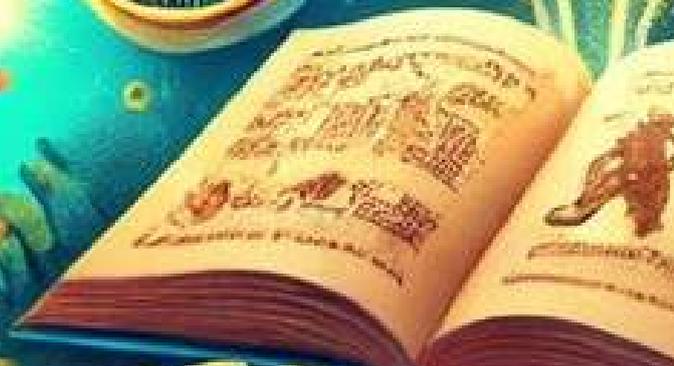
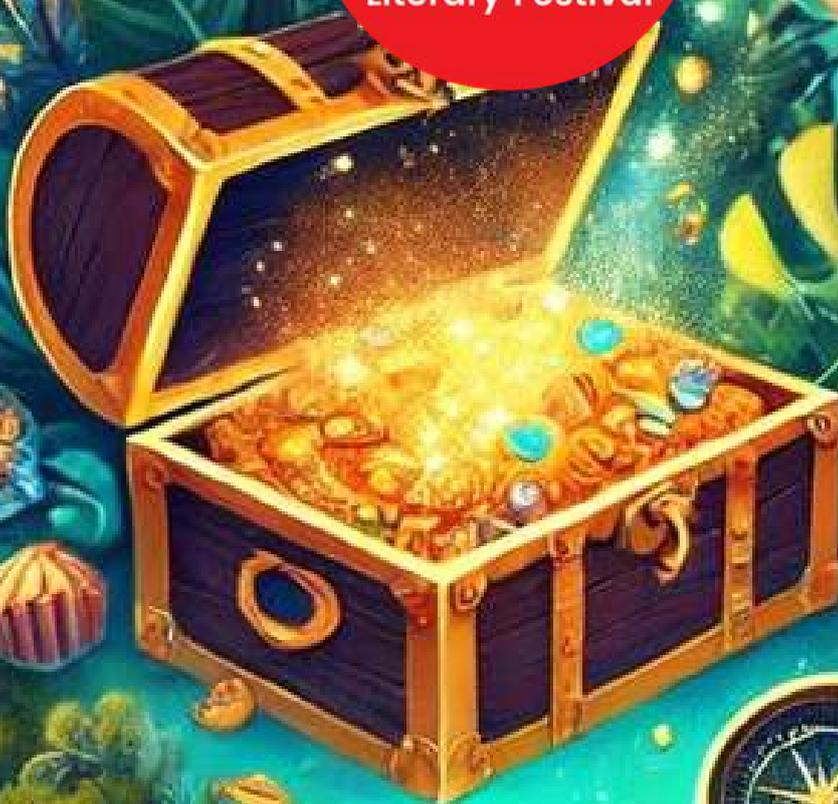


# Bootle Children's Literary Festival 2025 Report



Bootle Children's  
Literary Festival



Reaching Children...



...Changing Lives

Charity No. 1141530  
Company No. 7150747

# Introduction



**The Bootle Children's Literary Festival is a three week festival celebrating stories, books, authors, artists, and culture, creating opportunities for children, young people, families, schools, and the wider community to engage in the joy of story.**

The purpose of the festival is to bring quality cultural and literary opportunities to children in order to improve their engagement with literature and story, and inspire them to read, write, and think creatively. While the reach and ambition of the festival is for the whole city region, it originates in Bootle.

Bootle Children's Literary Festival is a project of Ykids, a charity set up to improve the lives and prospects of children and young people in Bootle and Merseyside.

The Bootle Children's Literary Festival (BCLF) 2025 is the fifth literary festival Ykids have planned, and our ambition is to ensure the festival continues to run for alternate years in Merseyside, and to grow in terms of partners, contributors, and positive outcomes for children across the borough.

