

Holmfirth Children's Book Festival



www.holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk

WELCOME TO THE HOLMFIRTH CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL!

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Children's Book Festival is for children and families in Holmfirth and beyond. We aim to inspire a love of reading. We are very excited about the line-up for our second festival which takes place on 26th-27th September 2026.

In the years to come, we hope to grow the festival further and become a destination for book lovers all over the UK.

We are a not-for-profit organisation, Holmfirth Book Festival CIC*, run by five local volunteers including the founders of Read Bookshop. We are passionate about getting children excited about books.

*Our company number is 16153142.



OUR MISSION

- 1 To promote a love of books and reading to children aged 0-13 using a wide range of national and local authors tailored to the interests of local children.
- 2 To have a strong focus on accessibility so that wherever possible children are not disadvantaged by cost or additional needs.
- 3 To work with schools and libraries to ensure the children who this will make most difference to are able to attend.
- 4 As a not-for-profit organisation, once our costs are covered we will use any remaining funds to work with schools to promote books and reading and to secure the festival as an annual event.

BOOK SALES

At each author or illustrator event you will be able to purchase signed copies of the featured books. By purchasing books you are supporting the authors and illustrators, the Book Festival and Read.

DONATIONS

We welcome any donations on the day to support the festival but you are also able to donate anytime via <https://givealittle.co/c/holmfirthbookfestival>



BOOK TICKETS AT: [HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk)

SATURDAY EVENTS

TICKETS: £4



Sponsored by:
Pennine Wealth Management



MEDUSA, MYTHS AND MAYHEM

WITH BETHANY WALKER

Life for any 12 year old can be a drama, but for Medusa Gorgon it's more like a Greek tragedy! You may know about the Greek Gods, but isn't it about time the monsters got their say? Luckily for you, Medusa is keeping a secret diary all about her treatment, including getting banished to a modern day secondary school! Get ready to giggle with Bethany Walker and her new take on the notorious Medusa. Join Bethany for all things ancient Greek, writing tips, fun games and a ssssseriously sssssserpenty draw-along!

9.30AM-10.30AM

AGES: 7-11

VENUE: THE CIVIC, LESSER HALL



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THE PUMPKIN THIEF

WITH ALICE HEMMING AND NICOLA SLATER

Join best-selling author and illustrator duo of The Leaf Thief series, Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater, for a session full of fun and hilarity. The latest instalment, The Pumpkin Thief, sees Squirrel and Bird return for another laugh-out-loud autumn adventure. Squirrel has grown some lovely pumpkins, but there's soon a problem. The pumpkins keep disappearing! Squirrel is determined to catch the thief before Bird returns... Prepare for a captivating reading and interactive draw-along to get you in the autumnal and spooky spirit.

10.00AM-11.00AM

AGES: 5-8

VENUE: THE CIVIC, MAIN HALL

ACCESSIBILITY

We have made every effort to provide as many accessible events as possible. All of our tickets are low-priced to make sure that families can attend together. You will find more details of venue accessibility on our website.

BOOK TICKETS AT: [HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk)



SATURDAY EVENTS



BE ON A PODCAST!

ORGANISED AND SPONSORED BY MIKE AT CUE PODCASTS

We're making a podcast all about the books children love, and we want YOU on it! Come and tell us about your favourite book in the very first episode of Holmfirth Reads, recorded live at the festival. Pick any book you like and tell us what makes it brilliant. Some of you will even get to be the interviewer, sitting down with the festival's authors to ask about the books they love best. Sign up and we'll send you the questions beforehand, so you can choose your book and come ready to talk.

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10.00AM - 11.00AM +
11.30AM-12:30PM

AGES: 8-12

VENUE: THE CIVIC, MEETING ROOM



BONE HEAD: GUARDIAN OF THE UNDERWORLD

WITH JAMIE GREGORY

Join BONE HEAD creator Jamie Gregory for a wild mix of chaos and comedy, featuring live drawing and a chance to create your own characters of the underworld. This highly illustrated bone-shakingly hilarious adventure will be sure to top every child's wish list – perfect for fans of LOKI and graphic novels.

