

Baillie Gifford Schools Programme 21–29 August 2023

In-person
with selected events
also livestreamed

Free tickets
for all events
+ **Free books**

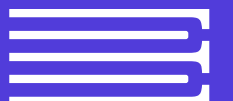


**Edinburgh
International
Book
Festival**

learning.edbookfest.co.uk



Actual Investors



The Baillie Gifford Big Book Giveaway

2023

Free books

Every pupil attending the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme in-person at the Book Festival this year will automatically receive a free copy of a book relating to the event they come and see. Your pupils will be given the books during their visit to the Book Festival Village. After each event, children have the opportunity to meet the author and get their book signed in the Signing Tent – plan this into your visit to get the full Book Festival experience!

Pupils attending the Baillie Gifford Schools Gala Day will also receive a free goody bag, making their visit extra memorable.

Competition

Book bundles for schools watching online.

For schools who choose to watch events online instead of coming to the Festival, we're running an exclusive competition to help grow your library collections. Ten lucky schools (five primary schools and five secondary schools) will win a fantastic set of books by authors appearing in the 2023 Baillie Gifford Schools Programme.

[Register here](#)

Discounted books

Waterstones are delighted to offer schools a 28% discount on bulk orders of 15 or more books. The offer applies to all books featured in the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme and the Baillie Gifford Children's Programme and is valid between 20 April and 30 September.

[Register here](#)

All orders can then be sent to jane.wood@waterstones.com who will process your order and send directly to your school.

Teachers will also receive a 10% discount on any books purchased in the Festival Bookshop during 12–28 August. Simply show proof of employment at the checkout.



For terms and conditions on all our offers, please visit:
edbookfest.co.uk/terms-conditions/competition

Welcome to the 2023 Baillie Gifford Schools Programme

Join the Book Festival this summer (21–29 August) for a packed programme of free, in-person events created specially for schools, including Baillie Gifford Gala Day for primary schools on Tuesday 29 August. Selected events are also available to watch remotely from your classroom, live or on-demand.

- All Schools events are FREE and in-person, with selected events also available to watch online, live or on-demand.
- All pupils attending in-person will receive a FREE book related to the event, which they can get signed by the author after the session.
- All in-person events take place in our state-of-the-art studios inside Edinburgh College of Art where authors will be appearing live and in-person.
- All Schools events are 45 minutes in duration.
- There is also an opportunity for teachers to take part in our Career Long Professional Learning event.

Thank you to Baillie Gifford

The Baillie Gifford Schools Programme enables children to participate in one of the world's leading book festivals. With Baillie Gifford's continued support, once again all schools can attend entirely free of charge. Pupils attending in-person will also receive a free book during their visit. Additionally, some events will be available to view online: schools who choose to watch this way can [enter a giveaway](#) to receive free books for their school library.

Founded in 1908, Baillie Gifford & Co is an Edinburgh based independent investment management firm who employs more than 1,800 people. The firm plays an active role in the community and supports projects in education, social inclusion, and the arts.



Actual Investors



Celebrating the Life, Work and Legacy of Joan Lingard

Wednesday 23 August

7.00pm–8.00pm

Adult Event

£6

Joan Lingard wrote over 60 books for adults and children, including her YA *Kevin and Sadie* series set in Belfast during the Troubles, which is still beloved by teachers, librarians, and pupils. Her death in 2022 was met with great sadness here in Scotland and internationally.

Joan's impact resonated beyond her writing. She was also an engaged cultural contributor: a member of the Scottish Arts Council, Scottish PEN, and a founding member of both Scottish Writers Against the Bomb and the original founding group of the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

In this event, Joan's literary agent Lindsey Fraser and colleague Jenny Brown are joined by other contemporaries and admirers, including Teresa Breslin, Alan Taylor, and Bridget England, one of Joan's daughters, to celebrate Joan's amazing life and legacy.