The festival offers a wide range of exciting activities and smaller projects, and engages with schools, local businesses, artists, authors, and the local authority.



The BCLF is based out of Kingsley & Co, Ykids' Steampunk Victorian Explorer bookshop and literacy project based in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre. The shop offers an imaginative space with a hidden classroom, discovery rooms, story doors, and a time machine, as well as a coffee shop. In addition to offering free family workshops, events, and after school groups, the project sells quality, pre-loved books for just £1, making stories accessible for everyone.



# Bootle Children's Literary Festival 2025



One of the key values of the BCLF is to support local authors and artists, which we do by employing them to deliver workshops and activities in Kingsley & Co and local schools, and stocking their books. We also support young artists throughout the festival, as they are given a platform to share their work, which we publish in a book each festival, meaning their work is recognised and valued.

We are also honoured that Frank Cottrell-Boyce, the Waterstone's Children's Laureate and patron of Kingsley & Co supports us and we are particularly thankful for his support throughout the festival.

The theme (which changes every year) of 2025 was **Here Be Treasure**, which gave us the opportunity to celebrate what we treasure, whether that be each other, ourselves, or stories!

This year's festival was a large-scale event with multiple projects that aimed to engage thousands of children in creative literary workshops, and the wider community in cultural events.

## Events included:

- A poetry competition for local school students
- Workshops in preparation of the Tale of the Trees which will run in February Half Term
- A Pirate Sandpit, craft activities, VR Walk the Plank experience, and interactive treasure trail at Bootle Strand Shopping Centre
- Free Kingsley & Co Pirate Workshops, Spitfire Workshop, and a visit from a Doctor Who prop maker
- Kingsley & Co Pirate Story Time
- An Audience with Frank Cottrell-Boyce, with special guest Professor Elemental
- Poetry Book Launches for KS2 and KS3 winners of the Poetry Competition, with special guests Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Jude Lennon, Professor Elemental, Ali Harwood, and Jamie Broad
- Two weeks of authors, artists, and performers visiting local schools to deliver workshops
- Two weeks of authors, artists and performers visiting Kingsley & Co to deliver workshops
- The distribution of over 1,500 Golden Tickets for holders to exchange for a free, brand-new book at Kingsley & Co

# Need for the BCLF

Bootle has some of the most deprived communities in the North West, with areas ranking in the highest **1-2%** in the indices of multiple deprivation. Kingsley & Co is the only bookshop in the area, and Bootle is in the bottom **6%** of the UK for literacy despite having a relatively low percentage of ESOL families in the area. Child poverty in the area is amongst the worst in the UK and **51%** of children in Bootle are on free school meals, which is more than twice the national average.

Sefton Council reports that **47%** of pupils do not achieve the expected standard in Reading, Writing, and Maths at KS1, and at KS4 as many as **84%** do not achieve between a level 9 and 5 in English and Maths.

As with our previous festivals, all we ensured that every event or activity for the public was completely free to attend, while school visits and author workshops would be heavily subsidised or free through fundraising. While the average selling price of a book in 2025 is £9.23 (which has increased 2% since last year) Kingsley & Co offer books for just **£1**, or for free for Golden Ticket holders. All these activities being made available for low or no cost allows us to engage with children and families who have previously been categorised as 'hard to reach.'



*This is the best because we can read and discover so much more.*



*I can't believe we can choose any book!*



Funding from Cradle to Career allowed 8 schools in the Linacre Ward to be offered free packages, and all but one booked at least one package. This meant that schools in areas that may not have previously been able to access this kind of event were able to offer it to a selection of their students.

*I learnt lots about poetry.*



## Why a Literary Festival?

Studies show that promoting a love of story and encouraging children to read for pleasure will have a long-term impact on their attainment, mental wellbeing, and life-long prospects.

A National Literacy Trust study found that children who enjoyed reading for pleasure were significantly less likely to have mental health problems, while the Centre for Longitudinal Studies found that reading for pleasure has an impact four times greater on academic success than one parent having a degree.