Sponsored by:

The Comedy Club



11.15AM - 12.15PM

AGES 8-12

VENUE: THE CIVIC, LESSER HALL

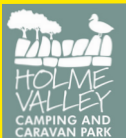


CLIFF: THE MAN WITH THE SEAGULL ON HIS HEAD

WITH GARETH HOPKINS

Join author Gareth Hopkins for a gloriously silly story time all about Cliff, the lonely fisherman who a seagull decides to befriend (by landing on his head). You'll laugh! You'll squawk! You'll cry! (But in a good way.) There'll be the world's most difficult quiz: Seagull or Beagle? A draw-a-long where you'll learn how to sketch Cliff's feathered lodger, and a chance to make your very own seagull hat to take home. You'll never look at a seagull in the same way again!

Sponsored by:



11.30AM - 12.15PM

AGES 3-6

VENUE: HOLMFIRTH LIBRARY



SATURDAY EVENTS



Read

READ-CYCLE CHILDREN'S USED BOOK SALE

Come along and grab a bargain used children's book. The stall will be run by pupils from Netherthong Junior and Infant School. All of the money raised will be split between the school and the Book Festival – cash donations are preferred but we can take card payments.

Sponsored by:
Read Bookshop

11:30AM-1:30PM

VENUE: READ BOOKSHOP



Sponsored by:



STORY-TIME WITH SUPERTATO!

Come along and meet Supertato, the iconic character created by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. Listen to some stories and grab a photo with him too.

1.00PM-1:30PM

AGES: 0-6

VENUE: HOLMFIRTH METHODIST CHURCH



TICKETS

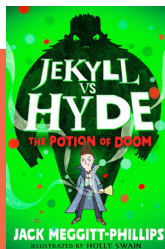
By buying your tickets in advance, you will help us to fund the planning of the festival so, wherever possible, book your tickets ahead of the event from holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk.

If there are still tickets left on the day of the event these will be available to buy on the door from one of our lovely volunteers.

BOOK TICKETS AT: [HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk)



SATURDAY EVENTS



Sponsored by:



THE POTION OF DOOM

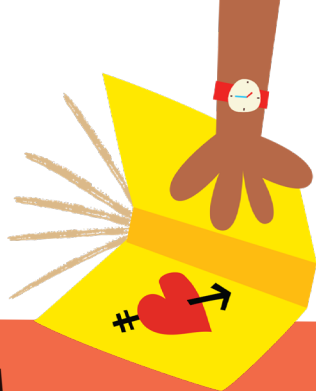
WITH JACK MEGGITT-PHILLIPS

Welcome to the laboratory of Jack Meggitt-Phillips – a laugh out loud, carnival of chaos, where young readers will be given the skills they need to create their own monstrously funny stories. In this highly interactive event, Jack will introduce his new middle-grade series, Jekyll vs Hyde: The Potion of Doom, while giving a whistle-stop history of the Victorian London that inspired the spine-chilling classic.

1.00PM-2.00PM

AGES: 8-12

VENUE: THE CIVIC, MAIN HALL



SATURDAY EVENTS

TICKETS: £4



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MURDER FOR TWO: WRITING WORKSHOP

WITH NIYLA FAROOK

Niyla's Murder for Two writing workshop will teach children about the common features that appear in all our favourite murder mysteries, how to craft unique characters and suspects, how to structure a story and how to use red herrings. Children will be able to create the start of their own mystery and ask Niyla for her writing advice.