In-person only

Primary School events



Adventuremice! with Sarah McIntyre & Philip Reeve

Wednesday 23 August

10.00am–10.45am

P1–P3

Adventure Imaginative Danger

Looking for adventure? Join co-author legends Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre as they introduce you to a tiny mouse named Pedro who sets off to see the world and meets the brave and daring Adventuremice! Does he have what it takes to join their team and help protect the Mouse Islands when danger looms?

Learn how to draw Pedro, hear more about his adventures, and join Philip and Sarah on a discovery tour of the Mouse Islands – some of which have never been explored before!

In-person & livestreamed



Don't Look Down! with Barbara Henderson

Wednesday 23 August

10.45am–11.30am

P4–P6

Riveting Immersive Adventure

When 12-year-old John Nicol gets a job at the Forth Bridge construction site, he knows it's dangerous. Several men have already fallen from the bridge into the river below. But John has no choice: with his father gone, he must provide an income for his family – even if he is terrified of heights.

Join award-winning author Barbara Henderson for a riveting adventure set in Victorian Scotland. Based on real people and events, *Rivet Boy* blends fact and fiction to tell the story of one boy's role in the building of the iconic Forth Rail Bridge – Scotland's greatest man-made wonder – in 1889. Expect readings, interactive drama, and engineering challenges!

In-person only

See pages 8 & 9 for more primary school events at our Baillie Gifford Gala Day on Tuesday 29 August



**What Do YOU Think?
with Matthew Syed & Kathy Weeks**

Monday 28 August
10.00am–10.45am
P4–P6

Kindness Confidence Society

Find your voice, flex your social superpowers, and speak up with kindness and confidence in this event with bestselling author and two-time Olympian Matthew Syed, and inspirational writer and resilience guru Kathy Weeks. In this engaging event you'll discover what's influencing your views – from peer pressure to fake news. Learn how to form and change your opinions; debate your views with empathy; and how debates and disagreements can give you new ideas and stronger friendships. If you want to help change the world for the better, then this is the event for you!

In-person & livestreamed

“There wasn't anything I didn't enjoy. I am already looking forward to the next Book Festival trip.”

S3 pupil, Elgin Academy 2022



**Crongton: To the End and Back
with Alex Wheatle**

Monday 21 August
10.45am–11.30am
S1–S3

Honest Inspiring Reflective

Acclaimed author Alex Wheatle is back with his powerful and personal fifth instalment in the multi-award-winning *Crongton* series, each book featuring the story of a young person struggling to grow up and make their mark in the fictional South Crongton council estate.

In this intimate and inspiring event Alex talks about his latest book, *In the Ends*, and discusses his journey to becoming a writer, starting from his early years growing up in a children's home where his main comfort was reading comics. Learn how his love of reading – and music – set Alex on his path to becoming an award-winning author.

In-person only



**Stand Up
with Nikesh Shukla**

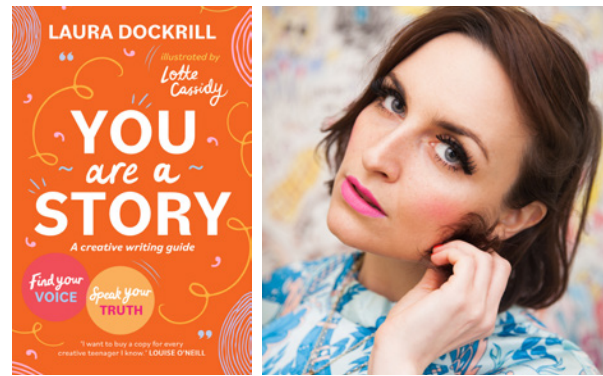
Tuesday 22 August
10.00am–10.45am
S1–S3

Inspirational Funny Powerful

Stand Up follows Madhu: a 17-year-old whose dream is to be a world-famous stand-up comedian, but her dad is more concerned about her applying to university. Just as she's about to turn her back on her dream, a YouTube clip of Madhu goes viral, and she's suddenly catapulted into stardom.