*It was amazing because we got to use our imagination.*



**Ali Harwood at St Monica's Primary School**



Where READING take you?

READ

# Intended Outcomes

Our purpose is to address the needs mentioned in the previous section through literature and the arts. We want to promote attainment and improve the life-long outcomes of children and young people across Merseyside, particularly those living in poverty.

Our objectives are:

- To give children and young people opportunities to meet authors and artists so they may be inspired to read, write, create, and imagine
- To give schools a cost-effective opportunity to welcome authors, artists and performers into the classroom and a way to engage with a large-scale event promoting literacy
- To engage families and inspire a love of reading in the whole family
- To provide free books as part of our Golden Ticket scheme
- To give young people the opportunity to see their work published and shared with a wider audience
- To give local authors, artists and performers opportunities to share their work and passion with wider audiences
- To deliver a high-quality event in Bootle that promotes well-being and a sense of civic pride in the wider community

*Keep up this amazing cave of curiosity for all ages. Thank you sooooo much! What a treasure!*



*Well organised / excellent staff leading children. A real morning of awe and wonder to take back to our families.*

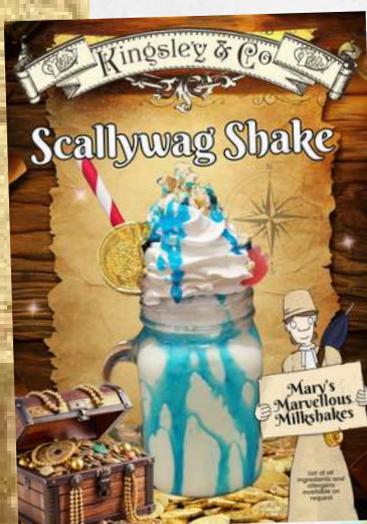
*It was wonderful for the children to meet an author who comes from a similar area and background.*



# Pre Festival

Preparation for the festival started a few months prior to the first event. This included:

- Sending an initial expression of interest pack to schools to gauge interest
- Promoting and inviting participation in the Poetry Competition
- Contacting authors, artists and performers to take part in the event
- Co-ordinating with partners, locations, and contributors
- Fundraising
- Logistical and venue planning, including health and safety assessments
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Marketing
- Contingency plans and preparation for any possible cancellations
- Writing and distributing a programme and handbook
- Reading, shortlisting, proofing, and categorising poetry competition entries, and designing, printing, and planning a poetry book
- Delivering workshops in schools in preparation for the Tale of the Trees
- Setting up and constructing a giant pirate sandpit in the Hive in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre



# Delivery

The festival ran over 3 weeks and delivered a variety of events and activities including:

## **A Pirate Sandpit in the Hive at Bootle Strand Shopping Centre**

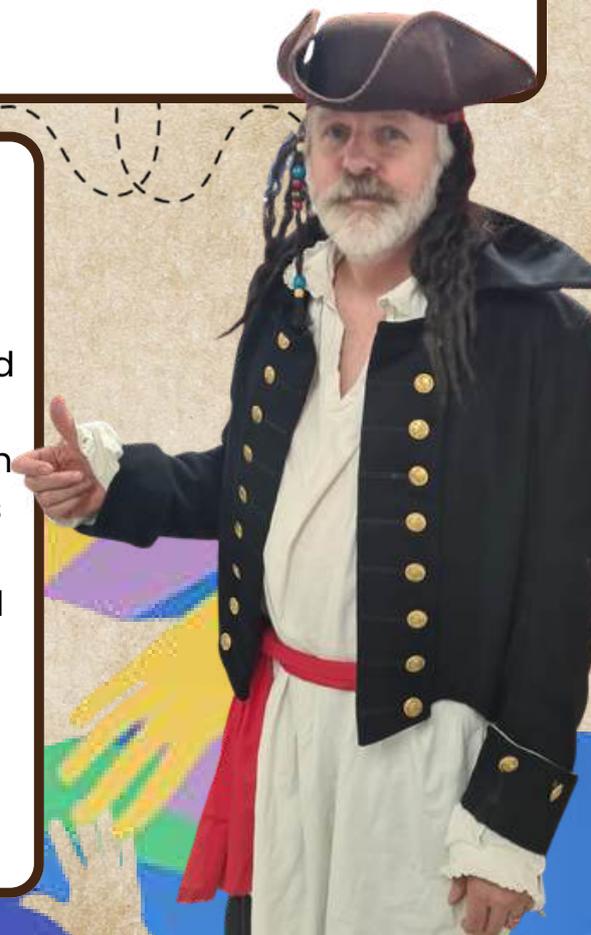
During the October half term and each Saturday of the Literary Festival, a full-sized pirate sandpit was installed at the Hive and open to the public for four hours. Children were invited to help Pirate Redbeard recover his lost treasure by digging for buried items in the sandpit, earning chocolate coins as a reward. Additional activities included a virtual-reality “walk the plank” experience and a range of themed crafts, such as creating pirate hats or headbands, peg pirates, and folded paper parrots.

