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**Free virtual events for schools nationwide this October**

**from the Henley Literary Festival!**

Henley Literary Festival returns this autumn for its 18th year and is once again live streaming author events to schools everywhere for FREE this October!

Since we started streaming events back in 2021, we have reached over 50,000 pupils with our Schools Streaming programme. We are delighted to be able to do the same again in 2024 and offer school children access to as many of these wonderful events as possible.

This year we have a brilliant variety of events for children aged 3-12, with a stellar line up including Waterstones Children’s Laureate **Joseph Coelho** and two of his predecessors, **Jacqueline Wilson** and **Cresssida Cowell**, as well as **Maz Evans**, **Hannah Gold** and illustrator **Petr Horáček** – full details on each of the events in the notes below.

According to the National Literacy Trust, just 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in 2023.

Festival director Harriet Reed-Ryan said: “*Literary festivals are such an important forum for inspiring a love of books, reading and story-telling and the findings from the National Literacy Trust are worrying. We’d love as many children as possible to be able to join these events through their schools and to share the joy of a good book and reignite their love of reading. To have not one but three former Children’s Laureates in our line-up is an opportunity not to be missed. We hope as many schools as possible around the country join us for these brilliant events*.”

To book or for more details, schools can visit the website visit <https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/2024-school-programme/>

We look forward to seeing as many schools online as possible!

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**Notes to editors:**

The 2024 Henley Literary Festival runs from 28th September – 6th October.

Website: <https://henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/henleylitfest/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HenleyLitFest>

For any further press enquiries please contact sarah@henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk

Henley Literary Festival   Kings Arms Barn   Kings Road   Henley-on-Thames   RG9 2DG

Festival office: 01491 575 948     [www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk)

National Literacy Trust research - https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-themes/reading/

**Henley Literary Festival 2024**

**Schools Programme**

**Joseph Coelho**

Monday 30 September, 10am

Suitable for Ages 8-11 (KS2)

***Relic Hamilton***

Children’s Laureate and Festival favourite **Joseph Coelho** returns with the first book in an exciting new series: *Relic Hamilton, Genie Hunter*. Meet Relic and find out how this lonely 11-year-old finds the power to defeat the world’s most fearsome genies! Full of magical twists and turns, archaeological wonders and creative inspiration. Don’t miss this dynamic, interactive event with the acclaimed author, poet and playwright.

<https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/events/joseph-coehlo-relic-hamilton-livestream/>

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**Petr Horáček**

Tuesday 1 October, 10am

Suitable for ages 3-6 (KS1)

***Blue Monster***

With over 4.5 million books sold worldwide, **Petr Horáček** is one of the best-loved author-illustrators around today. He returns to Henley with his latest picture book *Blue Monster* - A wonderfully funny and surprising picture book about friendship and forgiveness. Join the creator of *Silly Suzy Goose*, *A Best Friend for Bear*, *Honk Honk! Baa Baa!* and many more for the funniest Tuesday morning you have ever had, complete with readings and even a draw-along!

<https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/events/petr-horacek-blue-monster-livestream/>

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**Cressida Cowell**

Wednesday 2 October, 10am

Suitable for ages 7-10 (KS2)

***Which Way Round the Galaxy***

The creator of *How To Train Your Dragon*, a Blue Peter Book Award winner for *The Wizard of Once* and Joseph Coelho’s precursor as Children’s Laureate…what a treat to have Cressida Cowell with us on a Wednesday morning! After rave reviews for *Which Way to Anywhere* the internationally bestselling author-illustrator joins us just as Which Way Round the Galaxy is published. WARNING: Contains dangerous space travel and VERY illegal magic!

<https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/events/cressida-cowell-which-way-round-the-galaxy-livestream/>

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**Jacqueline Wilson**

Wednesday 2 October, 12.30pm

Suitable for ages 5-8 (KS1)

***The Magic Faraway Tree***

After her long-awaited Henley Literary Festival debut last year, we are delighted that **Dame Jacqueline Wilson** returns with this special schools event. The much-loved *Tracy Beaker* and *Hetty Feather* creator and author of over 100 books will be sharing stories from *The Magic Faraway Tree: A Christmas Adventure*, inspired by the former Children’s Laureate’s own favourite book as a child by Enid Blyton.

<https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/events/jacqueline-wilson-the-magic-faraway-tree-livestream/>

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**Hannah Gold**

Thursday 3 October, 10am

Suitable for ages 8-11 (KS2)

***Turtle Moon***

Journey to the the Costa Rican rainforest with Waterstones and Blue Peter prize winner **Hannah Gold** and *Turtle Moon!* In this dynamic, fun and turtle-y interactive event the internationally bestselling author of *The Last Bear*, *The Lost Whale* and *Finding Bear* will test our knowledge in a wonderful wildlife quiz and share how, just like the characters in her books, you can become a planet superhero!

<https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/events/hannah-gold-turtle-moon-livestream/>

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**Maz Evans**

Friday 4 October, 10am

Suitable for ages 9-12 (KS2)

***Oh Mummy Mia!***

Come along on an exciting journey with bestselling author Maz Evans, as she introduces a whole new generation of *WHO LET THE GODS OUT?* adventures. Prepare to dive into the madcap mythological worlds of the Maya Underworld in *OH MAYA GODS!* and Ancient Egypt in *OH MUMMY MIA!* Join us for a laughter-filled and interactive event where children can let their imaginations soar. Guaranteed fun and games await!

<https://www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/events/maz-evans-oh-mummy-mia-livestream/>