Nikesh talks about the inspiration for *Stand Up*, how using humour got him in and out of tight spots, and the times he and his family stood up for what they believed in. A talk about times where you laugh because otherwise you might cry, and how to make the hard decision to stand up for yourself.

In-person & livestreamed



You Are a Story with Laura Dockrill

Tuesday 22 August
11.45am–12.30pm
S1–S3

Creative Inspiring Self-expression

You are enough. You are interesting. Tell your story. Join YA Book Prize shortlisted author and Brit School Performing Arts graduate Laura Dockrill as she delivers a superb masterclass on how you can play with your imagination to find your voice and become a creative writing superstar.

Through Laura's guidance you will learn that the best writing comes when you speak your truth with your own voice. Expressing yourself honestly is one of the best ways to know yourself and grow to celebrate the exciting, creative, unique person you are.

In-person & livestreamed



YA Book Prize 2023

Thursday 24 August
10.00am–10.45am
S3–S6

Award-winners Young Adult Fiction

The perfect way to get a snapshot of a range of authors and their books – last year's YA Book Prize was a big hit, so we're very excited that the award is returning for 2023. Come and meet some of the incredible authors shortlisted for this year's YA Book Prize as they talk about and read from their books ahead of the big reveal. We'll unveil the line-up for this event in June when the shortlist is announced.

Organised by The Bookseller magazine, a team from the publication firstly selects the shortlist, before a panel of experts and teenage judges decide on the winner. The winner is chosen based on which book the judges believe is the best-written and that they would be most likely to share with young adults.

With previous winners including Patrice Lawrence's *Orangeboy* and Adiba Jaigirdar's *Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating*, we can't wait to find out who will be joining us this year.

In-person & livestreamed



Learning to Love Yourself with William Hussey and Amara Sage

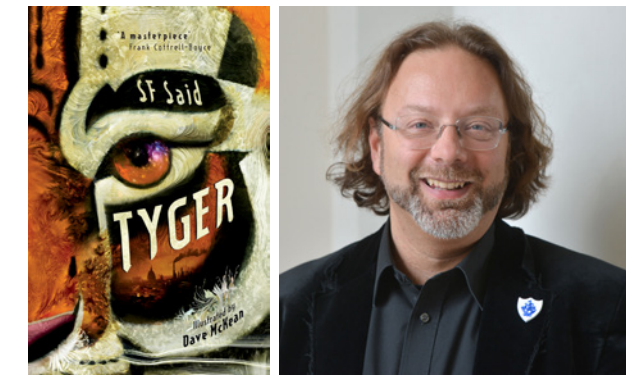
Thursday 24 August
11.45am–12.30pm
S3–S5

Relationships Mental Health Social Media

Join two authors who've written whip-smart YA novels with big hearts. In William Hussey's *Broken Hearts and Zombie Parts*, budding film director and movie buff Jesse's world falls apart when he learns that he has to have open heart surgery in weeks. Can he finish his zombie masterpiece and find a guy who wants to make out with him before surgery leaves him scarred forever?

While in *Influential*, Amara Sage takes us into the world of 17-year-old influencer Almond Brown, whose selfie filters cover up some serious secrets. Internet fame isn't all it's cracked up to be in this exploration of online trolling, body image, and more. Meet William and Amara and find out how their own experiences (including open heart surgery) helped shape their novels. Expect cancel culture, body confidence, mental health, and first loves.

In-person & livestreamed



Burning Bright: A Writer's Journey with SF Said

Thursday 24 August
12.30pm–1.15pm
S1–S3

Inspirational Insightful Fantasy

Adam has found something incredible in a rubbish dump. A mysterious, mythical, magical animal: a tyger. But the tyger is in danger. Adam and his friend Zadie are determined to help, although it isn't just the tyger's life at stake – their whole world is on the verge of destruction. Can they stop it before it's too late?