An interactive treasure trail was also concealed around the Strand, where participants followed a map, solved clues and riddles, and combined their answers to discover the final location of the hidden treasure. Completed trails could be submitted to Kingsley & Co for entry into a prize draw for a free Christmas activity.

To enhance the immersive atmosphere, Ykids staff and volunteers dressed in full pirate attire throughout the event.

## **An interactive treasure hunt around Bootle Strand Shopping Centre**

This was a traditional treasure hunt with a modern twist, as treasure hunters had to find the clues around Bootle Strand and scan the QR code to reveal the riddle. The first letter of the answer to each riddle then spelled the location of where the buried treasure was actually hidden! We involved businesses around the shopping centre to put the poster for the clues in and around their shop windows, and the trail ended at Kingsley & Co. Completed treasure hunts could be dropped off at the shop to be entered in a prize draw – the chance to win a family ticket to our Christmas Breakfast with the Snow Queen.





## Kingsley & Co family workshops

During the October Half Term and every Saturday of the Literary Festival we held free family workshops in our classroom space at Kingsley & Co, which included Swashbuckler School, How to be a Pirate, and Pirate Treasure. Additional workshops were run by Keith Farrell from Liverpool HEMA, a Spitfire model making session by one of our volunteers, and a guest appearance from Lee Radford, a prop maker who worked on the set of Doctor Who. All our workshops were hosted in the downstairs classroom area, while the shop upstairs remained open to continue delivering delicious food and drinks and be a final point for the end of the interactive treasure trail.



## An Audience with Frank Cottrell-Boyce

We were able to use Bootle Town Hall as the venue for an audience with Frank Cottrell-Boyce, where a total of 313 students could be enthralled by an interview with the Children's Laureate. Our compere for the day was Andy Kent of Angel Solutions, who entertained and interviewed in equal measure as well as facilitated our very own student vs. teacher Spelling Bee. Professor Elemental was our special musical guest and demonstrated to the students how anything could be the inspiration for a rap song.

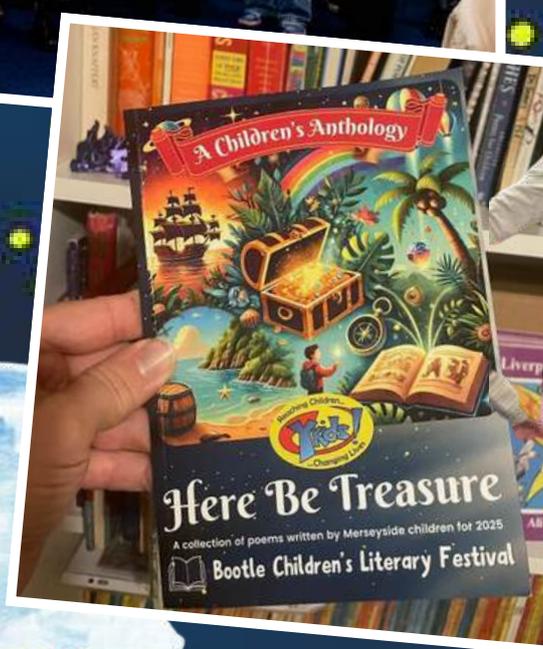


## The publication of a poetry book written by children

We invited schools to take part in a poetry competition where we asked students to write a poem based on one of five themes