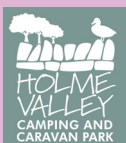
2.15PM-3.15PM

AGES: 8-11

VENUE: THE CIVIC, LESSER HALL



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CLIFF: THE MAN WITH THE SEAGULL ON HIS HEAD

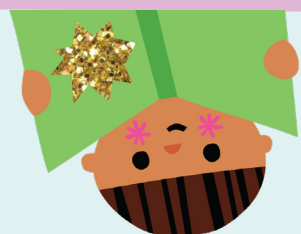
WITH GARETH HOPKINS

Join author Gareth Hopkins for a gloriously silly story time all about Cliff, the lonely fisherman who a seagull decides to befriend (by landing on his head). You'll laugh! You'll squawk! You'll cry! (But in a good way.) There'll be the world's most difficult quiz: Seagull or Beagle? A draw-a-long where you'll learn how to sketch Cliff's feathered lodger, and a chance to make your very own seagull hat to take home. You'll never look at a seagull in the same way again!

2.00PM-2.45PM

AGES: 3-6

VENUE: HONLEY LIBRARY



Baby Sensory
Precious Early Learning for Babies

Sponsored by:



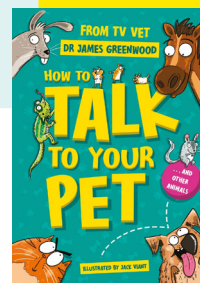
BABY SENSORY WITH LEANNE EDGE

Come and join Leanne, award-winning Advanced Baby Sensory Practitioner, for structured sensory play inspired by the wonderful world of books. Join us as we explore the oxytocin rich moments that reading and story-telling can create. The session will mirror your baby's natural rhythm of "play, rest, play".

2.30PM-3.30PM

AGES: UP TO 13 MONTHS

VENUE: HOLMFIRTH METHODIST CHURCH



Sponsored by:



HOW TO TALK TO YOUR PET

WITH DR. JAMES GREENWOOD

Discover how to talk to your pet, with vet and star of Channel 4's Fur Babies and CBBC's The Pets Factor, Dr James Greenwood. What does it mean when a dog's tail wags round and round like a helicopter? What is a cat trying to say when its ears are pricked up? And what on earth is a rabbit trying to tell you when it eats its own poo? From cats and dogs to horses, hamsters, rabbits and more, animals all have something to say. Learn how to read the clues your pet is trying to give you, and discover how to communicate with them, too!

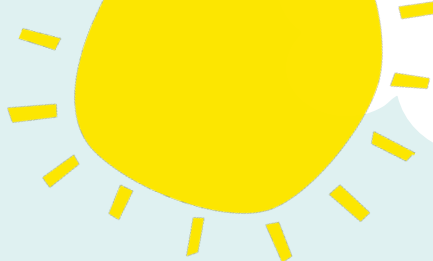
3.00PM-4.00PM

AGES: 6-9

VENUE: THE CIVIC, MAIN HALL



SUNDAY EVENTS



MURPHYS SKETCHES

BY KERRI CUNNINGHAM

Kerri Cunningham, otherwise known as Murphys Sketches, shares messages of positivity and finding the joy in everyday life on Instagram. Her little sketches, poems and words of encouragement brighten the days of people all over the world. She has released two books for children: There Is a Season - a poetry collection to celebrate the seasons, and Baxter's View - her debut picture book about a little boy who looks at the world a little differently. Kerri will talk all about her books and what inspired them, she will read some poetry from There Is a Season and children will help her to create a poem. Expect a welcoming event for all of the family.



Sponsored by:



10:30AM-11:30AM

AGES: 4-10

VENUE: THE CIVIC, LESSER HALL



THE MOONLIGHT DRAGON

WITH LIZ FLANAGAN

Liz, author of the Wildsmith series, will introduce her new book The Moonlight Dragon, a middle-grade fantasy with themes of climate change and re-wilding. She will explain which examples of habitat recovery inspired her and share her love for the natural world. Children will be invited to create a new magical creature and create the perfect habitat for it to flourish in, before starting a story of their own.



