

Welcome to our Reading for Pleasure Guide

It contains a summary of all the Children's Books and Reading Promotion Department's projects and initiatives, to help empower you to promote and encourage a love of reading and books.

We have also included links where you can access further ideas and resources to help further inspire and engage.

We hope that this folder can also act as a useful place to keep all your related reading promotion materials, as well as future project updates and campaigns from us.

Remember to subscribe to our newsletter to learn more about our projects, events and new books for you and your students to enjoy – along with competitions for a chance to win prizes for your school! Email Francesca to join the mailing list:

francesca.sciarrillo@books.wales

Scan here for a digital version.





Teachers Love Reading

This project is primarily about nurturing a love of reading amongst teaching professionals, so that they can then inspire their pupils to do the same.

This pilot scheme is open to teachers from Key Stage 2, but as the books on the discussion list are suitable for Years 5 and 6, we will give priority to teachers who teach at this age. Initially, this pilot is only open to Welsh-medium schools.

Key Benefits

- Supporting the objectives at the heart of Curriculum for Wales.
- Enable and encourage schools to embrace a whole school ethos that places reading for pleasure at its core.
- Raise teachers' confidence when discussing and recommending books from Wales.
- Provide opportunities for teaching professionals to engage, enjoy and explore the benefits of reading for pleasure.
- Nurture a love of reading and develop their own empathy skills.

Taking Part

This pilot will establish three regional Teacher Reading Groups, with the primary aim of enabling teachers to further develop their skills and confidence to discuss and enjoy literature – inspiring them to enjoy reading and discussing literature in class.

There will be a requirement for those teachers/schools that wish to participate in this project to commit to embedding reading for pleasure within their weekly timetables. For example, they will need to demonstrate that they have implemented regular shared reading sessions of approximately 20–30 minutes on selected texts with pupils.

There will be four reading group sessions in each region during the 2023–24 academic year to discuss the books on the reading list. A facilitator would then lead the sessions and encourage participation from all members. Funding will be provided to cover supply costs so that the teachers are able to take part in the sessions during normal working hours during the week.

Each school taking part in the reading group will receive a pack of carefully selected books, ranging from fiction books, factual books, poetry, graphic novels and incorporating different genres.

Contact

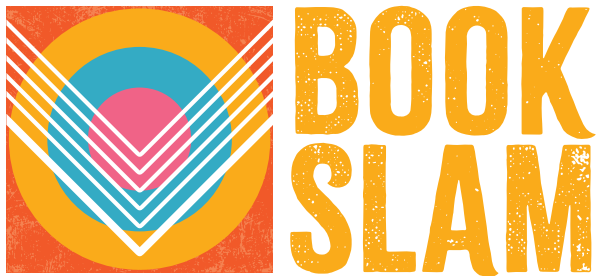
Shoned Mererid Davies
shoned.davies@books.wales

Timeline / Key Dates

- 4 reading group sessions in each region during the 2023–24 academic year
- 4 reading group sessions in each region during the 2024–25 academic year

Associated Resources

llyfrau.cymru/en/ysgolion/teachers-love-reading/



The Big Welsh Read pilot scheme has now come to an end and has been replaced by the BookSlam. This is an annual project that encourages young readers from Years 3 to 6 to read for pleasure, discuss the books they read, and enjoy preparing a creative video as a group or class, based on one of the books on the reading list.

The BookSlam competition is open to Years 3 to 6, and teachers are free to choose whether they would like to participate with whole classes or with reading groups.

Schools will need to choose one book from the list to discuss and another to present as an advertisement. A county round will be held under the care of the county organisers, and the winners will go on to the national round in the summer term.

The winning school will win a special trophy and one of the following:

- 1st Prize – £200 worth of books
- 2nd Prize – £150 worth of books
- 3rd Prize – £100 worth of books

Key Benefits

- Encourage children to get hooked on reading and enjoy good books.
- Cultivate positive and long-term attitudes towards reading.
- Support the development of emotional literacy and nurture key skills such as communication and analysis.
- Support the requirements of the Curriculum by offering a variety of activities to individuals and groups across the Areas of Learning and Experience.
- Promote and raise awareness of books, authors and illustrators.
- Celebrate exceptional quality in the field of children's literature.