- Hidden Treasure – Pirates and their treasure
- Treasure Planet – Caring for our environment
- Treasure Inside – The treasure inside every person – kindness, confidence, friendship and self-worth
- Treasure Hunters and Explorers – From ancient ruins to deep jungles, explorers seek treasure in the most exciting places!
- The Treasure of Stories – The power of books, storytelling and imagination

We had over **300 entries** from **20 schools** and shortlisted **56 poems**. These were read, scored, and given feedback by our three judges, Jude Lennon, Ali Harwood, and Nicky Roach. From these scores we had 40 overall winners, with 16 poems from primary school poets and 24 poems from secondary school students being published in book. The pages in the book were designed by Ykids' staff team using any original artwork submitted along with the student's poem.





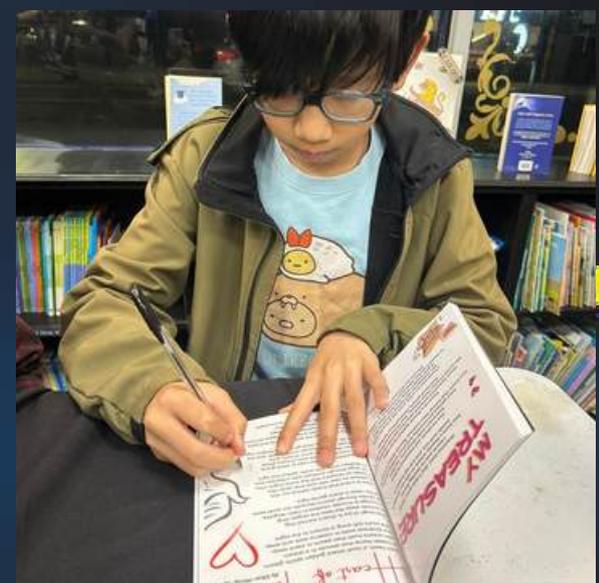
*The cafe is very nice, the workers are very kind to us. I liked choosing any book as there were lots of books that we all like.*

### The book launch for the children's poetry book

We hosted two poetry book launches—one for our primary-age winners and another for our secondary-age winners. The first event, celebrating our KS2 poets, featured special guests **Frank Cottrell-Boyce** and **Professor Elemental**, who each offered words of congratulations and performed for the winners. Judges **Jude Lennon** and **Nicky Roach** were also in attendance.

The second launch celebrated our older poets and welcomed **Ali Harwood** and **Jamie Broad** as special guests, both of whom performed selections of their own work.

Following the presentations of certificates and commendations, all the young poets gathered at a long signing table, where they autographed their individual pages in the anthology.



## Two weeks of authors and artists visiting schools and Kingsley & Co

This was the main focus of the festival – to invite authors and artists into schools and inviting schools to Kingsley & Co for an author workshop to inspire children to read for pleasure, write their own stories, and create their own art. Our contributors this year consisted of Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Ali Harwood, Jude Lennon, Dave McCluskey, Vince Cleghorne, Natalie Denny, Jamie Broad, Marie Basting, Gav Cross, Curtis Watt, Bear Stories, Jessica Bowers, Lisa J Allen, Professor Elemental, Liverpool HEMA, Phil Burrows, and Helen Poole.