Meet author SF Said and discover the story of how he went from enthusiastic young reader to award-winning author of books such as *Phoenix*, *Varjak Paw*, and his new novel *Tyger*. Giving insights into his experience as a published author, SF Said takes us on a storytelling journey from the beginning to now.

In-person only



YA Book Prize 2023

Friday 25 August
10.00am–10.45am
S3–S6

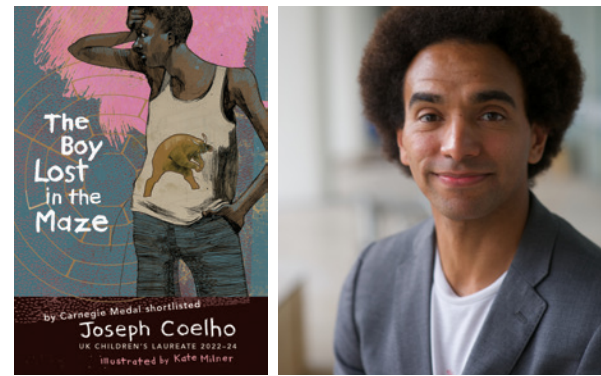
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In-person & livestreamed



Myths and Mazes with Joseph Coelho

Monday 28 August
10.45am–11.30am
S3–S5

Mythical Adventure Coming-of-Age

Join award-winning poet and Waterstones Children’s Laureate Joseph Coelho as he discusses his latest novel, *The Boy Lost in the Maze* – a powerful blend of myth and modernity. Following the parallel stories of the legendary Theseus and modern-day Theo, this verse novel takes us on two intertwining quests as both boys journey to find their fathers in different eras. In lands where magic and reality combine and danger looms large, both Theseus and Theo discover what growing up really means.

Discover Joseph’s inspiration behind the story, how he wove together ancient and contemporary tales, and why he chose the verse novel form. Then get his top tips for writing your own powerful story.

In-person only



“The group really cherished receiving a book and were delighted they could have it signed. They loved to chat with the author and this was the real highlight of the day. They were so proud to have a signed book, I can’t put into words how great it made them feel.”

Teacher, Kirkcaldy High School 2022



Baillie Gifford Gala Day

Tuesday 29 August

Events for Primary Schools

Did you know that reading can reduce stress and improve your mental health? What makes you happy and feel healthy?

Whether you love playing football, painting pictures, throwing some shapes on the dance floor, sharing jokes with your friends, or reading about your favourite superhero, we're celebrating self-care this August with our Healthy Happy You themed Baillie Gifford Gala Day.

Come and take part in our fun-packed programme of events and activities, exclusively for primary schools, on Tuesday 29 August.

- Join the festival team and 'Dress to Express' this Gala Day – wear something bright and colourful. It can be anything at all, from a badge to a bobble, to a full outfit of colours.
- Give your imagination and your body a workout as we join storytellers Fergus and Claire McNicol for Hip! Hop! Story! Stop!
- Enjoy some mindfulness crafts and activities with Edinburgh Libraries.
- Meet the Therapets with Canine Concern Scotland and learn about the incredible work these power-pets do.
- Go on an inter-planetary trip to Planet Citizen with Ryan Van Winkle.
- Join Spartans CFA for some fun football-related activities.
- Come along to our pop-in workshop with Peter Horáček and Vivian French.
- Say hello to your favourite book characters in the Festival Village.
- Get your free book signed by our amazing authors in the Signing Tent.
- Enjoy your packed lunch in our grassy courtyard with covered seating or relax in the café.