Contact

Francesca Sciarrillo
francesca.sciarrillo@books.wales

Timeline / Key Dates

- Register with your local organiser by the end of December.
- County rounds to be completed by the end of May.
- National round in Aberystwyth during the summer term.

Associated Resources

A resources pack with ideas and activities in PDF format will be available to schools in the autumn term.





The Books Council of Wales' Children's Books Department has a specific podcast for young readers of secondary school age. Special guests – including authors and illustrators – will discuss all kinds of matters related to literature and the world of books for teenagers. The purpose of the podcast is to spark a passion for reading among young people outside of the classroom and create the opportunity for young people to discuss and consider potential career paths within the book industry in Wales.

Key Benefits

- Encourage young people to see books and reading as a form of entertainment that supports well-being, taking literature outside the classroom.
- Sparking interesting and fun conversations based on books from publishers in Wales, among young people.
- Encourage young people to get hooked on reading and enjoy good books.
- Cultivate positive and long-term attitudes towards reading.
- Promote and raise awareness of books, authors and illustrators.
- Celebrate exceptional quality in the field of children's literature.

Contact

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Timeline / Key Dates

- A new episode will be published and added to our social media pages and website each term.
-

Associated Resources

Visit our social media pages or www.ypod.cymru to discover every episode of our podcast.

Education Projects Manager



The Education Project Manager can help teachers and librarians keep their finger on the pulse of the publishing world, as well as keep up to date with the latest books and resources which support the National Curriculum in Wales.

As part of the service, I travel throughout Wales visiting primary and secondary schools to display books and educational materials and collect orders. These exhibitions provide teachers with an excellent opportunity to browse the books, as well as receive advice and assistance.

Key Benefits

- Looking for reading material in Welsh or English.
- Looking for books from and about Wales.
- Looking for resources to support the curriculum.
- Looking for information about the latest books and resources.

You can do all this as well as receive advice and experienced assistance from me.

Taking Part

You can arrange a visit to your school or invite a cluster of schools to one location to browse the books and latest resources.

You can contact me to get specific lists emailed to you.

I also attend education conferences across Wales.

If you have any queries, don't be afraid to ask – I will try my best to find the answer for you.



Contact

Shoned Mererid Davies
shoned.davies@books.wales

Associated Resources

I have teachers' resources and information to share with you to support various schemes.



This campaign encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge, so that they don't read less over the summer.

Presented by The Reading Agency and delivered by public libraries, each year the challenge motivates over 700,000 children across Britain to keep reading in order to build their skills and confidence. In Wales the Books Council of Wales supports the Summer Reading Challenge through direct funding from the Welsh Government.

Each year the Summer Reading Challenge has a new theme.

Key Benefits

You can make a huge difference by encouraging your pupils to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, because it:

- Significantly improves reading confidence and independence.
- Ensures pupils are ready for their return to school.
- Aids the successful transition between year groups and key stages.
- Contributes to all pupils' achievement, regardless of reading level.
- Encourages extra-curricular activity and family engagement with reading.
- Develops links between your school, the library and the wider community.

Taking Part

Children can register to take part in the challenge in person through the local library or online via the website

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

In order to complete the challenge, they will need to read at least six books. They can choose to read anything – stories, non-fiction books, or listen to audio books.

As the children take part in the challenge, they will unlock prizes and incentives such as stickers and more, and receive a medal and certificate if they successfully complete the challenge.

Contact

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shoned.davies@books.wales

Timeline / Key Dates

- The challenge usually starts in public libraries in Wales on the second weekend of July and runs until September.
- The website can be accessed throughout the year, but children can take part in the Summer Reading Challenge online from June to September.

Associated Resources

If they participate through the local library, they will receive official materials on the annual theme, when they register to take part.

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk – loads of inspiration for what to read, activities, games and more.