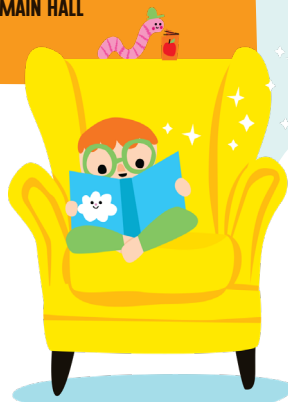
Sponsored by:



11.00AM - 12.00PM

AGES 7-11

VENUE: THE CIVIC, MAIN HALL



BOOK TICKETS AT: HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK

SUNDAY EVENTS

TICKETS: £4



GET HAPPY WITH THE OVERTHINKERS' CLUB WITH NAT LUURTSEMA

Join comedian, Nat Luurtsema for a talk about her new book, The Overthinkers' Club: Happy List, which tackles anxiety, dread and the pointy worried feelings you get in your stomach, with science, good sense and a Happy List. Nat used to be a very anxious child, and then an anxious adult, and now she has the personality of a Golden Retriever. Which is brilliant, obviously, and she wants to share her tips and tricks for achieving this excellent state of mind. She'll show kids her own personal Happy List and invite them to make one with her right now. She will also show exclusive glimpses of her attempts to illustrate this book herself, before her publisher said "absolutely not" and "those are horrible."

Sponsored by:



1.00PM-2.00PM

AGES: 9-13

VENUE: THE CIVIC, MAIN HALL



Baby Sensory
Precious Early Learning for Babies

BABY SENSORY WITH LEANNE EDGE

Come and join Leanne, award-winning Advanced Baby Sensory Practitioner, for structured sensory play inspired by the wonderful world of books. Join us as we explore the oxytocin rich moments that reading and story-telling can create. The session will mirror your baby's natural rhythm of "play, rest, play."

Sponsored by:

the
nest

1.00PM-2.00PM

AGES: UP TO 13 MONTHS

VENUE: HOLMFIRTH METHODIST CHURCH

BOOK TICKETS AT: HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK

SUNDAY EVENTS



SQUIRREL SHADY: THE GOLDEN ACORN WITH NICK EAST

Calling all sneaky squirrels, criminal masterminds and chaos loving readers! Join Nick East for a fun-filled Squirrel Shady event of drawing, storytelling and Big City mayhem. Invent your own wicked crime lord, cook up a ridiculous caper, and prepare for all sorts of nut filled silliness and possibly even a song or two. See you there!



Sponsored by:



1.15PM - 2.15PM AGES 6-9 VENUE: THE CIVIC, LESSER HALL



STORY-TIME WITH SUPERTATO!

Come along and meet Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet's iconic character, Supertato, hear some stories and grab a photo with him too.



Sponsored by:



2.45PM - 3.15PM AGES: 0-6
VENUE: HOLMFIRTH METHODIST CHURCH



Read

FAMILY BOOK QUIZ AND FESTIVAL CELEBRATION EVENT

Join us to celebrate the second year of the Holmfirth Children's Book Festival with a fantastic book-based quiz for all the family!

Do you know your Bunnies from your Monkeys? Are you an expert when it comes to the embarrassing life of Lottie Brooks? Could you list all of the foods munched by The Very Hungry Caterpillar? If so, round up the family and head down to the festival's grand finale, and your chance to win stacks of prizes - vouchers for Read Bookshop, tote bags, badges, pens and even signed copies of books by the festival's star attractions!

Sponsored by:
Read Bookshop

3.00PM - 4.00PM MOST SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 6-12
VENUE: THE CIVIC, MAIN HALL

AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

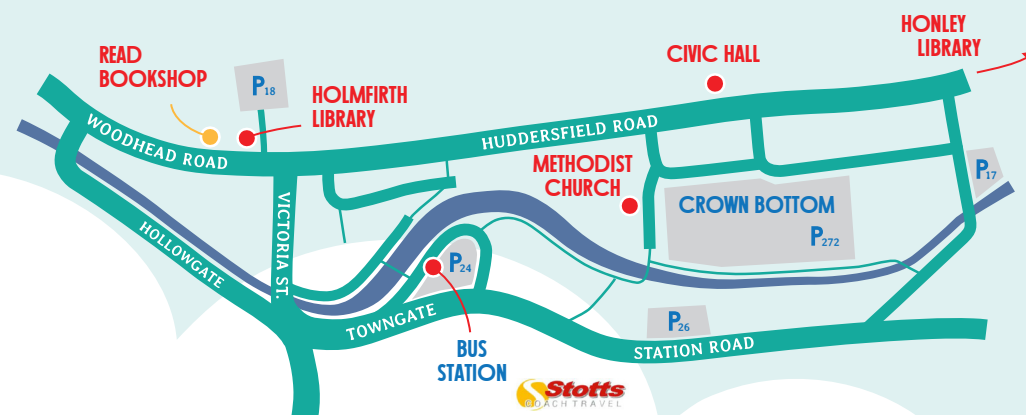
We are hugely grateful to our affiliated schools, pre-schools and nurseries who have supported the festival financially and who continue to promote books and reading with their children so passionately. If your child's school is affiliated, you may be able to access free tickets if you are not able to pay. Get in touch with them for more information. Affiliated settings are shown below but for the most up to date list please check our website.



