



**READ
FOR MY
SCHOOL**



Pearson

National schools reading challenge results - 590,000 books were read by over 130,000 pupils in over 2,000 schools across the country



BookTrust, the UK charity that inspires a love of reading, is proud to announce the results of **Read For My School**, a free national schools reading competition that promotes reading for pleasure and challenged pupils aged 7 – 13 (years 3 – 8) to read as many books as they can during the three month spring term.

This year the competition involved more than 2,000 schools and 130,296 pupils who read 590,000 books. Children were able to read whatever they liked, but had access to a dedicated website, which included a library of over 100 free online books to choose from. Top reads for all ages included *Diary of a Killer Cat*, by Anne Fine (Penguin); *Daisy and the Trouble with Life* by Kes Gray (Scholastic); *Astrosaurs: Riddle of the Raptors* by Steve Cole (Red Fox) and Roald Dahl's *The BFG* (Macmillan). The Ladybird histories were also popular with all ages.

School children were encouraged to participate in groups and record what they read for the chance of winning Pearson book vouchers worth up to £1,000 for their school.

As well as rewarding schools, the competition celebrated **Reading Legends** – individual children who have excelled in some areas, or overcome challenges, in order to read and be part of the competition. These children won a tower of books and were nominated by their teachers, based on one of the following categories:

Pioneers: pupils who have been pioneers for the competition by encouraging others to read, whether through talking about books at playtime, speaking out in class or assembly, or creating work on their favourite book to be displayed.

Voyagers: pupils who were less interested in reading before but through the competition have been on a reading journey and have started to enjoy reading for pleasure.

Conquerors: pupils who have always enjoyed reading but achieved above and beyond what was expected during the competition.

Explorers: pupils who have made a particular effort to choose their own books, exploring new genres and authors.

The schools who had a pupil named as one of the twelve **Reading Legends** were:

- **Warley Road Primary School in Halifax**
- **Macaulay Primary Academy in Cleethorpes, Lancs**
- **Heysham High School in Morecombe**
- **Thorns Primary School in Birmingham**
- **Abbey School in Torquay**
- **Clayton Hall Academy in Stoke on Trent**
- **St Marys C of E Primary School in Hinckley, Leicestershire**
- **Buttsbury Junior School in Billericay**

- Uppingham Community College in Corby
- **Al-Ashraf Primary School in Gloucester**
- Fairfield Primary in Leicester
- Kingsthorpe College, Northampton

BookTrust Chief Executive, Diana Gerald, said:

“Read for My School” provides children with access to so many books that they can’t fail to find something that they enjoy, which is what reading for pleasure is all about. Looking at the winning schools and the amazing contribution of the Reading Legends, it’s clear that even with all the other distractions, today’s children love reading as much as ever.”

Caroline Martin, Governor of Bishops Cannings Primary School said:

“Read for My School is now a much anticipated annual event – the pupils and staff look forward to taking part and there is much excitement and a great enthusiasm for reading throughout the school which lasts long after the competition has closed. The pupils are reading mad – it’s had a massive impact on our attitude to reading and as a whole school initiative works really well.”

Director of Social Impact Programs at Pearson, Jennifer Young, said:

“**Read for My School** is a perfect example of Pearson’s commitment to supporting access to books and reading for children. We do this through “Project Literacy”, which brings together a diverse and global cross-section of people and organisations to help unlock the potential of individuals, families and communities everywhere with the power of words.”

The Read for My School awards ceremony took place in central London this week, with prizes presented by Robin Stevens, author of the ***Murder Most Unladylike*** ***Mysteries*** series, and BookTrust Chief Executive, Diana Gerald.

For more information go to: www.readformyschool.co.uk

or www.booktrust.org.uk/programmes/primary/read-for-my-school/

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BookTrust is Britain's largest reading charity. It reaches five million children and families each year through its book-gifting programmes which deliver carefully chosen books to families through professional partners including health visitors, children's centres and libraries. BookTrust also delivers additional support and books to those who need it most including vulnerable mothers and children in care.

www.booktrust.org.uk

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Penguin Schools aims to support teachers, librarians and educators as they share the very best books for children and young people published by Penguin Random House Children's UK. Our incredible authors include Jacqueline Wilson, Roald Dahl, Malorie Blackman and Rick Riordan.

