HENLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME 2026

PATERSON JOSEPH

SOPHY HENN

A.F. HARROLD

M.G. LEONARD

ALL EVENTS IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

JOSEPH COELHO

KATIE KIRBY

OLAF FALAFEL

HENLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

HENLEYLITERARYFESTIVAL.CO.UK | 01491 575948

SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME 2026

We are thrilled to announce Henley Literary Festival's 2026 Schools' Programme. With seven events for children aged 3-12 offering huge variety, we are excited to bring even more schools' events to Henley (and online wherever you are!) this year – the National Year of Reading.

In-person

All tickets are to be booked online via the links below, if you can't book online using a bank card for payment and require an invoice, please return the booking form attached or book via our Google Form here. We will then send across an invoice. Tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis and you will receive a confirmation email after booking. We will send you your tickets which will include venue details, before the event.

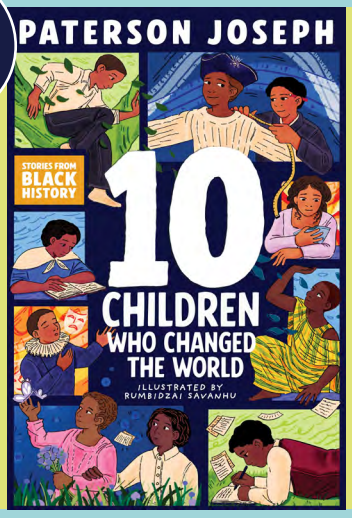
Livestream

Following the success of the Livestream events last year, we are streaming again for free to students in 2026. To book your place for your school to join virtually please click on the links below.

We can't wait to welcome you all (in Henley or on screen!) to our fantastic line-up of schools' events this year. See p7 for frequently asked questions.

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

10am



PATERSON JOSEPH
10 CHILDREN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

This Black History Month meet 10 brave and rebellious children - all born when slavery was still legal - who changed the world. From the girl who sneaked on a Royal Navy ship disguised as a man, to the godchild Queen Victoria selected as a missionary, award-winning author and actor **Paterson Joseph**, star of *Noughts + Crosses* and *Wonka*, shares some truly inspirational true stories.

VENUE: MARQUEE
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £12
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

SUITABLE FOR AGES 9-12 KS2

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

10am

OLAF FALAFEL
THE FAR-OUT FIVE P

SOLD OUT

Draw some wonderfully weird characters in this fun, interactive workshop! Award-winning author, illustrator and comedian **Olaf Falafel** joins us to share tips on creating funny comics. He introduces his hysterical new graphic novel series *The Far-Out Five*! where four kids and one grumpy magician turn into a unicorn, a bird, a koala, a seal - and a walking bath tub! Warning: this event will contain art, farts and bum-faced woodlice!

VENUE: TOWN HALL
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £10
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

SUITABLE FOR AGES 6-10 KS1

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

10am

SOPHY HENN
I WANT EVERYTHING!

Big Ghost wants ALL the things! But Little Ghost shows that what they really need is a friend to help them out when you're in a pickle. Award-winning author-illustrator **Sophy Henn** - creator of much-loved series including *Pizzaz*, *Happy Hills* and *Bad Nana* - joins us for a storytime and fun draw-along around her brand new book.

VENUE: MARQUEE
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £10
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

SUITABLE FOR AGES 3-5 EYS/KS1

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

10am

A.F. HARROLD
IF I MET A TIGER

SOLD OUT

Meet the Reading-based writer, poet and performer who does things with words that aren't entirely normal! **A.F. Harrold**, creator of *Fizzlebert Stump* and *The Imaginary* (now a Netflix film), joins us with *If I Met a Tiger*, his new humorous, thought-provoking book of poems inspired by animals and nature, following his much-loved previous collections *The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice* and *Things You Find in a Poet's Beard*.

VENUE: TOWN HALL
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £10
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

SUITABLE FOR AGES 8-11 KS2

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

10am

M.G. LEONARD
ATTACK OF THE SEA DOGS

Take a thrilling time-travelling trip to Elizabethan England! It's 1587, the year before the Spanish Armada, and our young *Time Keys* heroes find themselves at sea with Sir Francis Drake! **M.G. Leonard**, the internationally bestselling author of *Beetle Boy* and *Adventures on Trains*, returns to Henley to share fun facts from history, tips on writing exciting stories and readings from her brand-new book in this interactive event!