GETTING TO HOLMFIRTH

Wherever possible please use public transport, or walk to the festival if you are able to. We are very grateful to Stotts Coaches who have kindly offered free travel to and from Holmfirth on Saturday 26th for the festival.

If you are coming by car, there are several public car parks, payable using the RingGo app. Please check our website for the most up to date information.



BOOK TICKETS AT: [HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk)

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY	Time (am/pm)	Venue	Accessible venue	Ideal for ages:
Medusa, Myths and Mayhem with Bethany Walker	9.30 - 10.30	The Civic Lesser Hall	Yes	7 - 11
The Pumpkin Thief with Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater	10.00 - 11.00	The Civic Main Hall	Yes	5 - 8
Be on a Podcast!	10.00 - 11.00	The Civic Meeting Room	Yes	8 - 12
Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld with Jamie Gregory	11.15 - 12.15	The Civic Lesser Hall	Yes	8 - 12
Cliff: The Man with the Seagull on his Head with Gareth Hopkins	11.30 - 12.15	Holmfirth Library	Yes	3 - 6
Read-cycle Children's Used Book Sale	11.30 - 1.30	Read Bookshop	No	All ages
Be on a Podcast!	11.30 - 12.30	The Civic Meeting Room	Yes	8 - 12
Story-time with Supertato!	1.00 - 1.30	Holmfirth Methodist Church	Yes	0 - 6
The Potion of Doom with Jack Meggitt-Phillips	1.00 - 2.00	The Civic Main Hall	Yes	8 - 12
Cliff: The Man with the Seagull on his Head with Gareth Hopkins	2.00 - 2.45	Honley Library	Yes	3 - 6
Murder for Two: Writing Workshop with Niyi Farook	2.15 - 3.15	The Civic Lesser Hall	Yes	8 - 11
Baby Sensory with Leanne Edge	2.30 - 3.30	Holmfirth Methodist Church	Yes	Up to 13 months
How to Talk to your Pet with Dr James Greenwood	3.00 - 4.00	The Civic Main Hall	Yes	6 - 9
SUNDAY	Time (am/pm)	Venue	Accessible venue	Ideal for ages:
Murphys Sketches by Kerri Cunningham	10.30 - 11.30	The Civic Lesser Hall	Yes	4 - 10
The Moonlight Dragon with Liz Flanagan	11.00 - 12.00	The Civic Main Hall	Yes	7 - 11
Get Happy with the Overthinkers' Club with Nat Luurtsema	1.00 - 2.00	The Civic Main Hall	Yes	9 - 13
Baby Sensory with Leanne Edge	1.00 - 2.00	Holmfirth Methodist Church	Yes	Up to 13 months
Squirrel Shady: The Golden Acorn with Nick East	1.15 - 2.15	The Civic Lesser Hall	Yes	6 - 9
Story-time with Supertato!	2.45 - 3.15	Holmfirth Methodist Church	Yes	0 - 6
Family Book Quiz and Festival Celebration	3.00 - 4.00	The Civic Main Hall	Yes	6 - 12

CONTACT US

Any questions about Holmfirth Children's Book Festival?
You can contact us at:

HELLO@HOLMFIRTHBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK

