

Every term, we share the latest news from the [Read On Nottingham](#) campaign and other literacy-focused activities across the city.

Read On Nottingham campaign activity



100 Reads

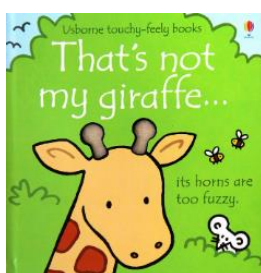
At the beginning of the year, Nottingham City Council led a successful Ambitious campaign called 'Big Reader? Big Future' to encourage children to read for pleasure and demonstrate that it can have a positive effect on mental health and improve academic and career outcomes.

As part of the campaign Read On Nottingham asked the city's primary school pupils, library visitors and social media users to nominate their favourite children's books to create a list of Nottingham's top 100 Reads.

After distributing around 5,000 postcards, Read On Nottingham collated a list split into four age categories of 0-6, 7+, 10+ and 12+. The titles classics such as *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Alice in Wonderland* and more modern choices such as *Gangsta Granny*, *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Dinosaur that Pooped a Planet*.

The school that submitted the highest number of entries was Bluebell Hill Primary School in St Anns, who will be presented with a bundle of books.

Read On Nottingham has designed a height chart featuring all the books to be displayed in every primary school and library in Nottingham. [It's also available to download now from the Read On Nottingham website.](#)



Usborne partnership

Read On Nottingham is working with publishers Usborne Children's Books and their *That's Not My...* series.

As well as building on our existing [Early Words Together at Two](#) programme, the project will also involve a series of community *That's Not My...* book-gifting events between July until September, where branded materials will also be available.



Business engagement

We're pleased that four Nottingham headquartered businesses, Innes England, Browne Jacobson, Experian and Addo Food Group have signed the National Literacy Trust's Vision for Literacy Pledge. This demonstrates their commitment to tackling the UK's literacy challenge in their workforces and local communities by contributing to national campaigns, bringing the nationwide total to 74.

Commercial Property Consultants, Innes England recently hosted pupils from Nottingham College as part of the [Words for Work](#) programme and received fantastic feedback from the teachers and students who took part:

- *“My students have gained so much from the event. I have seen my learners gain in confidence and be really inspired to go into the field of work.”*
- *“It helps you improve on your communication skills, can raise your confidence and give you the knowledge you need. It gives you clear ideas on what you need to do as an individual and what an employer may expect of you.”*
- *“I have learnt a lot about how to write a proper CV and email. I found it good as I feel a lot more confident.”*

Find out more about the [Vision for Literacy Pledge](#).



Literacy Champions

Read On Nottingham is looking to recruit up to 50 parents, business professionals, teachers, students, sports coaches or anyone passionate about making a difference in their local area to encourage people to make reading part of their everyday lives and something they enjoy.

Volunteering as a Literacy Champion is a great way to gain confidence, meet different kinds of people, learn new skills and become part of a community.

Contact our new Literacy Champions [Project Officer Lynne Towel](#) to find out more.

Early years

Councillor Mellen completes his Big Reading Challenge

Congratulations to newly-elected council lead, Councillor David Mellen on completing his Big Reading Challenge in support of the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#).



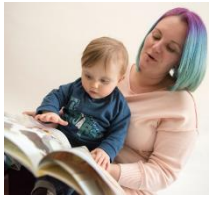
During the 50 day challenge Councillor Mellen read to children in schools, libraries, theatres, bookshops, taxis and the main city council chamber. He even read to children at the top of a windmill.

The final statistics for the Big Reading Challenge were:

- 6,504 children read to in Nottingham
- 166 stories read
- 75 locations
- £5,238 raised (to date)

Reaching his fundraising target means Councillor Mellen has raised enough money to provide 2,500 free books for children – or the equivalent of a whole class of 40 children being able to receive a free book from birth to the age of five!

Although the fundraising target has been reached, donations can still be made on [David's fundraising page](#).



Small Steps Big Changes annual event: 'Our Early Development'

This year's Small Steps Big Changes annual event will take place on Thursday 13 June at Nottingham Conference Centre, with a theme focusing on early social, emotional and language development in babies and young children.

This event is a free and will feature a full day of speakers, including Helen Moylett, an independent early years consultant and writer and Dr Caspar Addyman, a developmental psychologist and director of the Goldsmiths InfantLab. There will also be an opportunity for delegates to take part in two masterclasses.

[Confirm your place now.](#)

Schools



Literacy Volunteers – finding your reading super power

On 30 April Literacy Volunteers came together for an inspirational Alphabeasts training session to capture children's imagination and build reading confidence.

The volunteers heard from Katie Murray who uses the [Alphabeasts](#) to develop children as happy, confident readers. The training helped the reading volunteers to understand a variety of reading strategies.

For more information on volunteering in schools contact Literacy Volunteers on 0115 8765474 or visit www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk or [take a look at their newsletter](#).

Take part in the Annual Literacy Survey to win a bundle of books



We're looking for schools to enter the National Literacy Trust's Annual Literacy Survey before 12 July. The survey has a ten-year track record of gaining pupil insight, which results in new projects and programme for schools such as work with performance poets and rappers to our work with the Football Association and Rugby League.

The survey, which only takes pupils about 20 minutes, gathers information about how your pupils view different types of literacy, what encouragement they get at home and what motivates them. In return for taking part, schools will receive a personalised report and the chance to win a bundle of 10 new children's books for their library.

To take part email Anne anne.teravainen-goff@literacytrust.org.uk.

National Writing Day



National Writing Day, which takes place on 26 June, is devoted to celebrating the power and pleasure of creative writing. This year it aims to get even more young people writing for fun.

With a dedicated #WriteAway activity and free teaching resources created especially for National Writing Day, there are lots of ideas to get your students started. You can share how your young writers get on with the tags #NationalWritingDay and #WriteAway on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

[Find out more and download your free teaching pack.](#)



Strange Creatures

Strange Creatures, a theatre production for four to seven-year-olds that gently explores friendship, communication and belonging, is coming soon to Nottingham libraries.

Inspired by Alexis Deacon's popular book *Beegu*, the piece follows three initially grumpy companions as they experience the ups and downs of friendship. Told through theatrical chamber music, the trio embark on a remarkable emotional journey from loneliness to joyful companionship.

The show will take place at Bulwell Library on 28 May between 10.30am and 1.30pm and Dales Library on 31 May at the same time.

Visit the [Nottingham City Libraries website](#), where tickets are £2 per person, or head to your local Nottingham City library.

If you would like us to include your literacy-focused activities in the next Read On Nottingham newsletter, [please get in touch](#).

Please [let us know](#) if you would no longer like to receive this newsletter and we will remove you from the list.