Schools were offered a variety of packages, valued at £2,500, for just £250, or a bundle for £400:

- Author / artist visit to school which included an assembly and two workshops
- A school visit to Kingsley & Co for a workshop with an author / artist, and time in the Kingsley & Co discovery rooms, hot chocolate, a snack, and a pirate sea shanty
- An Audience with Frank Cottrell-Boyce plus special guest Professor Elemental at Bootle Town Hall

Every school that booked any one of the packages above was also given 50 Gold Tickets for their students which entitles them to a free new book, and every student who attended a literary workshop at Kingsley & Co could choose a pre-loved book to take home for free.



## Golden Tickets

Thanks to funding from the Siobhan Dowd Trust we were able to purchase books from the authors who worked with us during the festival, as well as a variety of others, and offer them for free as part of our Golden Ticket scheme. The books were displayed on dedicated bookshelves at Kingsley & Co, and covered a range of categories including fiction, non-fiction, Early Years, non-English language, history, dyslexia-friendly, and rhyme. Tickets were given to schools who booked an author visit, classes who attended Kingsley & Co for a Literary workshop or an Audience with Frank Cottrell-Boyce, and during our own Kingsley workshops, which meant that children who did not get the opportunity to meet an author during the festival could still have access to their books, even if they could not usually afford one.

# Marketing - How We Reached Audiences



As with all of our events we had an extensive marketing strategy, led by our Media and Marketing Manager, regarding the best ways to reach our audience. All funders and partners were shared on all printed materials as well as highlighted on the website.

## Schools

We engaged with schools early, firstly with an expression of interest form and then information regarding the poetry competition. We had good engagement with the expression of interest forms, however when the website went live, the bookings and communication dropped from the previous engagement. This appeared to be due to school contacts or co-ordinators changing roles or leaving the school.

As shown by the number of poetry entries (which was more than double the previous festival's short story competition), there was good engagement with the poetry competition, and schools were all contacted with either a thank you or a congratulations if one of their students was a finalist and published.

Flyers were also emailed, hand delivered, and posted to schools to be given to students.

## Website

We have a separate website that goes live for every festival which contains information about the events and is updated daily. Information includes short descriptions of each author or artists' work, and what age group they are most suitable for, and when and where they are available.

## Social Media

Information regarding the festival was shared early across our social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn. We posted new information regularly, and shared posts with links to the website or additional news. Direct links were tagged to each partner or contributor and their own social media pages, which were then consistently reshared throughout the leadup and during the festival itself.



## Print Media

**2,000** leaflets were printed and distributed across schools in Merseyside, the Strand Shopping Centre, in Kingsley & Co, and at Ykids, as well as at events such as the Southport Flower Show, where we had a garden and a pop-up Kingsley stall. We also had the front page of All About Family Magazine (a publication that goes out to every school child Bootle) sponsored by The Strand with a feature on the festival.

Over **1500** Golden Tickets were printed and distributed.

We worked with Bootle Strand and other local charities and businesses who allowed us to advertise the festival across the shopping centre and in the community notice boards.

## Reach

Across the whole three weeks of the festival, our social media reached an audience of 157,000 people. This was an approximate 11% decrease from the previous festival, but this year we collected data from the 90 days leading up to the festival, where we had engagement in the numbers of 350,000.

There was a dramatic reduction in X (formerly Twitter) views (3,108 compared to 103,000 in 2023), which could be due to the overall decrease of users who have an X account in the UK. Our best performing social media account was from the Ykids Instagram account, with views totalling over 58,000 during the festival.

Overall engagement across all platforms were down, which could again be as a result of the rise in popularity of TikTok as an alternative social media platform since 2023 (TikTok users increased by 25% whereas Facebook and Instagram users remained the same across the two years).

*It created a love for reading and writing. Year 3 were keen to share their ideas and certainly felt proud of their creations.*

*It was good to get ideas about how to start writing. It was a good experience because not many people get to meet [an author] and it makes me want to be one.*

*It was boss Miss, I loved that Curtis made it social so you could come up and join in with the dancing. I really enjoyed the session today. We got to learn about a different culture. The special drum and the party that celebrates people.*

	2023	2025
<b>Reach</b>	176,500 No data	157,000 350,000 in previous 90 days



The [bootlechildrenslitfest.co.uk](http://bootlechildrenslitfest.co.uk) website was viewed **466** times during the three weeks of the festival, with a further **880** views in the two months leading up to the first day of the event. Users of the website arrived predominantly through a direct search, with a referral being the second most common way of accessing the site. In the two weeks following the festival, the site was viewed another **82** times.

The Kingsley & Co website received an increase of **17%** from organic socials (meaning traffic was directed to the website from a social media link) during the festival compared to the 30 days before.

We also had enquiries from publishing houses who represented authors from as far as Bristol and Swansea, showing just how far reaching our festival now is.



*I liked listening to Frank talk about being from Bootle, he knew the places I go to.*

*It was a very interesting and fun day – it was unexpected to be taught by a Liverpool rapper.*

*Can we do it again, Miss?*



# Outcomes and Impact

The Bootle Children's Literary Festival set out to:

**Give children and young people opportunities to meet authors and artists to inspire them to read, write, create, and imagine.**

*We did this by inviting authors and artists into schools, inviting schools to Kingsley & Co, holding a poetry competition, publishing the winning poems and holding book launches, and putting on free community events.*

**Give schools a cost-effective opportunity to welcome authors and artists into the classroom as part of a larger event that promoted literacy and had a greater impact.**

*We did this by heavily subsidising packages or offering them for free for local schools who were mainly from deprived communities.*

**Inspire families to engage in literature through free and engaging literary based events and activities.**

*We did this by offering free family workshops, a pirate sandpit, and interactive treasure hunt during the three weeks of the event.*

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**Get books into the homes of children.**

*We did this by distributing over 1,500 Golden Tickets which could be exchanged for a free brand-new book, as well as offering every child who attended a literary workshop at Kingsley & Co a free pre-loved book to take home. Tickets were given to schools and during our own workshops to widen the reach of those who would visit Kingsley & Co.*

**Give young people opportunities to exhibit their work, share their skills, and meet professional authors and artists.**

*We did this by hosting our poetry competition, designing and printing a poetry book made up of 40 winning poems, and hosting an official book launch for each age group. The young poets could bring two guests, received a certificate from professional authors and artists (either Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Professor Elemental, or Ali Harwood and Jamie Broad), and had the opportunity to sign their work. All of this added to their sense of achievement and have them the opportunity to be proud of their work.*

## **Give local artists and authors the opportunity to share their work and engage with audiences and schools.**

*This was achieved by employing local authors and artists to visit schools and Kingsley & Co, as well as purchasing their books (along with a variety of others) to give to children through the Golden Ticket scheme. We also promoted each local contributor on social media and our websites.*

## **Host an event that celebrates Bootle, creates civic pride, promotes well-being, and engages the wider community.**

*By hosting the Literary Festival in Bootle, which does not have many annual or calendar events, venues, or attractions, we are able to showcase and celebrate the area and the young people in it. By having a range of paid, subsidised, and free events, we could engage the wider community in a way that positively promoted Bootle across the region.*

## **Impact**

We collected data and measured impact in a variety of ways:

- All schools workshops with authors or artists had evaluation forms asking for comments from both teachers and staff and children
- We collected feedback from social media
- Feedback cards from all events were collected
- Anecdotal data and photographs were recorded

*It created a love for reading and writing. Year 3 were keen to share their ideas and certainly felt proud of their creations.*

*The pupils had the chance to create their own illustrations, which our students loved. Ali was very accommodating and made sure on multiple occasions that what he was doing was suitable for our students. Thank you Ali and Ykids.*

*This is my world's best day.*

*It was good because we got to express our feelings.*

*I think this has been a good session because it is very interactive and creative. It's the most fun I've had in an English lesson ever.*

# Feedback from the Pirate Sandpit

We asked families who attended our Pirate Sandpit at the Hive to register, giving some general information about their visit:

100/194 families were from the **L20 postcode.**

**87** families had never been to a Ykids event before, meaning we engaged with **113** new adults and **166** new children.

