



Surrey Libraries'  
Children's Book  
Award

### Background:

The Award is now entering its 9<sup>th</sup> year. It celebrates great fiction for 7 to 9 year olds, an age group that has tended to be overlooked by other awards.

Previous winners have been Andy Stanton, Harry Hill, Joanna Nadin, Steve Hartley, Jennifer Gray and Georgia Pritchett and Swapna Haddow. The 2018 winner was Maria Farrer for *Me and Mister P*.

### Aims of the Award:

- to raise awareness of good, popular fiction written for 7 – 9 year olds amongst library staff, teachers and children
- to encourage reading for pleasure, and to develop children's self-confidence and self-esteem through participation in the Award
- to develop strong and sustainable relationships between libraries and schools



### Timeline:

<b>July</b>	Nominations are sought from publishers and library staff
<b>September</b>	Longlist of 10 books is chosen by Book Award Working Group
<b>Sept – end October</b>	All Surrey primary schools are invited to apply to become Book Award Champion Schools
<b>Early November</b>	Shortlist of 5 books is chosen by library staff
<b>Early November</b>	10 Champion Schools are selected
<b>Early January</b>	Meetings are held with Champion Schools
<b>January – April</b>	Champion Schools read the shortlisted books, receive a visit from a shortlisted author or illustrator, visit their local library, and vote for their favourite book
<b>Tues 21 May</b>	Award Ceremony at Dorking Halls, to which schools, authors, illustrators, library staff and elected members are invited. Schools present a variety of work based on their participation in the Award, authors and illustrators speak, and the winner is announced.

## **Champion Schools:**

Each Champion School receives:

- 5 copies of each shortlisted title to keep
- one half-day visit from a shortlisted author or illustrator
- a guidance pack for teachers on taking part in the Book Award
- promotional materials
- guaranteed seats at the Award ceremony for at least 30 children who have taken part in the Award plus accompanying adults.
- an opportunity to visit their local library or for a member of library staff to visit the school
- an opportunity for children in all participating classes to join the library

In return, Champion schools are expected to:

- assign a main contact who will work with SCC library service throughout the process, including arrangements for author/illustrator visits
- participate fully in the Award – contribute items to the Book Award blog, vote, bring children to the Award ceremony and take part in this, work with the local library to encourage library membership

## **Shadowing Schools:**

Schools that do not wish to be, or are not selected to be, Champion Schools, can still take part in the Award as Shadowing Schools. They will not receive free books or an author visit, but can download resources from our website, contribute to the Book Award blog, vote, and link up with their local library for class visits or a display of Award-related work.

## **Some comments from previous Champion Schools:**

- The children loved reading the books and meeting the illustrator who visited our school. They were really motivated to know that they were part of something important
- The Ceremony was fantastic. What a wealth of excellent work. The children loved the morning and enjoyed seeing the other schools' presentations
- They really enjoyed doing their presentation - they were nervous at first about presenting in front of the large audience but afterwards said it was great being able to show their work and use a microphone
- It developed the children's ability to see that their own opinion is fine it does not matter that it might not be the same as everyone else
- I think we should celebrate that children who ordinarily aren't children who enjoy reading or would select a book to read became enthralled with the competition element and loved having the author visit, explaining how writing isn't easy for him and something he has to practise.
- It was a wonderful, positive experience and something we would love to do again!
- We have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The children have been so enthusiastic about the award and really loved our 'Election Day.'
- We have all enjoyed looking at these books and are looking to include them in our curriculum plan for next year. The Book Award was great

## **For more information:**

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/childrensbookaward](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/childrensbookaward)

or email [community.connections@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:community.connections@surreycc.gov.uk)