



Changing life stories



# Welcome to Football School: Where Football Explains the World

## A World Cup project like no other!

Welcome to Football School, a cross-curricular resource to celebrate the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. Use this to inspire your Key Stage 2 pupils to write their very own non-fiction book, based on the Football School series by Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton.





**2018 FIFA World Cup**  
**Thursday 14 June – Sunday 15 July**



# Introduction

This flexible resource has been designed to fit and adapt easily to each school's curriculum needs. It aims to use the excitement and fanfare surrounding the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia to inspire your pupils' writing.

The project can be run in a number of different ways, as World Cup fever starts to take over your school!

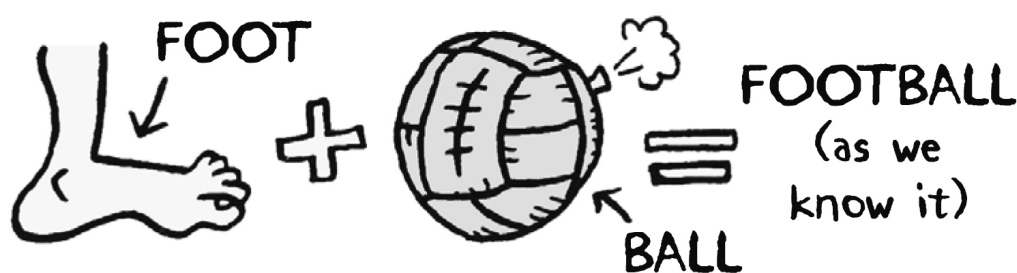
-  As a whole day of World Cup celebrations
-  As a daily activity over the course of a week, or a weekly activity throughout the duration of the World Cup, culminating in a class World Cup Football School book
-  As a competition where the winners are celebrated at a whole school assembly
-  As an exciting activity for Year 6 pupils after they've taken their SATs

## New to Football School?

Enter the world of Football School, where every lesson is about ... football! Written by Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttelton, this fictitious school is dedicated to all things football. The school timetable looks quite normal – the usual subjects appear, but each lesson is jam-packed with fascinating facts, stories and information which tie the subjects to football.

When do footballers poo? Can you play football on Mars? What is a magic sponge? You will find the answers to these questions and more in chapters on subjects such as science, history, geography and maths.

The best-selling and critically acclaimed books, shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award, are brilliantly illustrated by Spike Gerrell and a visual feast for primary readers. They are full of fabulous non-fiction features - including jokes, fact boxes, comic strips, diagrams, cartoons and tables – bringing the information alive. The authors are journalists, broadcasters and award-winning sports writers who add their infectious passion for football to the books.



Football School even has its own YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/FootballSchoolFacts](http://www.youtube.com/FootballSchoolFacts)

Meet the authors and find out about the books here: [www.footballschool.co](http://www.footballschool.co)

# The challenge!

Taking inspiration from the factual, fascinating and funny lessons in Alex and Ben's Football School books, you should challenge your pupils to create their very own Football School book. The project can be as big or as small as you want, with the book containing a single lesson on a specific subject, or multiple lessons on a range of subjects.

Encourage your pupils to think like journalists, statisticians, historians and explorers as they find out everything they can about the World Cup. What do they know about its history, the nations taking part and their different cultures and traditions? What are the countries' national anthems and famous football chants? Which stars are your pupils most excited to see play?

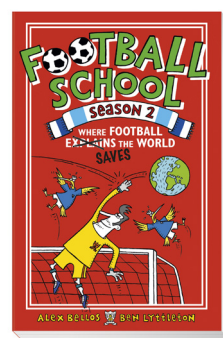
You can help your pupils with their research and give them some new lesson ideas to write about – we've got some ideas to get you started towards the end of this resource.

Pupils should aspire to the same high writing standards Alex and Ben set in their books. They should also think about how they can make their lessons look really exciting, with fun illustrations and surprising facts.

## Getting started

In the weeks leading up to the project, familiarise pupils with the books and introduce the coaches, Alex and Ben, and start to collect a list of their favourite non-fiction features. It would be a good idea to use the Football School titles as class readers to start building that World Cup fever!