Caru Darllen Ysgolion Schools Love Reading



BOOK GIFTING – PUPIL

As part of the Schools Love Reading campaign, every pupil in a state school in Wales, aged 3 to 16 years old, has received a book to keep. Primary schools have received a supply of free books to be given as an individual gift to every pupil, and pupils in secondary schools were given a special book token to allow them to choose their own book to keep.

BOOK GIFTING – SCHOOL

In this part of the Schools Love Reading project, we gave you a selection of books introducing diversity, specifically for your use at the school. This is an excellent way of giving the school library a boost, or, if you don't have a school library, this would be an excellent chance to start one, or set up a dedicated reading area.

Key Benefits

- Ignite a love of reading.
- Give each pupil aged 3 to 16 years old in a state school in Wales the chance to have their own book to keep.
- Give schools the initiative to create a reading corner or school library to promote reading for pleasure.

Contact

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Timeline / Key Dates

BOOK GIFTING – PUPIL

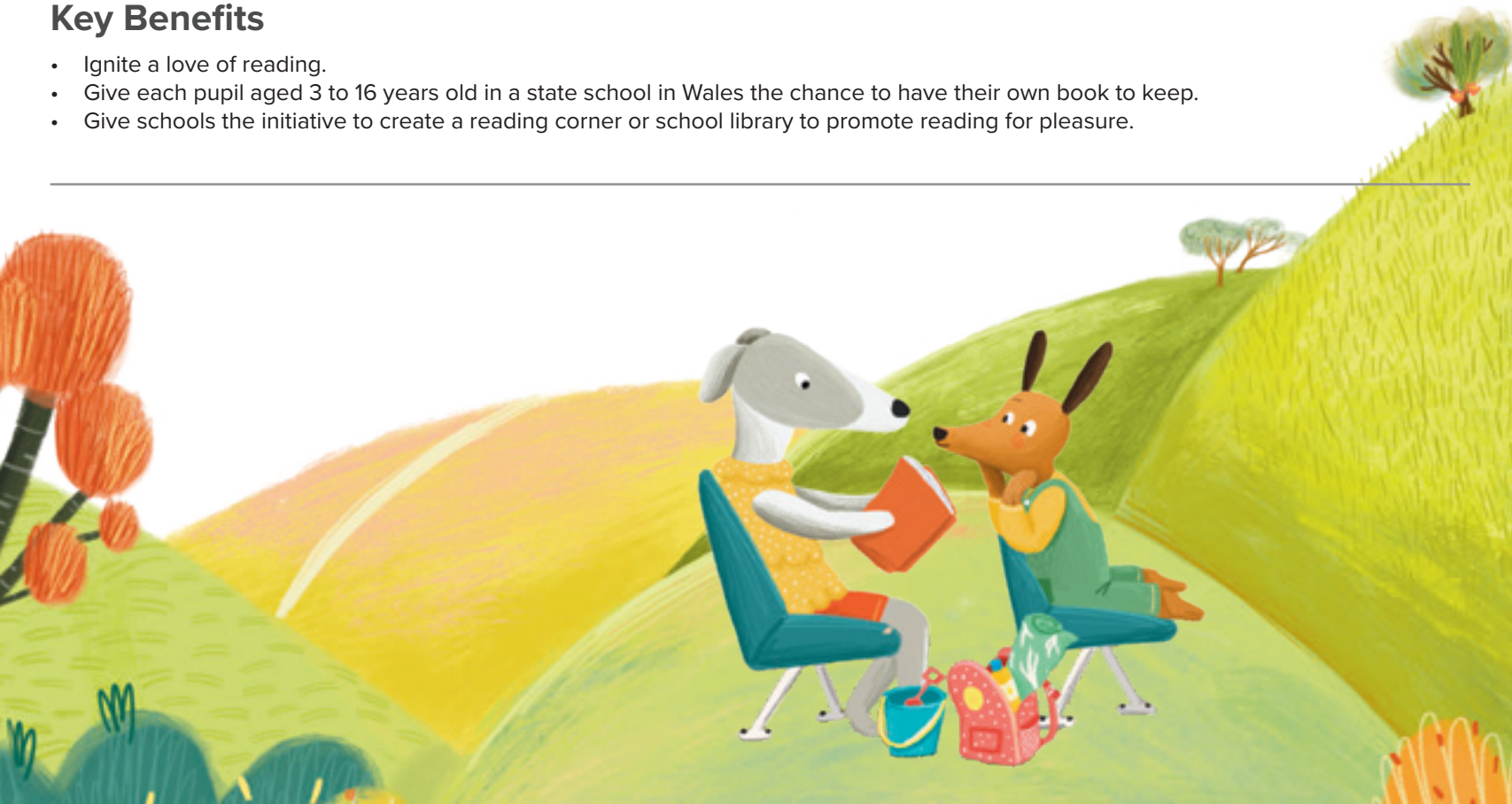
- distributed between April 2022 and April 2023