VENUE: MARQUEE
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £10
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

SUITABLE FOR AGES: 9–11 KS2

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

10am

JOSEPH COELHO
CHILDREN OF THE TH

LAST FEW TICKETS

Join award-winning author and poet **Joseph Coelho** for fun, dynamic and accessible activities around his newest picture book. A beautiful story about climate change with a fantastical twist, *Children of the Throne* sees three children show the grown-ups that nature isn't just something to admire; it's something to protect. After a reading, you will create a poem with the Festival favourite and former Children's Laureate!

VENUE: MARQUEE
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £10
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

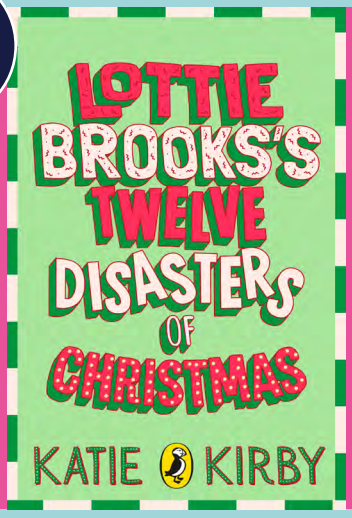
SUITABLE FOR AGES: 5–7 KS1

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

10am



KATIE KIRBY
LOTTIE BROOKS'S TWELVE DISASTERS OF CHRISTMAS

The chart-topping *Lottie Brooks* diary series is filled with first experiences, friendship fails, embarrassing moments and plenty of laughs; so is this event! Perfect for fans and newcomers alike, author-illustrator **Katie Kirby** joins us for a special schools session around the fantastically funny, remarkably relatable series that has so far sold over two millions copies!

VENUE: MARQUEE
BOOK + IN-PERSON TICKET: £12
LIVESTREAMING: FREE

SUITABLE FOR AGES: 8–12 KS2

CLICK HERE TO BOOK IN-PERSON TICKETS

CLICK HERE TO BOOK LIVESTREAM TICKETS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I BOOK MY TICKETS?

- You can book your tickets through our website (links for each event above), via this **Google Form** or by returning the booking form on p8. Your tickets will be emailed to you 10 days before the festival opens.
- Tickets will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Links to view the livestream of an event (free of charge) will be sent to you at least two days before the event.
- All events last 45 minutes.

HOW CAN I GET A COPY OF THE AUTHOR'S BOOK?

- If you are coming to the event in person, all tickets include a copy of the book which will be handed to teachers on arrival.
- If you are tuning in online a flyer will be sent out to you in September, to send out to pupils' parents and carers, explaining which books the author will be talking about. If your school is near Henley, our partner bookseller, The Bell Bookshop, will sell the authors' books at RRP in the run up and after the event.

HOW MANY PUPILS CAN I BRING ALONG TO THE FESTIVAL?

- We would love to welcome as many pupils from your school as possible to the festival. Please note the recommended ages for events before booking.
- If you are watching the livestream, make sure as many pupils are watching as possible! We would love to know the maximum number you expect to be watching so we can let the authors know how big their audience is!
- We offer discounts for pupil premium students. Please email info@henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk for more details.

HOW DO I WATCH THE EVENTS ONLINE?

- These events are Livestreamed directly from our venues to Crowdcast (our streaming platform) and you will receive an email prior to the event with full details. Details on how to watch will be sent to you at least two days before the event.

BOOKING FORM

If you are unable to book online, please use the booking form below to book your tickets and send to info@henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk.

Please note, tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

SCHOOL	
CONTACT NAME	
EMAIL	
PHONE	
SCHOOL ADDRESS	

Details	Author and Book	In-person tickets	Pupil Premium ticket	Adults tickets	Total tickets
Mon 5 October 10:00 Marquee	Paterson Joseph *10 Children Who Changed the World*				
Mon 5 October 10:00 Town Hall	Olaf Falafel *The Far-Out Five Portal Loo Panic*				
Tues 6 October 10:00 Marquee	Sophy Henn *I Want Everything!*				
Tues 6 October 10:00 Town Hall	A.F. Harrold *If I Met a Tiger*				
Weds 7 October 10:00 Marquee	M.G. Leonard *Attack of the Sea Dogs*				
Thur 8 October 10:00 Marquee	Joseph Coelho *Children of the Throne*				
Fri 9 October 10:00 Marquee	Katie Kirby *Lottie Brooks's Twelve Disasters of Christmas*				