

# CHILDREN'S 2023 HIGHLIGHTS EVENT PROGRAMME



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# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

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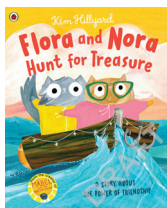
**LADYBIRD**



## FLORA AND NORA HUNT FOR TREASURE

Explore the beautiful artwork and message behind *Flora and Nora Hunt for Treasure*, with author and illustrator Kim Hillyard

**The Event:** Join Kim Hillyard as she showcases the stunning artwork and important messages in her gorgeous picture books.



**Pub date:** 01/06/2023  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Price:** £7.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241488607  
**Age Range:** 3–5 years  
**Publisher:** Jasmine Joynton

- The fourth picture book from the award-winning author/illustrator Kim Hillyard.
- A heart-warming adventure story celebrating the power of friendship and how it can overcome stormy seas and the lure of secret treasure!
- This positive picture book shows children that even though friends might be apart, they are still important to each other – a key learning point for children as they widen their social circles.

### The Book:

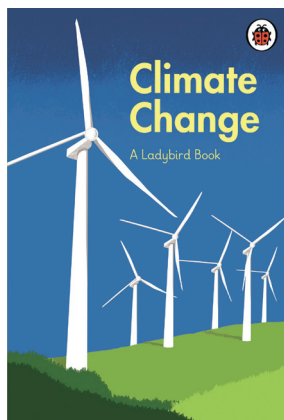
A NEW sea-faring adventure from the award-winning Kim Hillyard!

Flora and Nora are a pair of adventurous sea-faring cats. As they sail off in search of the Secret Treasure, a storm hits, destroying their boat and leaving the best friends separated at sea!

Will Flora and Nora remember the value of their friendship, or will they get carried away with the lure of adventure and jewels?

After completing a degree in drama at the University of Exeter, **Kim Hillyard** spent nine years working as a music journalist for various publications, including *NME*, *Time Out* and the BBC. She has also worked as a drama and arts facilitator, delivering assemblies, storytelling and workshops in schools, bookshops and community spaces, on everything from phonics to creative writing.

Kim's debut picture book, *Mabel and the Mountain*, won the 2020 Sainsbury's Children's Book Award. Her second title, *Ned and the Great Garden Hamster Race*, was released in January 2021 and *Gretel the Wonder Mammoth* published in March 2022.



## A LADYBIRD BOOK: CLIMATE CHANGE

**Replace with: HRH The Prince Charles, former Prince of Wales has written the afterword to this guide to climate change**

**The Event:** A short preview of this child-friendly guide to climate change

**Pub date:** 09/03/23  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £6.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241545669  
**Age Range:** 7–9 years  
**Publicist:** Jasmine Joynson  
**Illustrator:** Aleesha Nandhra

- Awareness of our changing climate is increasing and becoming part of the everyday for children, from Earth Day in schools to their reusable water bottles taken to the park.
- Adapted from the Ladybird Expert title, this child-friendly edition has been updated with new data and an additional spread on the youth climate change protests to modernize and make the content accessible for the age group.
- Expert-checked content and stylish artwork brings this important non-fiction topic to life.

### The Book:

An introductory guide to what climate is, how and why it is changing and what that means for all life on Earth.

*Climate Change* looks at the causes and effects of climate change on human life, nature and the Earth's geography. It celebrates the youth climate change movement and highlights the small changes everyone can do today, to help slow and halt the progression of climate change.

**HRH The Prince Charles, former Prince of Wales** has been an environmental leader for over forty years, working with businesses, charities and governments to help promote sustainable ways of living and working. He made his first speech on the environment in December 1968 and has long warned of the irreversible effects of climate change. In October 2007, he set up the Prince's Rainforests Project to slow tropical deforestation and combat climate change, and in 2010 his International Sustainability Unit was established to facilitate consensus on key environmental challenges, including how best to protect food security and sustain vital ecosystems. HRH The Prince Charles, former Prince of Wales has also sought to address climate change challenges through his patronage of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and its Corporate Leaders Group on climate change.

**Dr Tony Juniper** is an independent environmentalist and writer. He is a fellow of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and the Chair of Natural England.

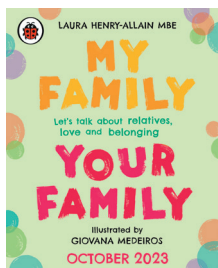
**Dr Emily Shuckburgh OBE** is a climate scientist at the British Antarctic Survey. She holds a number of positions at the University of Cambridge and is a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.



## MY FAMILY, YOUR FAMILY

Let's talk about relatives, love and belonging with Laura Henry-Allain

**The Event:** Laura Henry-Allain's tells us about her beautiful and educational upcoming book about families.



**Pub date:** 05/10/23  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £12.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241610480  
**Age Range:** 5–7 years  
**Publisher:** Jasmine Joynson  
**Illustrator:** Giovana Medeiros

- Written by early years expert and *JoJo & Gran Gran* creator Laura Henry-Allain MBE, this book aims to support parents, teachers and guardians as they have meaningful conversations about family, relations and the emotional bonds we all make.
- It explores what a family is, and the MANY different ways families can come together, grow and change.
- The book contains explanations of key words and concepts written in child-friendly, accessible language, with relatable examples that aim to support children's development and understanding.