BOOK GIFTING – SCHOOL

- distributed between April 2023 and December 2023

Associated Resources

We have reading lists and blogs on our website to support the project
llyfrau.cymru/en/ysgolion/schools-love-reading/





Tir na n-Og
GWOBRAU • AWARDS

Cynllun Cysgodi •
Shadowing Scheme

The Tir na n-Og Shadowing Scheme aims to raise awareness of the shortlisted books amongst young readers whilst they read and discuss them with like-minded peers.

During 2023, we were excited to introduce a new element to the scheme: the Readers' Choice Award. This is a special award chosen by children and young people who take part in the shadowing scheme.



Key Benefits

- Encourage reading and enjoying good books.
- Celebrating exceptional quality in the field of children's and young people's literature.
- Promote and raise awareness of books, authors and illustrators.
- Cultivate discussion and analysis skills.

Taking Part

Schools, libraries and other children's reading groups can register to take part and be unofficial judges to choose a winner from the shortlisted books, with the guidance of the shadowing pack. The shadowing pack includes a summary of the books, comments from the official judges, information about the authors, games, and voting cards.

After registering to take part in the shadowing scheme you will be sent a copy of the shortlisted books in the post and an electronic copy of the shadowing pack. We will work with libraries to encourage them to order enough books to encourage schools to take part in the scheme.

Children will be able to take part in the Shadowing Scheme which is open to schools across Wales. Pupils in the Shadowing Scheme will be able to choose their favourite books from the short list, independently to the judges' winning books.

The Books Council of Wales will buy sets of the shortlisted books for the first 30 participating schools that register to take part in the Shadowing Scheme. Discount terms are agreed in advance with the shortlisted publishers.

Contact

Francesca Sciarrillo
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Timeline / Key Dates

- March – shortlists announced and launch of the retail campaign and shelter scheme
- Last week before Whitsun – schools vote for the Readers' Choice category
- End of May / beginning of June – winners announced

Associated Resources

Primary and Secondary Packages available here
llyfrau.cymru/en/gwobrau/tir-na-nog/tir-na-n-og-shadowing-scheme/

DIWRNOD Y
LLYFR
WORLD
BOOK
DAY



DARLUNIAU GAN /
ILLUSTRATED BY
VIVIAN
TRUONG

World Book Day is an annual celebration at the beginning of March, to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have their own book. By celebrating books and reading, World Book Day inspires children and families to consider themselves readers and to read together more regularly.

Designated by UNESCO as a global celebration of books and reading, World Book Day is celebrated in over 100 countries around the world. World Book Day is a charity sponsored by National Book Tokens. The Books Council of Wales and the Welsh Government support the campaign in Wales.

Key Benefits

- Encourage reading for pleasure and celebrate the joy of books, authors, illustrators and readers.
- Transform attitudes and change behaviour by providing content to promote reading for pleasure.
- Ensuring that all children get to choose their own book with the £1 World Book Day books.
- A £1 book token for each child to choose a World Book Day £1 book.



Taking Part

Anyone can organize a World Book Day celebration, for inspiration and great ideas to celebrate reading and having fun with books you can browse through the Ideas Pack or explore worldbookday.com

Thanks to the work of National Book Tokens, together with publishers and booksellers, World Book Day distributes over 15 million book tokens worth £1/€1.50 across the UK and Ireland each year through schools, nurseries, libraries, prisons and other charities. In addition, it is possible to download the one-off digital ticket from the World Book Day website (worldbookday.com).

Tickets can be exchanged for any £1 book during the official World Book Day campaign (check the exact dates on the website) in bookshops, chain bookshops and selected supermarkets. It is also possible to use them as a contribution of £1/€1.50 towards any other book.

Contact

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shoned.davies@books.wales

Timeline / Key Dates

- Register by the end of October to receive a pack of World Book Day resources.
- Resource packs distributed by the end of February.
- World Book Day in the UK is celebrated on the first Thursday of March each year. You can also celebrate on a different day which is convenient for you as a school.

Associated Resources

- Posters
- Ideas and templates pack
- Battle Cards
- More fun and colourful resources full of ideas about how to celebrate on books.wales/en/digwyddiadau-arbennig/diwrnod-y-lyfr/ and worldbookday.com
- A series of £1 books published annually for the campaign - worldbookday.com/books/



Focus Groups in Secondary Schools



Our Reading Promotion Officer, Francesca, is able to visit secondary schools to host focus groups and hear the views of young readers about what makes them excited about books and reading. In addition to this, the focus groups are a great opportunity to help us tackle any concerns and enable us to fill any gaps highlighted by the students who participate.

This is an invaluable opportunity to discuss and suggest potential books to readers based on their interests. And, as a result, findings and feedback from the focus groups will be reported back to the publishers and will be beneficial to us at the Books Council as we continue to develop projects.

Key Benefits

- An opportunity for young people to share and express their opinions and thoughts about the current and future literature scene in Wales.
- Strengthen understanding of the literature industry in Wales, including the creation and sale of books.
- Share information about opportunities to work in the book industry and the different jobs available for people who enjoy reading or feel passionate about literature.
- Encourage children to get hooked on reading and enjoy a good book.
- Cultivate positive and long-term attitudes towards reading.
- Promote and raise awareness of books, authors and illustrators.
- Celebrate exceptional quality in the field of children's literature.



Contact

Francesca Sciarrillo
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07377170572

Timeline / Key Dates

Visits are available every school term. Secondary schools are welcome to contact Francesca directly by email or phone.



Cylchoedd Meithrin throughout Wales will receive a special list of 5 books suitable for children aged 0–5 each school term. The lists will include appealing, engaging and impressive books of a high standard that will nurture young childrens’ visual and literacy skills. This is also a special opportunity to raise awareness of suitable and appealing books for children under 5 years of age within non-Welsh speaking families.

Key Benefits

- Encourage babies and young children to get hooked on books.
- Support the development of both listening and literacy skills.
- Ensure opportunities for young children to be immersed in the Welsh language.
- Support parents to gain confidence using Welsh with their children if they do not already have a strong understanding of the Welsh language.
- Promote and raise awareness of books, authors and illustrators.
- Celebrate exceptional quality in the field of children’s literature.



Contact

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Timeline / Key Dates

- The lists will be shared per term with Cylchoedd Meithrin in order to equip practitioners with an awareness of current books relating to a variety of themes.

RHYNGOM

PLETHU POBL DRWY LYFRAU

Our vision for this project is to create new reading for pleasure content for 3–16-year-old readers, that will provide an insight into Wales' history, culture and people, help to develop their empathy skills, support their health and well-being, and aid the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales.

There are four strands to the project:

- Strand 1: Publish Welsh adaptations of 28 English titles which promote and celebrate diversity.
- Strand 2: Publish 10 original Welsh and English books that celebrate diversity from a Welsh perspective.
- Strand 3: Provide educational resources based on the books.
- Strand 4: Coordinate a book-gifting scheme for primary and secondary schools in Wales.

