers' guide, containing instructions, ideas and suggested activities. www.readathon.org

Spellathon

Spellathon is Mencap's national sponsored spelling challenge. It is open to children in mainstream and special schools, up to the age of 13 (key stage 3). Oxford University Press provides spelling lists linked to the National Curriculum and the Primary Framework for literacy. Funds raised will help the charity support people with a learning disability and the top fundraising school will receive a celebrity visit. www.mencap.org.uk/spellathon.