

SCHOOLS LIBRARY SERVICE

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FAO: The Headteacher	For Action	For Information	Meeting/Event
Primary Phase & Special Schools	✓		
Copy to:			
Chair of Governors			
Business Manager/Bursar			
Designated Safeguarding Lead			
SENCo			
Other (please specify)			

11th September 2019

Dear Colleague,



Stop press ...

West Sussex Schools Library Service launches
“Picture Books to Shout About 2019-20”

West Sussex Schools Library Service is inviting all West Sussex primary schools to participate in our Picture Book Award *Picture Books to Shout About 2019-20*.

This exciting book award is now in its sixth year and thousands of children have enjoyed taking part. Our professional staff read hundreds of picture books throughout the year to produce a longlist of the best books - Kes Gray & Nikki Dyson’s hilarious story “You’re Called What?!” captured the imagination of pupils last year and was a unanimous winner.

Both infants and juniors can join in and you can participate as a class, a book group or a whole school. There will be a shortlist of four titles and the criteria for evaluation will be different for the two age ranges, allowing pupils to discuss and evaluate the books at an appropriate level. Detailed advice on points for discussion for each book is provided.

The Award aims to:

- Develop pupils’ visual literacy, critical thinking and listening and speaking skills through the sharing of books and discussion;
- Promote and develop positive attitudes to reading and reading for enjoyment;
- Increase staff knowledge of the best new picture books.

Cost:

We are pleased to confirm that we have managed to maintain the cost of participation at £75 per pack for schools with a 2019/21 Schools Library Service SLA. West Sussex schools without a Schools Library Service SLA can also now take part at a cost of £95.

You will receive:

- Two copies of each of the four shortlisted books;
- Briefing sheets giving information about the books and authors, detailed advice on points for discussion for each book, criteria for evaluating picture books and how juniors can be involved;
- A copy of the longlist, together with an order form to enable schools to purchase these through the Schools Library Service Book Purchase Scheme;
- 100 bookmarks.

Access is provided to:

- Online voting
- The opportunity to access specially-designed class visits to the local public library
- The opportunity to share ideas with other participating schools in a closed Facebook group
- Opportunities to meet the winning author (subject to availability)

Timescale and action required:

Registration

If you would like to participate, please register online at:

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/8fae3a0b>

by Monday 30th September. Please note that registration is a financial commitment.

Key Dates:

- October half-term 2019 – shortlist announced;
- Late November 2019 – books and briefing packs delivered to schools;
- December to February half-term – schools to champion the books and vote by the end of 14th February 2020;
- Word Book Day 5th March 2020 – winner announced.

We look forward to working with you. For further information please see the attached Project Overview.

Yours faithfully

ALAN GOODMAN

Contracted Services Manager



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Picture Books to Shout About: West Sussex Children's Picture Book Award 2019-20

Project Overview

Objectives:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes to reading and reading for enjoyment.
- To develop pupils' visual literacy, critical thinking, listening and speaking skills through the sharing of books and discussion.
- To increase teachers' knowledge of new books and promote quality texts.
- To promote library membership, fostering a reading habit for life by encouraging family use of the library.

Scope:

- The West Sussex Children's Picture Book Award is available to all West Sussex schools.
- Both infant and junior pupils can participate. There will be one shortlist but the detail regarding the criteria for evaluation will be different for the two age ranges, allowing pupils to discuss and evaluate the books at an appropriate level.

How do we participate?

- Schools may choose to participate as a class, book group or whole school.
- Schools will be required to register their participation in the project online.
- Schools may choose to read, share and champion the shortlisted books as they wish.
- A set of guidance notes and criteria for evaluation to help discussion will be provided in the briefing pack.
- The online voting entitlement will be one vote per group. Schools will be expected to use their vote to reflect the collective views of their group and meet the published deadline for submission of votes.



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- The winning author will be invited to West Sussex in the summer term 2020. School groups will be invited to sessions in local libraries subject to the author's availability.

What is the timescale?

- **September 2019** - Schools invited to participate. **Deadline for response is 30th September.**
- **October** – The longlist is shared with an invited locality group of teachers invited to a meeting to select the shortlist.
- **October half-term** - Shortlist is announced and books ordered for schools. Books delivered to schools in late November, along with briefing packs.
- **December-February half-term** - Schools to champion books and vote for the book they think should win the Book Award. **The deadline for votes is the end of Friday 14th February 2020.**
- Winner is announced on **World Book Day Thursday 5th March 2020.**
- Winning author to be invited to West Sussex in the **Summer Term 2020.** School groups will be invited to sessions in local libraries subject to the author's availability.

Cost:

One Book Award pack costs £75 for schools with a 2019/21 Schools Library Service SLA and £95 for schools without an SLA. Schools can order multiple packs if they wish. The Book Award pack contains:

- Two copies of each of the 4 shortlisted books.
- Briefing sheets: information about the book/authors/project timescales/ points for discussion/criteria for evaluating picture books/how to involve junior pupils.
- Copy of the longlist, together with an order form to enable schools to purchase these through the Schools Library Service Book Purchase Scheme.
- 100 bookmarks.

Access provided to:

- Online voting.
- Specially-designed class visits to the local library.



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- A closed Facebook group to share ideas with other participating schools.
- Opportunities to meet the winning author (subject to availability).



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