Taking Part

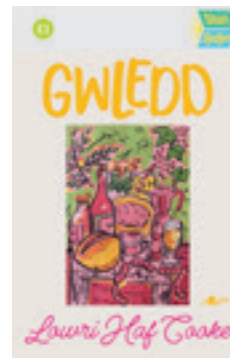
At the heart of our vision for this project is a panel of individuals representing various communities in Wales, such as BAMEd Cymru, Diversity and Anti-Racism Professional Learning (DARPL), and Black Welsh History, to help select the titles for adaptation, and to advise us on authors and ideas for original books. We have also consulted with educational experts and individuals in Wales who have been influential ambassadors in their fields.

Contact

Delyth Ifan
delyth.ifan@books.wales

Timeline / Key Dates

- **OCTOBER 2024**
Publish 10 original books in Welsh and English
 - **MARCH 2025**
Publish 28 Welsh adaptations
 - **JUNE 2025**
Publish printed educational resources based on the adaptations, and digital resources based on the original books
 - **SEPTEMBER 2025**
Pack and distribute copies of the books to the books to schools in Wales
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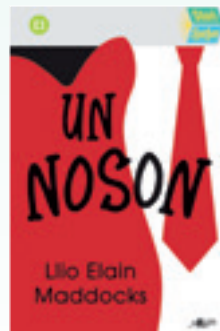
With one in six adults still struggling to read, the Quick Reads campaign aims to break down barriers and offer a series of short, engaging books which appeal to readers of all tastes and reading abilities – and they're only £1 each. One of the main aims of the Quick Reads series is to encourage readers who are less confident in their reading abilities to pick up a book.

Key Benefits

- Quick Reads have a positive impact on attitudes towards reading, confidence, literacy and engagement in learning.
- Improved attitudes towards reading for pleasure.
- Improved literacy skills.
- Increased reading confidence.

Taking Part

The books are available from libraries, bookshops and online for just £1. They are also available as e-books on ffolio.wales



Contact

Delyth Ifan
delyth.ifan@books.wales

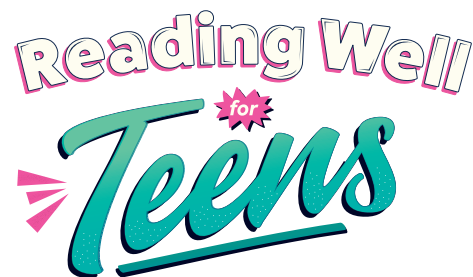
Timeline / Key Dates

- Four new titles are published annually as part of the Quick Reads series, two Welsh-language titles and two English-language titles.

Associated Resources

books.wales/en/cyfresi-arbennig/mwynhau-darllen/stori-sydyn/

DARLLEN YN WELL READING WELL



Contact

darllenywell@books.wales

Timeline / Key Dates

- Welsh-language titles were delivered in Wales as part of Reading Well for dementia in 2018, Reading Well for mental health in 2019, Reading Well for children in 2020–21, and Reading Well for Teenagers in 2022.
- The 2023–24 Darllen yn Well scheme will see more books on dementia being published.

The Reading Well scheme is led by The Reading Agency and aims to support people to understand and manage their health and well-being using helpful reading.

The books are all recommended by health experts, as well as people with lived experience of the conditions and topics covered and their relatives and carers.

You can be recommended a title by a health professional, or you can visit your local library and take a book out yourself.

In Wales, the Book Council of Wales is working with The Reading Agency to ensure titles are available in the Welsh language, and the Welsh Government is supporting The Reading Agency to deliver Reading Well in all 22 library authorities in Wales.

Key Benefits

- The books provide quality-assured information, stories and advice.



Associated Resources

books.wales/en/cyfresi-arbennig/iechyd-a-meddwlgarwch/darllenywell/

GWOBR MARY VAUGHAN JONES AWARD



Anyone who has contributed extensively to the field of children's books in Welsh over a period of years, whether as an author, artist, bookseller, librarian or officer can be considered.

The award was presented in 2021 to Menna Lloyd Williams, the first head of the Children's Books Department at the Books Council of Wales, for a contribution which has been key to the development of children's and young people's books in Wales.