You don't have to have a Football School book for each pupil, but a few copies, the fabulous website and the world of iPads, mirroring and visualisers should have you ready to go. We've also created a range of activity sheets to accompany this resource and to help get your pupils' creativity flowing: [literacytrust.org.uk/football-school](http://literacytrust.org.uk/football-school)



We've created this resource so that you can use it flexibly – from a single session to running activities and competitions throughout the whole tournament.

When the challenge is complete, your class will have an amazing range of work to share and shout about. It's important to celebrate your pupils' creativity and what they've achieved! Perhaps your class could create their very own World Cup Football School book which includes all of their lessons, or they could present their work at a whole-school assembly, which parents can attend.

### What about pupils who aren't football fans?

The genius of these books is that they have such a wide appeal that pupils don't need to be football fanatics to enjoy them! Although football is the jumping-off point, the historians, scientists, fashion designers, musicians and artists in your class all have plenty to capture their imaginations – from the design of Henry VIII's football boots, to the rise of the suffragette movement. These books can draw everyone in!



# Building your book: the essentials

## Cover story

First things first: pupils will need a project book/scrapbook or folder for their work. It is hugely motivating to have a special project book to work in. Drafting and editing are of course key skills, but presentation, especially where non-fiction is concerned, raises pupils' work to the next level as they create the design and layout for each page of their book.

Their book will need front and back covers, so get your pupils to think about how to bring their book, World Cup Football School, to life. Get your pupils to craft a blurb that will tempt others to read their book.

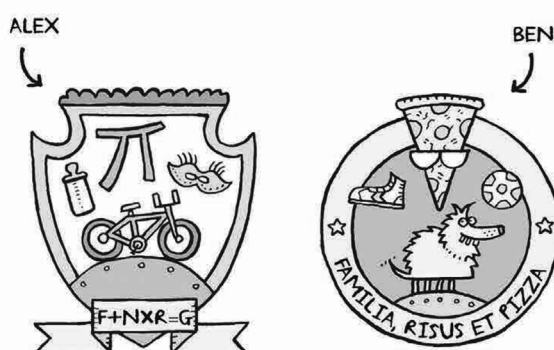
Pupils might even want to work in pairs like Alex and Ben, designing together and each contributing different lessons to their book. Collaboration can be a very powerful learning tool.

## School crest

Ask pupils to design their own football school crest or badge. Show them coats of arms, different symbols and mottos as examples. Pupils might take inspiration from their school badge or perhaps the crest of their favourite football team.

Pupils can also use Alex and Ben's very own football crests for guidance.

Here are our coats of arms  
with symbols and mottos  
that represent us.  
Use these for inspiration  
for your own.



Make up a few Latin sounding endings for authenticity! The title page of the very first Football School book has the motto: **KICKITO ERGO SUM** ('I kick therefore I am').

You might even want to create your own team mascot. Many teams have animals as their chosen mascots. These Football School activity sheets contain templates to help pupils design their own kit and mascot, and even have some fun quizzes: [www.footballschool.co/fun-stuff/activities](http://www.footballschool.co/fun-stuff/activities)

## Coach stats

Pupils will love to create their own “coach stats” for their school – their very own “player card” all about themselves. They can either make up their own headings or use the coach stats template we’ve created: [literacytrust.org.uk/football-school](http://literacytrust.org.uk/football-school).

To make it truly authentic, encourage them to draw a cartoon of themselves or print out a headshot photo.



## Timetable

Once pupils have decided which subjects they want to research and write about as their World Cup lessons, get them to create a contents page – which will be their school timetable.

## Quiz time!

One of the great things about the books is that after each lesson there is a mini quiz for the reader. Make sure that pupils know that after each lesson they write, they too will get to write a mini quiz for their readers.

Full disclosure – yes, this is a biology lesson, and it's on the subject of poo...

[www.footballschool.co/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Biology-Section-and-Quiz.pdf](http://www.footballschool.co/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Biology-Section-and-Quiz.pdf)

Once complete, get your pupils to challenge each other to see who will become the football quiz champion. Take a look at an example chapter from the first Football School book in the series to see how the quiz and star pupil section might work.

Parents, siblings and other classes will also enjoy sharing the quiz challenges!