### The Book:

*My Family, Your Family* is a powerful non-fiction book that discusses what makes a family, explores how different families come together and celebrates the idea that every family is unique.

This accessible non-fiction book has been specifically written by early years expert and children's media creator Laura Henry-Allain, to help children and adults have meaningful discussions on family and belonging.

**Laura Henry-Allain MBE** is an award-winning early education specialist, consultant, author and scriptwriter. She is the creator and associate producer of the well-loved CBeebies characters *JoJo & Gran Gran*. She is also the vice-president of the British Association for Early Childhood Education, and is an educational consultant for several well-known brands as well as children's media, television and publishing, particularly in the areas of inclusion, racial equality and diversity.

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/LauraHAllain) @LauraHAllain [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/LauraHAllain) @LauraHAllain



## BLUEY: SWIM SCHOOL

**Swim school is in session and Bluey is the teacher!**

**The Event:** We find out what Bluey has been up to in 2022 and some of what's in store this year!

**Pub date:** 01/06/23

**Format:** Board book

**Price:** £6.99

**ISBN:** 9780241605165

**Age Range:** 3–7 years

**Publicist:** Phoebe Gordon

- Over 250k books sold in the UK (Nielsen Bookscan, May 2022).
- *Bluey: The Beach* was PRH's fastest selling new licensed £6.99 non-seasonal picture book of 2021.
- Over 4.3 million copies have sold in Australia since release in November 2019 (May 2022).
- Bluey has been a phenomenal success since airing on ABC KIDS in October 2018. It is the most watched programme ever on ABC iView.

### The Book:

Bluey and her family are playing swim school, but first they have to learn a lesson about not dobbling on each other.

Will all of Bluey's fun games help Bingo learn anything about swimming? Find out in this hilarious colour board book!

**Bluey** is an Emmy award-winning Australian children's television programme currently showing on Disney+ in the UK, which celebrates play. Along with her friends and family, blue heeler Bluey enjoys exploring the world and using her imagination to turn everyday life into an amazing adventure. Join Bluey in this fun new collection of story, activity and novelty books.

### Also coming in 2023:

*Bluey: Easter* – coming February 2023

*Bluey: Bluey and Friends Little Library* – coming July 2023

*Bluey: Unicorn* – coming July 2023

*Bluey: Bad Mood* – coming September 2023

*Bluey: 12 Days of Christmas* – coming October 2023



## FIVE MINUTE MUM: STARTING SCHOOL

**Get ready for September with Daisy Upton, Five Minute Mum**

**The Event:** Young readers talk about their feelings and experiences around starting school, and the Five Minute Mum herself talks about what inspired her latest book.



**Pub date:** 15/06/23

**Format:** Paperback

**Price:** £9.99

**ISBN:** 9780241621325

**Age Range:** 3–5 years

**Publicist:** Sophia Smith

**Illustrator:** Mackinzie Rekers

- In 2020, *Five Minute Mum: Give Me Five* became the book that everybody with young people in their life needed, selling more than 65,000 copies through UK TCM alone.
- Daisy's @FiveMinuteMum Instagram channel is growing faster than ever, with over 250,000 followers and increasing!
- Daisy's witty, warm voice – alongside charming illustrations – makes this the perfect book to share with little ones as they take the big step of starting school.

### The Book:

Bestselling author and social-media superstar Daisy Upton is here to help, and she has finally written a book for children! Daisy has two children at primary school and used to be a teaching assistant, so she knows her stuff.

Share this gentle, funny guide with your child to support them – and you! – with understanding uniforms, meeting their teacher, getting to school on the first day, making new friends, finding their way around, having fun at playtime, asking for help, packing their bag, learning about letters and numbers, going to assemblies and much more.

And, of course, this book includes lots of five-minute games and activities designed by Daisy to help your child feel confident and excited about taking the big step of starting school.

Once upon a time, **Daisy Upton** was a teaching assistant working in schools, where she drank hot cups of tea. But when she had her own children, she found she never quite managed to drink a brew while it was still remotely warm. She shared those games online and it turned out quite a few other people wanted to join in too. Daisy now has a large social-media following, a website and four books, including a bestseller.

PUFFIN





## SPEAK UP!

**Rocket discovers the power of using her voice in this funny and inspiring story from the creators of the award-winning sensation *Look Up!***

**The Event:** Join award-winning author and illustrator duo Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola as they introduce the latest adventure for their character, brilliantly passionate and instantly loveable Rocket!



**Pub date:** 18/05/23

**Format:** Paperback

**Price:** £7.99

**ISBN:** 9780241345870

**Age Range:** 2+ years

**Publicist:** Chloe Parkinson

- Loveable Rocket returns for a journey to discover the power in speaking up for what you believe in.
- This is the third book in the series from award-winning duo Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola, featuring wonderful facts and remarkable role models who have inspired change in the world around them.

### The Book:

Bookworm Rocket loves to collect new books on her weekly visit to the library, and to read all about inspirational figures like Rosa Parks. She is heartbroken when she discovers the library will be closing down! Can she use what she's learnt from Rosa and **speaking up** to save the day?

This empowering, heart-warming picture book is a love letter to libraries and the power of reading. And it shows the incredible power we ALL have when we find our voice and **speaking up** about the things that matter.

**Nathan Bryon** is an award-winning writer and actor who has written for BAFTA award-winning children's TV shows, such as *Swashbuckle* and *Apple Tree House* and critically acclaimed *Rastamouse*. A rising star in the world of screenwriting, his animated series *Afro Kid*, is currently under option.

@nathanbryon

**Dapo Adeola** is an award-winning illustrator and designer who creates characters and images that challenge expectations around race and gender in a fun and upbeat way. He is the co-creator and illustrator of bestselling picture book *Look Up!* – winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the number one debut picture book of 2019.

@dapsdraws



## BIG

**Learn to love yourself with Vashti Harrison**

**The Event:** Join Vashti Harrison as she talks about the inspiration behind her new book *Big*, and why learning to love ourselves can be the biggest adventure of all.



**Pub date:** 11/05/2023

**Format:** Hardback

**Price:** £12.99

**ISBN:** 9780241561904

**Age Range:** 3–7 years

**Publicist:** Lily Orgill

- *Big* is the first picture book to be written and illustrated by Vashti Harrison, award-winning creator of the bestselling *Little Leaders* series.
- A beautiful story about body positivity, self-love and individuality.

### The Book:

*Once there was a girl with a big laugh, a big heart and very big dreams. She grew and grew and grew. And it was good . . . until it wasn't.*

When the girl grows big, the world begins to make her feel small. She feels out of place and invisible, and soon she isn't herself at all. But with the girl's size comes huge inner strength – and this helps her look past the hurtful words to see how perfect she really is.

With beautiful illustrations and a gatefold flap, this quietly reassuring story explores the experience of being big in a world that celebrates small, promoting body positivity and self-acceptance in young readers.

**Vashti Harrison** earned her MFA in film/video from CalArts and BA from the University of Virginia. Her experimental films and documentaries have been shown around the world at film festivals. After a brief stint in television as a production coordinator, she is now a freelance graphic designer and a picture-book illustrator. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, USA.

[@vashtiharrison](https://twitter.com/vashtiharrison) [@VashtiHarrison](https://www.instagram.com/VashtiHarrison)



## NOT NOW NOOR

Answer the big questions with  
Farhana Islam

**The Event:** Farhana Islam introduces the important themes of inclusivity and culture featured in *Not Now Noor*, talking to children about what it means to wear hijab.



**Pub date:** 16/03/23  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Price:** £7.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241552476  
**Age Range:** 3–6 years  
**Publisher:** Lily Orgill

- A heartwarming, funny, energetic story about a multi-generation Muslim family.
- Farhana Islam is an exciting new picture-book voice whose wonderful text is brought to life with colourful and characterful illustrations by Nabila Adani.

### The Book:

Noor loves her mum, and all the other hijabi women in her family, but wonders why do they wear headscarves? Is it so they can hide snacks for later? Or because they're super spies, hiding their secret identity?

Full of curiosity, Noor sets out to find her answer, but her family are all busy and have no time to answer this important question. Just as Noor is ready to give up on her quest, her Ammu arrives home and knows just the thing to say.

This heartwarming and funny tale is a celebration of Muslim women, curious children and family love.

Born and raised in Newcastle upon Tyne and currently residing in Birmingham, **Farhana Islam** is a primary school teacher with a passion for telling stories and empowering diverse voices.

@farhanaislam1993 @Farhanaislam93

**Nabila Adani** lives in Jakarta, Indonesia, and enjoys illustrating different cultures around the world. She originally studied industrial product design at Bandung Institute of Technology, earning her degree in 2013, yet found her way into illustration later in life. She briefly worked as a product designer in Japan and Indonesia before moving to the United States to study children's book illustration. Now living back in Jakarta, she enjoys illustrating and telling stories for children worldwide.

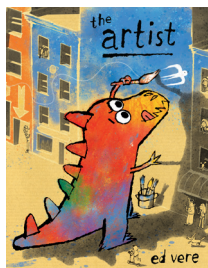
@adaninabila.illo @adaninabila\_



## THE ARTIST

**Celebrate creativity and the art of making happy mistakes with Ed Vere**

**The Event:** Ed Vere unleashes his creative side in his latest work, *The Artist* – all about teaching children to let go of perfectionism and follow their imagination to create art.



**Pub date:** 06/04/23  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £12.99  
**ISBN:** 9780141376370  
**Age Range:** 3-5 years  
**Publicist:** Ellen Grady

- A stunning new book from an exciting creator – Ed Vere garnered praise, award wins and global sales with his last book *How To Be a Lion*.
- Inspired by Vere's work developing the CLPE Power of Pictures programme, *The Artist* is a joyful celebration of children's relationship with art – but it also has a universal message about making mistakes, letting go of perfectionism and enjoying the beauty of the world in the moment. .
- Immersive landscapes, bright colours and an adorable dinosaur main character all add to the appeal of a book with something enduring at its heart.

### The Book:

*What is an artist?  
 Someone who sees beauty  
 Someone with a mind full of colours, feelings and ideas  
 Someone who plays and dreams and makes . . .*

From the award-winning Ed Vere comes a joyful and inspirational celebration of beauty, mistakes and the artist in all of us.

One brave little artist goes on one epic adventure to share her art, and in doing so learns that it doesn't matter if you colour outside the lines, that art is full of heart . . . and that maybe you can be an artist too!

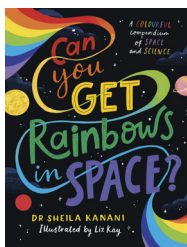
**Ed Vere** is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling writer and illustrator of picture books, including *How To Be a Lion*, winner of Oscar's Book Prize, and *Max the Brave*, which was named one of *The Sunday Times's* 100 Modern Children's Classics.



## CAN YOU GET RAINBOWS IN SPACE?

Join astronomer Dr Sheila Kanani as she launches into some spectacular science

**The Event:** Science has never been so fun! Dr Sheila Kanani shows us an out-of-this-world light experiment and tells us about her latest book *Can You Get Rainbows in Space?*



**Pub date:** 23/03/2023  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £14.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241519721  
**Age Range:** 7–9 years  
**Publicist:** Phoebe Williams

- Dr Sheila Kanani is a science and space expert, and the author of several non-fiction books for children. The volume's bitesize facts coupled with Sheila's accessible writing tone make this the perfect gift for young scientists everywhere!
- Beautifully illustrated in full colour by Liz Kay, this is a visual feast of a book, which uses a rainbow to guide you through a universe of amazing scientific facts, comparable to Bill Bryson's *A Really Short History of Nearly Everything*.

### The Book:

Why is blood red? Why are carrots orange? Who invented the lightbulb? Why is the world 'going green'? Is the sky really blue? And what is ultraviolet light?

You'll discover the answers to these questions – and many more – in this incredible collection of scientific facts about colour, told through the colours of the rainbow, by real astronomer Dr Sheila Kanani. You'll even find out exactly how to make a rainbow – in space!

**Dr Sheila Kanani** is a planetary physicist, science presenter, secondary-school physics teacher, space comedian and published author, with a background in astrophysics and astronomy research from UK universities. She regularly acts as a science ambassador, visiting schools and speaking at events. Sheila is currently the Education, Outreach and Diversity officer for the Royal Astronomical Society. Her favourite planet is Saturn.

 @SaturnSheila

**Liz Kay** is an illustrator based in West Yorkshire, where she lives with her husband Shaun and 1 year old son Stanley. Her work has been featured by a number of well-loved clients, including Conde Nast, Lonely Planet Kids, DK Publishing, Walker Books, Qantas Airlines and Wakefield Museums. Liz enjoys having adventures with her family in her beloved Yorkshire.

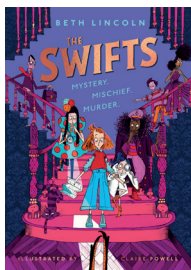




## THE SWIFTS

**Mystery, mayhem and murder with Beth Lincoln**

**The Event:** Beth Lincoln pulls back some of the mystery surrounding her hilarious middle-grade who-dunnit.



**Pub date:** 02/02/23  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £12.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241613009  
**Age Range:** 9–12 years  
**Publisher:** Ellen Grady

- Bursting with mystery, comedy and high-jinks from strong-willed protagonist Shenanigan Swift, Beth Lincoln's powerhouse debut marks the arrival of an incredibly exciting middle-grade writing talent.
- With illustrations by Claire Powell, this is perfect for fans of Lemony Snicket and Robin Stevens.
- Beth Lincoln is a graduate of the PRH WriteNow programme – a nationwide campaign launched by PRH UK to ensure the books and authors we publish better reflect the society we live in.

### The Book:

On the day they are born, each Swift is brought before the sacred Family Dictionary. They are given a name and a definition, and it is assumed they will grow up to match. Unfortunately, Shenanigan Swift has other ideas.

So what if her relatives all think she's destined to turn out as a troublemaker, just because of her name? Shenanigan knows she can be whatever she wants – pirate, explorer or even detective. Which is lucky really, because when one of the Family tries to murder Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude, someone has to work out whodunit.

With the help of her sisters and cousin, Shenanigan begrudgingly takes on the case, but more murders, hidden treasure and an awful lot of suspects make things seriously complicated. Can Shenanigan catch the killer before the whole household is picked off? And in a family where definitions are so important, can she learn to define herself?

**Beth Lincoln** was raised in a former Victorian railway station in the North of England. *The Swifts* is Beth's debut novel. It grew out of her love of words, the gleeful gothic and classic murder mysteries.



## BILLY AND THE GIANT ADVENTURE

**One pinch of adventure, a dash of friendship and a HUGE spoonful of magic . . . the perfect recipe for Jamie Oliver's brand-new children's book**

**The Event:** Jamie Oliver takes us behind the scenes at the making of the Billy and the Giant Adventure audio book.



**Pub date:** 13/04/23  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £14.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241596111  
**Age Range:** 7–11 years  
**Publisher:** Rosamund Hutchison and Phoebe Williams

- Jamie Oliver has sold nearly 50 million books worldwide and is a global phenomenon in food and campaigning. Now he brings his passion for food, family and togetherness to children's books with an enchanting debut that's a classic in the making.
- Friendship, food and fantastical adventure! Speaking to Jamie's passions and brand values, the book explores the importance of friendship and working together, getting out into the wild and exploring the world and, of course, the joy of sharing food.

**One pinch of adventure, a dash of friendship, a sprinkle of mystery and a HUGE spoonful of magic . . . Jamie Oliver, bestselling author and internationally renowned chef, delivers the perfect recipe for a page-turning children's fiction debut!**

### The Book:

Billy and his friends know that Waterfall Woods is out of bounds; strange things are rumoured to have happened there and no one in their village has ventured past its walls for decades . . .

But when they discover a secret way in, Billy and his best friends Anna, Jimmy and Andy, can't resist the temptation to explore! Only they quickly discover that the woods are brimming with magic and inhabited by all sorts of unusual creatures, including a whole community of sprites who need the children's help!

With magical battles, a long-lost mythical city, fantastical flying machines, epic feasts and one GIANT rescue, get ready for an adventure you'll never forget!

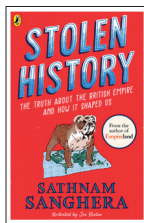
**Jamie Oliver** is a global phenomenon in food and campaigning. He has sold nearly 50 million books worldwide, is the top-selling non-fiction author in UK history and achieved an estimated global TV audience reach of 67 million across 182 territories.



## STOLEN HISTORY

Discover the truth about the British Empire with Sathnam Sanghera

**The Event:** Bestselling author Sathnam Sanghera in conversation with outstanding debut author Nazneen Ahmed Pathak on the importance of discussing the complexities and history of Empire and colonialism in fiction and non-fiction for children.



**Pub date:** 08/06/23  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Price:** £8.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241623435  
**Age Range:** 9–12 years  
**Publisher:** Lizz Skelly

- Children's adaptation of the bestselling and critically acclaimed *Empireland*, which also inspired a Channel 4 documentary (*Empire State of Mind*).
- An essential timely book – the first on this topic for young readers, building on the demand for inclusive history such as *Black and British*.
- Working alongside Lit in Colour and publishing as part of the inclusive curriculum campaign, this is a book for a growing education movement, which Sathnam speaks to directly through his adult publication and strong social platform.

### The Book:

You've probably heard the word 'empire' before. Perhaps because of the Roman empire. Or maybe even the Star Wars films.

But what about the British Empire? Why don't we learn much about this? And what even is an empire, anyway?

This book answers all the important questions about Britain's imperial history. It explores how Britain's empire once made it the most powerful nation on earth, and how it still affects our lives in many ways today – from the words we use, to the food we eat, the sports we play and even to every grown-up's fixation with a good cup of tea.

**Sathnam Sanghera** was born to Punjabi immigrant parents in Wolverhampton in 1976. He entered the education system unable to speak English, but went on to graduate from Christ's College, Cambridge, with a first-class degree in English language and literature. He has been shortlisted for the Costa Book Award twice, for his memoir *The Boy With The Topknot* and his novel *Marriage Material*. *Empireland* has been longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction. He lives in London.





## CITY OF STOLEN MAGIC

**Outstanding debut storytelling talent  
Nazneen Ahmed Pathak in conversation  
with bestselling author Sathnam  
Sanghera**

**The Event:** Outstanding debut author Nazneen Ahmed Pathak sits down with bestselling author Sathnam Sanghera to talk about the importance of discussing the complexities and history of empire and colonialism in fiction and non-fiction for children.



**Pub date:** 01/06/23  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Price:** £7.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241567487  
**Age Range:** 9–14 years  
**Publicist:** Charlotte Winstone

- Puffin's biggest debut of 2023, *City of Stolen Magic* is a spellbinding, epic and heart-racing magical adventure from an exquisite new storytelling talent.
- A fast-paced, epic magical adventure with a brilliantly diverse cast of characters from an extraordinary new voice in children's literature, this is a perfect read for fans of *The Unadoptables*, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* and *His Dark Materials*.
- Opening up important and timely conversations about racism, this is a book that shines a light on an area of history that has been whitewashed and hidden for many years.

### The Book:

India, 1855. The British rule, and all across the country, Indian magic is being stamped out.

More terrifying still, people born with magic are being snatched from their homes. Rumour is that they are being taken across the sea - to England - by the all-powerful, sinister Company.

When Chompa's home is attacked and her mother viciously kidnapped, Chompa - born with powerful and dangerous magic that she has always been forbidden from using - must travel to the smoky, bustling streets of East London in search of her. But Chompa will discover far more treachery in London than she had bargained for - and will learn that every act of her rare magic comes with a price . . .

**Nazneen Ahmed Pathak** is a British Bangladeshi writer, historian and visual artist who lives in the port city of Southampton. She researches the geography and history of migration, a subject which is also at the heart of much of her fiction, poetry and visual arts practice. She was selected as one of 12 mentees for the 2016/17 inaugural round of Penguin Random House's Write Now mentorship scheme.



## SUPER GHOST

**A superhero adventure with a twist, from the hilarious bestselling duo Greg James and Chris Smith – now in paperback**

**The Event:** Comedy duo Greg James and Chris Smith celebrate the paperback release of their hilarious superhero adventure by doing what they do best: making us laugh.



**Pub date:** 06/07/2023

**Format:** Paperback

**Price:** £7.99

**ISBN:** 9780241470527

**Age Range:** 8–12 years

**Publicist:** Charlotte Winstone and Lizz Skelly

- Greg James and Chris Smith are a hilarious and mega-popular writing duo. Since 2017, their award-winning collaboration *Kid Normal* has been translated into twenty-two languages and has sold over 350k copies through UK TCM alone.
- PRH's first standalone with Greg and Chris sold 50,000 copies through UK TCM across HB and PB (first three months of sale) and they reached number two in the children's hardback chart.

### The Book:

When world-famous superhero Dr Extraordinary gets blown up inside a giant robot, his number one fan, twelve-year-old Sonny is devastated. A world without heroes is totally rubbish! But things take an even more extraordinary turn when the doc returns as a ghost and only Sonny can see him. With Paragon City under attack from cute (and slightly creepy) baby pandas, Sonny and his best friend Spot must help Doctor Extraordinary save the world one final time . . .

As well as writing the bestselling *Kid Normal* series with Chris Smith, **Greg James** is the host of the Radio 1 Breakfast Show, the loosely cricket-based podcast *Tailenders*, and Radio 4's *Rewinder*. Basically he's turned all his favourite things into work and now has no hobbies.

 [@greg\\_james](https://www.instagram.com/greg_james)  [@gregjames](https://twitter.com/gregjames)

**Chris Smith** worked for many years as a newsreader and presenter on radio stations including Xfm and BBC Radio 1. That's where he met Greg James, and in between messing about on the airwaves, the pair created the bestselling *Kid Normal* series.

 [@chrissmithinstagram](https://www.instagram.com/chrissmithinstagram)  [@itschrissmith](https://twitter.com/itschrissmith)

### Also available:

*The Great Dream Robbery*: out now  
Book 3 coming soon!





## SAVING NEVERLAND

**Bestselling author Abi Elphinstone introduces the new and familiar faces of *Saving Neverland***

**The Event:** Join Abi Elphinstone at the home of Peter Pan.



**Pub date:** 05/01/23  
**Format:** Hardback  
**Price:** £14.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241473320  
**Age Range:** 8–13 years  
**Publisher:** Charlotte Winstone

- Abi Elphinstone is one of the UK's bestselling children's writers.
- *Peter Pan* continues to be one of the world's best-loved and bestselling classics – as well as being one of Abi Elphinstone's favourite children's books. This fresh and modern reimagining breathes new life into the story of the boy who never grew up.

### The Book:

**Martha Pennydrop** is ten, and desperate to grow up. But growing up is a tricky business. It means turning your back on imagination, fun and magic, because those were the things that led to the Terrible Day when something awful nearly happened to Martha's younger brother, **Scruff**, which would have been All Her Fault.

But when Martha and Scruff discover a drawer full of **mysterious gold dust** in the bedroom of their new house – along with a window that's seemingly impossible to close – it's the start of an incredible adventure to a magical world: **Neverland!** The Pennydrops' new house used to belong to another family – the Darlings – who once visited this world themselves. Now **Peter Pan** is back, and in need of their help. Neverland is in the icy grip of a terrible curse, cast long ago by **Captain Hook**. And only Martha and Scruff can save it . . .

A reluctant Martha and excited Scruff are swept off to Neverland and into the company of the Lost Kids. But when Scruff is kidnapped, Martha must rediscover all the imagination, magic and belief she has buried deep inside herself for so long, to save him – and Neverland itself.

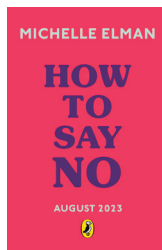
**Abi Elphinstone** grew up in Scotland, where she spent most of her childhood running wild across the moors, hiding in tree houses and building dens in the woods. She is the bestselling and multi-award shortlisted author of *Rumblestar* (first in *The Unmapped Chronicles*), *Sky Song* and *The Dreamsnatcher* trilogy, published by S&S.



## HOW TO SAY NO

**Boundaries, respect and knowing yourself with Michelle Elman**

**The Event:** A guide to setting boundaries for your friendships, your body and your life from author, accredited life coach, broadcaster, award-winning activist and influencer Michelle Elman.



**Pub date:** 17/08/23

**Format:** Paperback

**Price:** £12.99

**ISBN:** 9780241634097

**Age Range:** 10–14 years

**Publicist:** Ellen Grady

- From writer, five-board accredited life coach, broadcaster, award-winning activist, internationally known influencer and TedX speaker, Michelle Elman.
- Comic-book style illustrations throughout add light humour to Michelle's energetic, lively, playful text and illustrate the different scenarios of boundary-setting.
- Boundaries are a major talking point at the moment and this will publish into a huge trend topic.

### The Book:

Say NO to demanding friends. NO to parties you don't want to go to. NO to being tied to your phone. NO to unwanted hugs. This is an empowering, essential and playful guide to setting boundaries for readers aged 10+.

Growing up is a minefield. You have to navigate new friendships, new teachers, your body changes, people are kissing, there never seems to be enough hours in the day . . . and why is everyone suddenly posting their breakfast on social media?!

From setting boundaries with friendships, phones, family, your body and much more, and with funny and informative illustrations, this important, playful and empowering book is a one-stop guide to creating the rules to your own life, and knowing when it's OK to say NO!

**Michelle Elman's** TedX talk has been viewed over 50,000 times and she has a very active social media presence, with more than 222k followers across her channels.

