READERS TO WRITERS - Frequently Asked Questions

What is Readers to Writers?
Readers to Writers is a biennial creative writing project for primary schools in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin that gives pupils an audience and purpose for their writing. The project uses reading and author workshops as a catalyst for pupils writing and creating their own books. Every one of the books is read by one or more of the Shropshire Bookfest Reading Panel, who write a personalised response for every child and award prizes for the books that 'wow' them the most.

Can all year groups in the school take part?
Yes – Readers to Writers is open to all year groups from Reception to Year 6.

Author Workshops
Every class taking part in Readers to Writers will be linked with a children's author and given a collection of their books. The author will deliver an in-person creative writing workshop, which will focus on giving children inspiration, confidence and 'top tips' for writing stories.

When are the Author Workshops?
Author workshops will take place during the week of **Monday 25th – Friday 29th January 2027.** Class teachers will be informed of their visiting author and the date for the visit at the end of November.

When will I receive the author's books for my class?
Books are delivered by Bookfest volunteers at the beginning of December to allow plenty of time for you and your class to familiarise yourselves with them.

How many books will be given to our school – and do we get to keep them?
Classes will receive multiple copies of a selection of books published by their visiting workshop author – enough for one per pupil. These books are for schools to keep.

Can I choose the author?
Due to the number of schools taking part and the logistics of organising many workshops over the space of a week, it is not possible to choose your own author. Authors are carefully selected by Shropshire Bookfest for their suitability for the age range of the pupils within each class, the range of books that they have published and the content of their workshop.

What do I have to organise for the author visit?
The Shropshire Bookfest team aim to take as much of the organisation for the author workshop visit out of your hands to reduce your workload. We will be covering the cost and logistics of bringing the authors to Shropshire, their accommodation and food, and a

Bookfest volunteer will bring the author to your school and accompany them during their visit.

The Teacher Pack (see below) includes a page of practical ideas to help you prepare your class ahead of the author visit, ensuring the workshop is as enjoyable, engaging and worthwhile as possible.

How long do the children have to write their story and create their book?
You have from the time of your author workshop until the deadline for submitting finished books on **Thursday 25th March 2027**. It is up to individual teachers to decide how much time they have to dedicate to the project.

Will I be given any suggestions for classroom activities to help support running the project?
There are a number of ways in which we provide examples of activities that can be used in the classroom, ensuring teachers feel supported, inspired and well-equipped throughout the project:

- When we deliver the author's books to you at the beginning of December, you will also receive a Teacher Pack. This includes an adaptable framework with practical suggestions for running the project in a way that suits your class, along with a wealth of carefully researched ideas and resources.
- The Conference/CPD Training Day (see below) will feature expert-led sessions designed to deepen subject knowledge and equip teachers with practical strategies and inspiring lesson ideas for teaching writing for pleasure in the classroom.
- During the spring term, we will host two twilight sessions offering further practical ideas for writing for pleasure, as well as opportunities to network with other teachers taking part in the project.
- Our fortnightly newsletter will share examples of how schools across the county are delivering Readers to Writers in their classrooms, alongside updates, reminders and links to additional Writing for Pleasure resources.
- A dedicated Project Resources Centre will also be available on the Bookfest website, providing a wide range of further tips, tools and ideas to support your teaching.

Teachers' Conference/ CPD Training Day – Thursday 12th November 2026 at The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury
Schools will be able to send up to two members of staff from every class taking part in Readers to Writers 2027. A place at a conference such as this usually costs upwards of £200 but is provided **free** to Readers to Writers participating schools.

The whole-day Teachers' Conference/CPD Training Day is delivered by recognised expert practitioners. As well as providing practical information about the Readers to Writers project, the aim of the Conference is to equip teachers in raising engagement with writing for pleasure for all children and providing an inspiring enrichment to school's existing writing lessons.

What do the children write their stories in?
Every child taking part will receive a blank book to write (and illustrate if they choose) their story in. These blank books will be delivered to your school in December.

Will the children's books be returned to us?
Yes. Once the books have all been read by the Reading Panel, and judging has been completed, books will be returned to schools for the children to keep. Books will be returned to schools in the week beginning **Monday 10th May.**

What are the prize categories?
There will be a prize in every class for the pupil whose book 'wows' the Bookfest Reading Panel the most. There will also be a prize for a pupil nominated by their teacher.

Across the county there will be one overall prize for each year group from Reception to Year 6. These winners will have their book published on the Shropshire Bookfest Website.

All children taking part in the project will receive a certificate and a personal note from the Bookfest Reading Panel.

When will we know who the winners are?
You will be contacted by a Bookfest volunteer at the end of April to inform you of winners from your school.

How much does Readers to Writers cost?
Schools pay half of the cost of running the Readers to Writers project. The other half is funded by grants from charitable trusts and foundations who recognise the educational impact of Shropshire Bookfest.

- Registration fee per school to take part in the Readers to Writers 2027 project: £180
- Plus fee per pupil: £14

What is the evidence of the impact of the Readers to Writers project?
The positive impact of the Readers to Writers project is supported by a research study undertaken and published in 2023 by the Director of Learning, Teaching & Quality and the Secondary PGCE Partnership Team at the University of Worcester. This was a 10-month long study exploring how pupils engaging in our Readers to Writers 2023 project perceived themselves as authors and the impact upon attitudes to creative writing.

Key findings included:

- Levels of engagement with the writing process increased.
- Writing for pleasure led to greater confidence, enjoyment and engagement not only during the project but also beyond.
- Author visits were pivotal in inspiring children to write creatively.

- Pupils felt a strong sense of writer identity when they were able to take ownership of the process and the end product.
- Although the main objective of the Readers to Writers project is to improve children's attitudes to creative writing, the authors of the research study highlighted that teachers reported that in many cases there was also distinct improvement in children's technical writing skills – grammar, syntax, punctuation, composition.

Timeline for Readers to Writers 2027

- **Monday 12th October 2026:** Deadline to book onto the Readers to Writers 2027 project

- **Thursday 12th November 2026:** Teachers' Conference/CPD Training Day at The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury

- **End of November 2026:** Details of author workshops emailed to schools

- **Week beginning Monday 7th December 2026:** Books and supporting project materials delivered to schools by Bookfest volunteers.

- **Monday 25th – Friday 29th January 2027:** Author creative writing workshops in schools

- **Thursday 25th March 2027:** Deadline for submitting pupils' finished books to the Bookfest Reading Panel

- **End of April 2027:** Details of prizewinners emailed to schools.

- **Week beginning 10th May 2027:** Bookfest volunteers deliver prizes and certificates to schools and return children's books.