## Writing enjoyment top tips

Writing non-fiction can be great fun. Here are our top tips to help your pupils get the most out of their World Cup Football School experience:

- Each lesson should be packed with information but presented in an engaging, accessible way. So layout and design are going to be key
- Once pupils have their content, encourage them to edit, draft and arrange their content for presentation to their readers
- Using the list of your pupils' favourite non-fiction features from the Football School books, allow them plenty of time for illustrations, cartoons, joke boxes and more
- Don't forget to entertain your pupils! Encourage them to think about the style of the Football School books. Can they find interesting or quirky facts linked to their chosen lessons? Can they invent jokes linked to their subject? Can they come up with quiz questions to bamboozle their classmates?
- We've created a checklist for your pupils to use to make sure they've included everything they need to create their lesson. This is a great way to encourage independence. You can download the checklist here: [literacytrust.org.uk/football-school](http://literacytrust.org.uk/football-school)

# World Cup lesson content

## Pupil-led enquiry

- One of the biggest motivators for writing is choice. This project encourages pupils to be led by their own interests and ideas to research and write lessons which they think will intrigue and engage their peers
- Modelling is key: we have the original Football School books for guidance and to show the style we're after
- Reading comprehension, research skills, note-taking, critical literacy and creativity all come into play as pupils define and plan the area they want to write about, and create their lessons
- The books cover a vast range of subjects from core curriculum subjects like maths and science, as well as broader topics such as politics and philosophy and pupils can choose any subject they like. Example suggestions in this resource cover a range of national curriculum subjects, but if you have a pupil who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of astronomy, for example, and they can link it to the World Cup, let them go for it!
- The length of the lessons will depend on the age of the pupils and how much time you have assigned to the project

## Ideas library

It can be hard to come up with ideas of what to write about. Here are some ideas to get your pupils started. They might want to choose one of these to explore or use as a starting point to develop a line of enquiry and research.

Alternatively they might want to start with their favourite subject area. It's good to think about things they'd like to know about – raising questions is always a good place to start.

Subject area	World Cup lesson ideas
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The history of the World Cup</li><li>Pick your favourite of the 32 participating countries and explore the history of football in that country. Find all teams here: <a href="http://www.fifa.com/worldcup">www.fifa.com/worldcup</a></li><li>World Cup legends: create a 'who's who?' of World Cup legends from past competitions</li><li>Explore the history of The FA – our country's national football association and the world's oldest (there's a fascinating fact for you!): <a href="http://www.thefa.com/about-football-association/what-we-do/history">www.thefa.com/about-football-association/what-we-do/history</a></li><li>Then and now: legends from previous World Cups who are playing a role in the 2018 World Cup</li></ul>
<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A lesson on participating countries and their capital cities. What are their famous landmarks, characteristics, populations, climates?</li><li>Where in the world? Find out which continent each of the participating nations in the World Cup belong to. How do the continents differ?</li><li>Hello Russia! A study of the host nation, its rivers, coasts, physical landmarks, climate, and key World Cup cities</li><li>A greener World Cup? Find out more about the impact the 2018 World Cup in Russia will have on the climate: <a href="http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/climate-action/index.html">www.fifa.com/worldcup/climate-action/index.html</a></li></ul>