Taking Part

Anyone who has contributed extensively to the field of children's books in Welsh over a period of years, whether as an author, artist, bookseller, librarian or officer can be considered.

For someone who has contributed mainly as part of their role it would be necessary to demonstrate that the contribution is truly exceptional and goes beyond the general requirements of a salaried post.

The Mary Vaughan Jones Award is the highest honour in the field of children's books in Wales and should be considered the crowning glory of the winner's career. Individual award winners, such as the Tir na n-Og Award, should not be excluded when considering merit for this honour.

Contact

cllc.plant@llyfrau.cymru

Timeline / Key Dates

- The award is given every three years.

Associated Resources

books.wales/en/gwobrau/gwobr-mary-v-jones/

Children's Yearbook and Young Adults' Yearbook

We have curated a fantastic selection of books for children and young adults for the annual Yearbooks, and they present so many new and exciting reading opportunities, showcasing new titles published in Wales – in Welsh, in English and bilingually.

From colourful board books to gritty YA novels, there is something here for every age and interest as well as a comprehensive list of resources available to support learners on their educational journey.

The variety of content includes titles published in Wales with our support and reflects the varied interests and tastes of young readers. You can also access them in e-book format from the dedicated digital platform ffolio.cymru.

There are of course many more books for children and young adults than are featured and we can share the details of all available titles from Wales with you, so please do get in touch if you are interested.

Taking Part

Take a look at our gwales.com website where you'll also find a wealth of reviews to help you choose. All the titles are available to buy through your local bookseller, with many offering online ordering and postal deliveries or click and collect services.



Contact

cllc.plant@llyfrau.cymru

Timeline / Key Dates

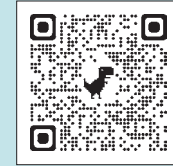
- The Yearbooks are curated and published annually.

Associated Resources

books.wales/en/lovereading/catalogau/yearbook/

Cynefin

Scan here for a digital version



llyfrau.cymru/map-cymru-in-english/

A valuable resource for schools to teach about the local area and cynefin. Here is a map of English volumes corresponding to specific areas.



Partner projects

Bardd Plant Cymru

Bardd Plant Cymru is a national role that is awarded to a Welsh poet every two years. The aim of the role is to inspire and fire the imagination of children across Wales through various poetry workshops and projects.

literaturewales.org/our-projects/bardd-plant-cymru/

Children's Laureate Wales

The Children's Laureate Wales is a national ambassadorial role which aims to inspire and empower children and young people across Wales through literature. Founded in 2019, the role is awarded every two years to a talented and visionary Wales-based writer who is passionate about ensuring more children and young people discover the joy and well-being benefits of engaging with literature.

Libraries

You can join your local library free of charge, and completely hassle-free. We collaborate with libraries to promote the Tir na n-Og Awards and the Summer Reading Challenge. To find out more about your local library go to

libraries.wales

BookTrust Cymru

BookTrust Cymru works to inspire a love of reading in children. Their work supports every family in Wales from their child's first year of life right through to the end of their Reception year in school, starting with the gift of two BookTrust books in the Bookstart Baby pack.

Mudiad Meithrin

Together with the Mudiad Meithrin we have established the '5 dan 5' scheme. The aim of the scheme is to promote Welsh and bilingual books among the Mudiad's families and stakeholders. It is a great opportunity to celebrate the wealth of wonderful books available for young children and their families while learning Welsh vocabulary.

Empathy Lab

EmpathyLab is the first organisation to build children's empathy, literacy and social activism through a systematic use of high-quality literature. Their strategy builds on new scientific evidence showing the power of reading to build real-life empathy skills. They believe that empathy is a beacon of hope in a divided world.

Gwales

Looking for a book to support your theme this term? Use the 'Advanced Search' on gwales.com

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 [@LlyfrDaFabBooks](https://www.facebook.com/LlyfrDaFabBooks)

 [@LlyfrDaFabBooks](https://twitter.com/LlyfrDaFabBooks)