Tiger Warrior: Battle of the Jade Rabbit with Maisie Chan

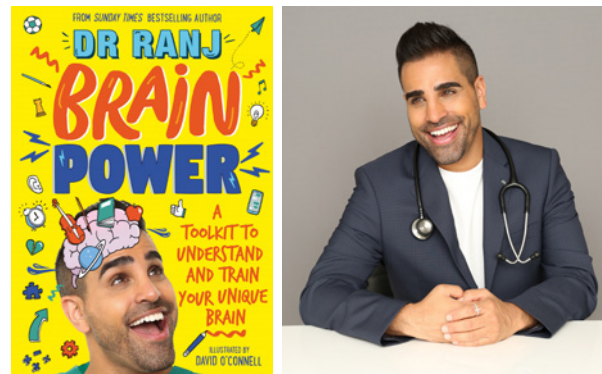
Tuesday 29 August
10.00am–10.45am
P2–P4

Creative Mythical Inspiring

Heart of a tiger, strength of a dragon, body of a... schoolboy? Learn about Chinese myths, the Moon Festival, and the power of creativity in this interactive event with author Maisie Chan. This event is based on her series *Tiger Warrior*, which sees schoolboy Jack caught up in an ancient battle between good and evil with the magical power of the Chinese Zodiac to help him.

Learn all about the mythical Chinese beast, Taotie, and then use your own imagination and artistic skills to bring the character to life.

In-person only



Unleash the Power of Your Brain with Dr Ranj

Tuesday 29 August
10.00am–10.45am
P4–P6

Informative Encouraging Practical

Discover how to train your brain and become the best you can be with the nation's favourite doctor and his new book, *Brain Power*. NHS doctor and TV presenter Dr Ranj reveals how your brain works and shows you how to train it to get better at the things you find difficult. Following Dr Ranj's advice will help you learn how to make the most of your brain and keep your mind happy and healthy.

In-person & livestreamed



The Stories Grandma Forgot with Nadine Aisha Jassat

Tuesday 29 August
10.15am–11.00am
P5–P7

Poetic Time-travel Family

Nyla's grandma 'time travels', forgetting things and people. But when she insists that she saw Nyla's dad, who died when Nyla was four, in the local supermarket, Nyla can't help but believe her. Making a promise to her grandma that she'll find him and bring him home, Nyla sets out on a journey through her family's past to try to find the truth and find out who she really is.

Join Edinburgh-based poet and author Nadine Aisha Jassat in this warm and engaging event all about the power of memory and storytelling. You'll discover not only Nyla's gripping family secrets, but also how and why Nadine uses her beautiful verse novel format to tell this wonderful story, which shines a light on the effect of Alzheimer's – on both the patient and those close to them.

In-person only



Blast Off with Katie and Kevin Tsang

Tuesday 29 August
10.30am–11.15am
P2–P5

Fantasy Space Adventure

Jump onboard for an awesome and exciting space adventure with authors-extraordinaire Katie and Kevin Tsang, exploring their new book *Suzie and the Moonbugs* – the spectacular second instalment in their *Space Blasters* series.

Suzie Wen loves gadgets and inventing things – but her inventions don't always turn out how she expects. And after a massive invention mishap, Suzie is now living on board the spaceship from her favourite TV show, exploring new planets and saving the universe!

Find out what happens to Suzie next and discover the real life science and intergalactic facts behind the fiction in this space-tacular event.

In-person only



Mysterious Museums and Space Secrets with Mike Nicholson

Tuesday 29 August
11.30am–12.15pm
P3–P5

Interactive Hilarious Adventure

Some people say that museums are boring, but these people are just wrong! They're packed full of ancient, colourful, glittering, unique objects – each one with a story waiting to be uncovered by you.

In this event, you'll meet (alongside author-extraordinary Mike Nicholson...) the intrepid Museum Mystery Squad – Nabster, Kennedy, and Laurie, along with hamster Colin. They know a crime is about to be committed in the museum's Space Zone – but can they solve the clues in time to stop it?

Get ready for an action-packed event with unexpected cliff-hangers and astonishing space facts. Come prepared to invent your own mysteries (and groan at some truly terrible jokes!).

