



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

Early years



We're pleased to announce that the National Literacy Trust's [Early Words Together at Two](#) programme is now taking place in **13 early years settings in Nottingham**.

The programme helps parents to support their two-year-old's language and communication development in the home learning environment and kicked off in in Aspley, Bulwell, St Ann's and Arboretum in September.

Dads Reading Selfies competition



Our latest competition, **Dads Reading Selfies**, encourages dads to take a picture as they read with their children and spread the message of reading for pleasure. Fathers can tweet the image using **#ReadOnNottingham** for a chance to win books and Nottingham Forest tickets. We've already received a few entries on Twitter and the competition will run throughout the autumn.

The competition was launched [at the Nottingham City Homes residents' fun day](#), where the Read On Nottingham team gave away **600 books** and bookmarks for free.

Find out more about the competition [this Nottingham Post article](#).

Literacy and wellbeing

To celebrate the launch of **new National Literacy Trust research which highlights the links between mental wellbeing, read and writing**, a special [whole-school assembly was held at Mellers Primary School](#).



Pupils learned ways that reading can help them to feel happier and enjoyed a performance from poet Dominic Berry, who inspired them to read and write in their free time.

All schools in Nottingham have access to free wellbeing-inspired teaching resources for primary and secondary schools created by the National Literacy Trust and Place2Be, including [book lists and assembly plans](#).

Business breakfast



Local businesses were invited to breakfast to find out about the [Read On Nottingham campaign](#) and to discuss the importance of literacy in maintaining the future prosperity of the city.

The event saw an impressive turnout of **48 delegates** from businesses including Addo Food Group, Uber, Capital One, Browne Jacobson, and the two local football clubs, Nottingham Forest FC and Notts County FC.

All attendees heard from MP from Nottingham North Alex Norris, who spoke on the role that literacy plays in the city and how they can support local programmes and initiatives.

Libraries news

This year, 3,200 children in Nottingham took part in the annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#), which encourages pupils to read at least six books over the summer holidays.

Ahead of the holidays, schools were invited to visit their local libraries to see the bench they had decorated as part of the Hoodwinked programme, hear from a professional storyteller and learn how to take part in the challenge. This extra promotion helped the libraries service to achieve some excellent results:



- Over **13,000 books** were read as part of the Challenge
- **45%** of the children who started the Challenge were boys, 55% girls
- **43 brilliant volunteers** helped to give out stickers and prize at summer events and medal ceremonies
- Over **1,000 children and their families attended ceremonies** to receive medals from local Councillors

Feedback included:

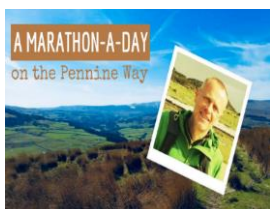
'It definitely encouraged my 6 year old to read longer books by himself and ensured he read over the holidays. I have seen his reading ability improve by reading 6 books in a short period of time.' –

Parent of children aged 3 and 6

'It was fun and exciting and I wasn't expecting a real medal!!!' – **Participant, aged 8**

For information about all our libraries and details about other activities for children and families please visit the [Nottingham libraries website](#).

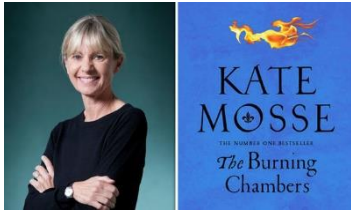
Dolly Parton Imagination Library



The leader of Nottingham City Council, Councillor Jon Collins has completed his charity challenge of walking a **Marathon-a-Day** on the Pennine Way in support of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

The Imagination Library is currently running in nine of Nottingham city's 20 wards but more funds are needed to extend it to the remaining 11 wards of the city. Setting off from Edale in Derbyshire, Councillor Collins walked the 267-mile Pennine Way trail to Kirk Yetholm in Scotland, walking on average around 26 miles a day.

Councillor Collins massively exceeded his original target of £2,670 – the total currently stands at an amazing **£6,205!** Please visit his [crowdfunding page](#) if you would like to make a donation.



To commemorate 100 years of the Suffrage Movement, join bestselling **novelist Kate Mosse and Director of Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature, Sandeep Mahal** in conversation about Kate's new novel, *The Burning Chambers* and the origins and future of the Women's Prize for Fiction.

The event takes place at the Nottingham Contemporary on Thursday 15 November from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and will be followed by book signing at the Five Leaves Bookshop.

[Book your place now.](#)

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.