 @michelleelman  @MichelleLElman



## THE STARLIGHT STABLES GANG

The debut adventure from equestrian superstar Esme Higgs

**The Event:** Join the Starlight Stables Gang with ThisEsme and her pony Mickey.



**Pub date:** 30/03/23

**Format:** Hardback

**Price:** £14.99

**ISBN:** 9780241597675

**Age Range:** 8–12 years

**Publicist:** Lizz Skelly

- Brilliantly written and full of personality, this is perfect for readers of classic animal stories by Clare Balding and Susanna Bailey.
- Esme is a twenty-one-year-old equestrian social-media content creator with nearly one million followers across YouTube and Instagram. Her online videos are a mix of tutorials, horse care videos and vlogs about her horses.
- This is aspirational fiction, with a positive girl-power message from a big-sister figure, ensuring this book feels fresh and distinctive from other classic animal fiction.

### The Book:

Summer has always loved horses, but she never thought she'd be able to learn how to ride them – not with money being so tight at home. Then she discovers the Starlight Stables, where she meets a new gang of friends and learns how to ride in return for helping out with the horses. It's a dream come true!

Summer falls in love with life at the stables and especially with Luna, a beautiful dappled grey pony. But one day, Summer arrives at the stables to find that Luna has been stolen in the night. It's up to the Starlight Stables Gang to follow the clues and rescue Luna before it's too late!

**Esme Higgs** is one of the biggest influencers in the equestrian world, with one million followers. She's a writer, presenter, video producer – as well as a horse-mad ordinary girl. She is also a proud ambassador for The Brooke charity.

 @this\_esme  @this\_esme

**Jo Cotterill**'s first book was published in 2004, and she gave up teaching in 2009. Jo now lives in Oxfordshire and fits writing around her young family.





## LIL' MUFFIN DROPS THE MIC

From comedy superstar Romesh Ranganathan comes a hilarious and heartfelt tale that proves rap battles and baking muffins really can mix

**The Event:** Comedy superstar Romesh Ranganathan introduces *Lil' Muffin Drops the Mic*, his hilarious debut into children's fiction.



**Pub date:** 20/07/23

**Format:** Hardback

**Price:** £14.99

**ISBN:** 9780241647646

**Age Range:** 8+ years

**Publicist:** Chloe Parkinson

- Romesh has a huge and growing profile. As well as presenting his own shows, Romesh is a regular on several panel shows, including family gameshow *The Weakest Link*. He regularly tours his stand-up comedy around the UK to huge sell-out audiences.
- As well as being a hilarious and accessible read, the story also delivers a really powerful and heart-warming message about the importance of believing in yourself and following your dreams.
- For fans of laugh-out-loud reads such as *Little Badman* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

### The Book:

Ever since James's dad left, he can't seem to stop worrying about everything. Luckily his favourite hobby baking is a fun (and delicious!) distraction. But no matter how many amazing soufflés James makes, he still feels like there's a missing ingredient in his life.

When James hears someone rapping in the playground one breaktime, he's completely hooked, and starts writing his own raps featuring all of his favourite things – maths, his giant pet rabbit Graham and of course – cake!

Then he discovers that grime artist Brukka is on the hunt for new talent, and James wonders if this is his chance to share his muffins, music and maybe even his feelings with the whole school – if he can just find the confidence . . .

**Romesh Ranganathan** is a comedian, actor and writer. A former maths teacher, he is now known for his award-winning series *The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan*, his weekly topical show *The Ranganation*, his sitcom *The Reluctant Landlord* and the BAFTA nominated *Asian Provocateur*, which features Romesh's mum. *Lil' Muffin Drops the Mic* is his first children's book, and gave him an excuse to write about two of his favourite things – hip hop and cake.

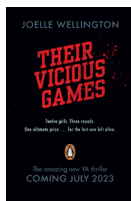
PENGUIN



## THEIR VICIOUS GAMES

Get ready to play a deadly game with Joelle Wellington

**The Event:** YA debut Joelle Wellington introduces her first novel, a high-pace thriller packed with dark twists and a dash of ruthlessness. Joelle will share her inspirations and talk through the key themes of class, race and female power that are woven throughout the book.



**Pub date:** 20/07/23

**Format:** Paperback

**Price:** £8.99

**ISBN:** 9780241590553

**Age Range:** 13–17 years

**Publisher:** Lindsay Sethia

- This book could not be more current. Reminiscent of *Squid Games*, but with its own unique take on the Battle Royale genre, it has the social and racial commentary of *Get Out*, and makes the reader think while it thrills. It's sure to find a huge YA audience beyond the book world, hungry for a thoughtful, gripping read.
- We know that this type of YA has the potential to be big. *The Inheritance Games* and *Ace of Spades* have proved that thoughtful thrillers are on the rise, and this is one has 'TikTok made me buy it' written all over it.

### The Book:

Twelve girls. Three rounds. One ultimate prize . . . for the last one left alive.

Edgewater Academy is a school for the very rich and very powerful. Adina Walker is neither of those things. Alone and outcast, when she gets into a fight with a fellow student (and former friend), her scholarship to a top college is revoked, and her world falls apart.

Until she's invited to The Finish.

Annual games for the brightest and the best, hosted by power-family the Remingtons, the winning prize for The Finish is everything Adina wants. This is her chance at the life she's dreamed of.