In-person only



Laugh Your Head Off with Nadia Shireen

Tuesday 29 August
11.30am–12.15pm
P2–P5

Hilarious Wild Adventure

Author and illustrator Nadia Shireen is back with the fabulous third instalment in her hilarious *Grimwood* series featuring fox siblings Nancy and Ted and a whole host of animal friends and foes.

Join Nadia and learn just what the brother and sister duo get up to in their latest adventure and learn how you can start coming up with ideas for your own animal antic stories. Then join in as Nadia shows you how to draw one of her amazing *Grimwood* characters.

In-person & livestreamed



A Kid's Life as a Viking with Chae Strathie

Tuesday 29 August
11.45am–12.30pm
P3–P5

Historic Captivating Interactive

Put on your helmet, grab your sword and step back in time to the Viking Age in this hilarious historic event with Chae Strathie.

A kid's life as a Viking might sound like fun with all those cool battles and awesome longships, but actually life for kids was pretty hard. Find out just how tough life really was – from spending years on a raid and sharing your bedroom with farm animals, to being poked full of holes and eating extremely watery porridge. Join Chae for an engaging interactive event that makes history relatable for kids today.

In-person only



What if...? with Phil Earle

Tuesday 29 August
12.00pm–12.45pm
P5–P7

Aspirational Funny Historical Fiction

Reading or writing shouldn't be arduous or difficult. It should be exciting, an adventure with no limits!

Join Phil as he tells you how he went from non-reader to bestselling writer of 25 books, and how you can do the same. Reading is for everyone, and Phil reminds us that it's never too late to find the perfect book to get your imagination racing and capture your attention.

Expect laughter, embarrassment, interactivity, and plenty of aspirational advice – all in 45 minutes!

In-person only

Attending in-person

Book for FREE from Tuesday 25 April

You can book FREE tickets for your class to attend the Book Festival in-person by submitting our online booking form. Tickets are allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

1. Browse the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme and select the event you would like your class to attend.
2. Choose two alternative events in case your first choice is unavailable.
3. Complete the online booking form at learning.edbookfest.co.uk/tickets
The form includes the Baillie Gifford Transport Fund application.
4. You'll be notified within 14 days if your booking has been successful. Our Schools Booking Coordinator will get in touch with you via email with further information. If your requested events are full, we will contact you to discuss alternative options and our waiting list procedure.
5. Get ready for your visit to the Book Festival Village (more details on page 11).

Book your trip with confidence

- We will be following the latest government guidance regarding covid precautions. Keep an eye on our website for updates.
- In the event of having to cancel your trip or reduce numbers due to covid, your books will be delivered to your school following the event and schools receiving transport funding will still receive a contribution towards any travel costs incurred.
- A risk assessment document is available on request – please email schools@edbookfest.co.uk

Watching online

Book for FREE from Wednesday 14 June

Selected events in the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme are available to watch online and on-demand for free (see tabs on event listing to see which events are available livestreamed).

Events will be visible on edbookfest.co.uk when the main programme launches on 14 June and you can book at any time before the event starts.

Once you have chosen which events you would like to attend, don't forget to enter our competition to win a book bundle for your school (application deadline **Friday 11 August**). For more details and to apply visit: learning.edbookfest.co.uk/news/free-books-for-schools-2023/

1. Register or log in to your account: create a free account at edbookfest.co.uk/login
2. Book your free spot: find the event you want to watch at edbookfest.co.uk and select the 'School' and 'free ticket' options. We will send you an email confirmation with a 'watch' link for every event you book.
3. Tune in to the event: once booked, simply log in to your Book Festival account before the event starts and go to the event page where you will see a 'go to player' button. It will take you to the event videoplayer page.
4. Ask the author questions: if there is a Q&A option for the event, you can type your pupils' questions into the Q&A box during the session. Selected questions will then be passed on to the author via our moderators.
5. Share with us: Tweet your class getting involved and tag us [@edbookfest](https://twitter.com/edbookfest)

If you have any questions about programme content or require access for any pupils learning remotely, please contact our Schools Booking Coordinator: schools@edbookfest.co.uk



Visiting the Book Festival in-person

Pre-visit information pack

When your booking is confirmed, we will send you information to help you plan your visit. Your information pack will be emailed to you and will include a map and details about accessibility, parking, and on-site facilities. A risk assessment document is also available on request.