<b>Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats around the world: how many different habitats are represented by the 32 countries taking part in the World Cup? Which countries have similar habitats?</li> <li>Weather around the world: which teams are used to which types of weather? What will summer in Russia be like? And how will the different teams cope throughout the tournament?</li> <li>How do World Cup winners stay fit and healthy?</li> <li>Which animals are associated with each national team?</li> </ul>
<b>Art and design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pick your favourite team in the World Cup and research famous artists and art works from that country. Are there famous sculptures and are any of them outside football stadiums?</li> <li>Learn about the new Russian art installation in Volgograd which celebrates the World Cup: <a href="http://www.welcome2018.com/en/journal/materials/a_2018_world_cup_installation_erected_in_central_volgograd/">www.welcome2018.com/en/journal/materials/a_2018_world_cup_installation_erected_in_central_volgograd/</a></li> <li>Who are the famous architects and designers from the country of your favourite World Cup team?</li> </ul>
<b>Design and technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn how to design a team logo or football kit. Are there famous designers who have national kits to their name?</li> <li>Find out about the design of the new “green” Luzhniki stadium in Moscow, which will host the opening game and the final of the 2018 World Cup</li> <li>Designed for success: what is special about the designs for match balls that will be used in the World Cup and the latest football boots the stars will be wearing? Can technology and design help you win the World Cup?</li> <li>Dishes of the world: what do your favourite teams like to eat? Do they have a national dish?</li> </ul>
<b>Music</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the favourite songs of each nation in the World Cup? Is it their national anthems, or are there other songs and chants for which they are famous?</li> <li>What is the history of your chosen team’s national anthem?</li> <li>Are there countries that are famous for different types of instruments or music?</li> </ul>
<b>Maths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It’s a numbers game: goals scored, shots on target, fouls committed, kilometres covered, passing accuracy, goal difference – the statistical possibilities provided by the World Cup are endless!</li> <li>A long way from home: how far have the teams travelled from their home nation to get to Russia?</li> <li>What’s the time Mr Wolf? What are the time differences between each participating country and Russia? What time will people be watching their teams back at home? Who will find it hardest to watch their country play live because of the time difference?</li> </ul>
<b>Computing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the best World Cup video games?</li> <li>What is VAR technology and what difference could it make in the World Cup? Are you in favour of VAR or against it? Why?</li> </ul>



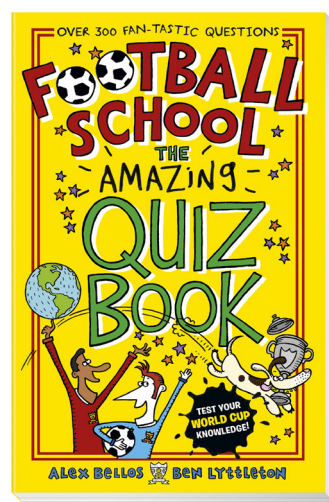
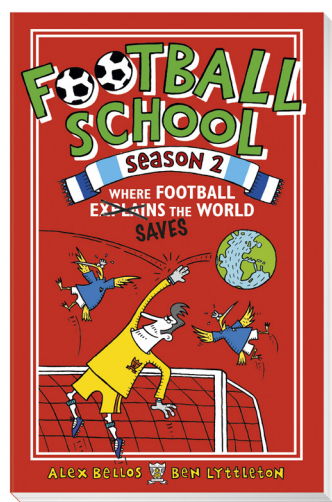
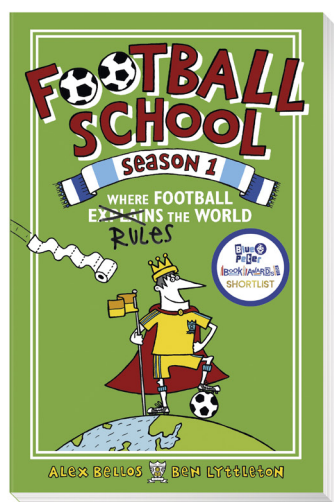
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What makes a good World Cup match report?</li> <li>The language of football: create a glossary of football terms to help new fans join in with World Cup fever</li> <li>The language of superlatives: explore some excellent adjectives you might hear in World Cup commentary</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a beginner's phrase book for people visiting Russia for the World Cup. What phrases would you need to know?</li> <li>Language around the world: which teams speak which languages? Do any teams speak the same languages?</li> </ul>
<b>PSHE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football as a global community: how does football bring different nations and cultures together?</li> <li>Cultural heritage: each country has a strong history and tradition when it comes to football. Look at some of the rituals and traditions which countries celebrate when it comes to the World Cup</li> <li>Think of the personal skills and attributes you would need to play football under the pressure of a world audience!</li> </ul>

## Links to useful supporting websites:

- Football School: [www.footballschool.co](http://www.footballschool.co)
- FIFA World Cup: [www.fifa.com/worldcup/](http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/)
- The Football Association: [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com)

Find out more about the National Literacy Trust's sport and literacy work:  
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/sport-and-literacy>

## Collect the *Football School* series!



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