Then the contestants start to die.

**Joelle Wellington** grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where her childhood was spent wandering the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. Her love of the written word led her to a B.A. in creative writing and international studies. Her work *Cottonmouth*, has been published in *Apex Magazine*.





## THE FIRST MOVE

**Checkmate! An enemies-to-lovers YA romance that is sure to have you hooked this summer.**

**The Event:** Meet Jenny Ireland in conversation with another of Penguin's YA debuts, Callum McSwiggan.



**Pub date:** 13/04/23  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Price:** £8.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241591826  
**Age Range:** 13+  
**Publisher:** Chloe Parkinson

- A *Cinderella Story* meets *The Queen's Gambit*, featuring the beloved enemies-to-lovers theme.
- Jenny was part of the Penguin Random House WriteNow programme, and drew on her own lived experience of having a disability when writing the character of Jules.
- In the UK, approximately 15,000 young people are affected by arthritis, but it is commonly stereotyped as something that only happens to older people. In this story main character Jules has arthritis, with many teenagers with arthritis finally seeing themselves in this book.

### The Book:

Juliet believes girls like her – girls with arthritis – don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'.

Ronan is the new kid: good-looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother, Ciaran. Chesslife is his escape; there, he's not just 'the boy with the brother'.

Juliet thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her – and she wouldn't want him to be anyway – he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else.

Little do they know they've already discovered each other online, and have more in common than they think . . .

**Jenny Ireland** is a young adult writer who lives outside Belfast with her husband, two children and border collie. Although this experience was relatively traumatic, the close encounter with death has given her the gift of seeing what truly matters in life: writing books.



## STRAIGHT EXPECTATIONS

A sparkling LGBTQ+ romance debut from Calum McSwiggan

**The Event:** Calum discusses why he loves writing YA romance, with Jenny Ireland.



**Pub date:** 04/05/23  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Price:** £8.99  
**ISBN:** 9780241551141  
**Age Range:** 12–17 years  
**Publicist:** Charlotte Winstone

- Inclusive, feel-good romantic comedy, perfect for fans of Adam Silvera and Casey McQuiston.
- High-concept twist to an accessible and relatable story – queer teen Max wishes in anger that he had never been born gay and then wakes up next day to find he's straight.
- Highly diverse cast of characters, offering great representation across the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

### The Book:

Seventeen-year-old Max has always been out, proud and just a little spoiled. Frustrated by the lack of romantic options in his small-town high school, during an argument with his lifelong best friend, Dean, Max lashes out and says he wishes he had never been born gay.

Max gets more than he bargained for when he wakes up to find his wish has come true – not only have his feelings for boys vanished, but so has Dean.

With his school life turned upside down and his relationship with his family in tatters, Max sets out on a journey of rediscovery to find a way back to the life he took for granted, and the romance he never thought he'd have.

**Calum McSwiggan** is an author, presenter and LGBTQ+ advocate. He's worked for *Attitude* magazine, written for the *Metro*, *Gay Times* and *PinkNews*, and was recently placed in the *Guardian's* list of the fifty most influential LGBTQ+ figures. Putting LGBTQ+ stories at the heart of everything he does, he's produced award-winning films that have been showcased at film festivals around the world, and racked up over 10 million views on his online videos.

@calummcswiggan @calummcswiggan Calum McSwiggan



## GIRL, GODDESS, QUEEN

**A fresh, fierce and feminist debut from Bea Fitzgerald**

**The Event:** TikTok star on the rise, Bea Fitzgerald, introduces her sparkling and steamy YA debut novel set in the well-loved world of the Greek gods. Meet Hades and Persephone like you've never seen them before, in the novel you'll be hearing everyone talking about.



**Pub date:** 13/07/23

**Format:** Hardback

**Price:** £14.99

**ISBN:** 9780241624272

**Age Range:** 13–17 years

**Publisher:** Harriet Venn

- This sensational book combines a unique, immersive world with characters that leap off the page – and an #enemiestolovers romance that has Aphrodite-approved levels of spicy sizzle.
- This will be a super-lead piece of YA publishing for Penguin Random House Children's in 2023, launched with a stunningly beautiful, impossible-not-to-share hardback package.
- Bea has amassed 100K+ followers on her @chaosonolympus Greek-myth inspired comedy TikTok account.

### The Book:

To hell with love, this goddess has other plans . . .

Thousands of years ago, the gods told a lie: how Persephone was a pawn in the politics of other gods. How Hades kidnapped Persephone to be his bride. How her mother, Demeter, was so distraught that she caused the Earth to start dying.

The real story is much more interesting.

Persephone wasn't taken to hell: she jumped. There was no way she was going to be married off to some smug god more in love with himself than her.

Now all she has to do is convince the Underworld's annoyingly sexy, arrogant and frankly rude ruler, Hades, to fall in line with her plan. A plan that will shake Mount Olympus to its very core.

**Bea Fitzgerald** is an author, agent and content creator. When she's not writing, she's entertaining her 100K+ followers on TikTok with her mythology-themed comedy account @chaosonolympus, and connecting with fellow BookTokers. Bea lives and works in the UK, and *Girl, Goddess, Queen* is her debut novel.



Penguin  
Random House  
CHILDREN'S