Financial support for transport

If your school needs financial support towards the cost of transport, you can apply to our Baillie Gifford Transport Fund to have the costs reimbursed. You can apply using the online booking form when booking tickets. The deadline for applying is **Tuesday 30 May**.

Visiting the Book Festival Village

This year's Book Festival, including the Baillie Gifford Gala Day, takes place at the Edinburgh College of Art on Lauriston Place.

All in-person events are held inside the Edinburgh College of Art where authors will be appearing live on stage. Each pupil attending in-person will receive a FREE book related to the event which they can get signed by the author following their event.

The lovely grassy courtyard in the Book Festival Village makes the perfect picnic spot for pupils to enjoy their packed lunches and undercover seating is also available for rainy days. The Festival Bookshop is packed full of titles from every author in the programme, including books for children and young adults.

Accessibility

The Book Festival Village (including toilets, theatres, and on-site café) is wheelchair accessible and there are infrared systems in our theatres.

Do get in touch with us if your class has specific access requirements:
schools@edbookfest.co.uk



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 25 April

Ticket booking opens for schools attending in-person.

Tuesday 30 May

Baillie Gifford Transport Fund application deadline.

Tuesday 6 June

Successful Baillie Gifford Transport Fund applicants notified.

Tuesday 13 June

Deadline to amend or cancel bookings (excluding for covid reasons).

Wednesday 14 June

Ticket booking opens for schools watching events online. Public programme announced.

Tuesday 20 June

Teacher info packs emailed to your school.

Tuesday 8 August

Reminder and final information emailed to your school.

Friday 11 August

Deadline to enter competition to win free books for your school library (open to schools watching events online).

Monday 21 – Tuesday 29 August

Baillie Gifford Schools Programme.

Tuesday 29 August

Baillie Gifford Gala Day.

Friday 29 September

Please submit your invoice for reimbursement of any transport costs you have been awarded by the Baillie Gifford Transport Fund.

Saturday 30 September

Last day to receive 28% off book orders with Waterstones.



More to enjoy

Learning Resources

You'll find lots of engaging learning resources to accompany Book Festival events on our Learning Site. From celebrating difference, nature, and feminism, to tackling climate change, sexism and mental health, the site is full of activities and resources to engage your class in discussion, spark new ideas and expand their horizons.

Explore the resources at learning.edbookfest.co.uk
New resources for the 2023 programme will be available from August.

Discounted books for your school and you

Waterstones are delighted to offer schools a 28% discount on bulk orders of 15 or more books. The offer applies to all books featured in the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme and the Baillie Gifford Children's Programme and is valid between 20 April and 30 September.

You can sign up here to register the discount for your school: waterstonesaccountsales.com/register. All orders can then be sent to jane.wood@waterstones.com who will process your order and send directly to your school.

Teachers will also receive a 10% discount on any books purchased in the Festival Bookshop during 12–28 August. Simply show proof of employment at the checkout to receive this. For terms and conditions on all of the above, please visit edbookfest.co.uk/terms-conditions/competition

Schools and Education ebulletin

Want to be the first to hear about Book Festival education news, learning resources, school events and opportunities? Sign up to receive our 'Schools and Education' ebulletin at bit.ly/2Q5Ia2y

We love to see your class taking part in the Book Festival!
Tag us [@edbookfest](https://twitter.com/edbookfest) [#edbookfest](https://twitter.com/edbookfest)
learning.edbookfest.co.uk

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