Nearly **60%** of children attending the event were eligible for free school meals.

**100%** of people scored the sandpit **9/10** or **10/10**

**95%** of people felt more connected to their community because of the event.

## Some highlights from the events included:

- Great staff, creative day out for kids
- Inclusivity for autistic children
- Captain Red Beard's interaction
- Spending time with family
- It was inclusive to all kids
- Learn all about pirates

# Feedback from Kingsley Workshops

**98%** scored the workshops **8/10** or higher

**88%** responded the workshops improved their wellbeing.

- An important and much needed resource in the community
- Love everything by Ykids
- Loved it, just wish it was longer
- It was fun to sword fight!
- Poking mummy's tummy with a sword (a fake sword and under supervision from a sword master!)

The positive feedback on the impact on attendees' wellbeing along with the quotes that it is needed within the community shows the how events like the Literary Festival can significantly help people to feel more positive about themselves and their community. Additionally, studies have shown that due to the rise in the cost of living, many parents have cut back on extracurricular activities for their children[1] and more than half of parents have cut back on social activities, demonstrating the need and impact of free workshops, activities, and events such as the Pirate Sandpit and Kingsley & Co workshops.

**156,703** social media engagements

**1,500** Golden Tickets distributed

**1,533** new books bought

**86** workshops and assemblies delivered

**17** authors/artists contributing

**17** volunteers

**149** volunteer hours

**40** schools involved

**28** primary schools

**10** secondary schools

**2** special provision

Across **3** authorities (Sefton, Wirral, St Helen's)

**203** poetry competition entries

**40** poems published

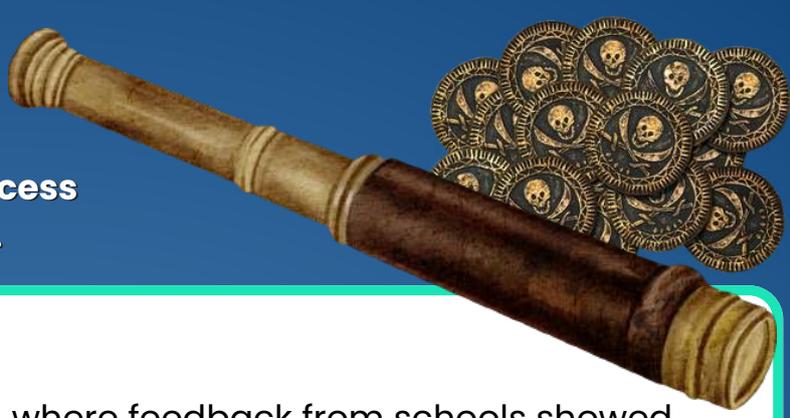
**6,931** children participating through schools

## At a Glance



# Challenges

While this year's festival was a huge success overall, it was not without its challenges.



## Schools' financial challenges

This year reflects the feedback from 2023, where feedback from schools showed that they could not afford the full package offered at £400. This year, we provided a breakdown of the package, offering a school visit of a Kingsley & Co visit for just £250, and discounted rates from bringing additional classes etc. however, although the expression of interest form had 35 responses, only 22 schools proceeded with booking, and many booking multiple after being offered a larger discount.

The main factor in decreased Kingsley & Co bookings was, according to feedback from schools, the additional cost of transport to the shop. Many local schools walked to the shop, but those who were further afield found it challenging to secure the additional funds.

## Schools Communication

We kept the booking format from 2023, where schools could book their own sessions through our Bootle Children's Literary Festival website, which reduced the workload on Ykids staff. However, as with the previous year, we found that booking information had often not been passed along to school staff such as receptionists, support staff, or even teacher, meaning some visiting authors were asked to quickly adapt sessions at the last minute or change their planned sessions to fit in with teachers who were not able to plan for their visit.

As mentioned earlier in the report, we also found that staff changes made it difficult to follow up on expressions of interest or even bookings, where contact details or staff roles had changed. This led to additional time being taken up by Ykids staff to attempt to track down the necessary staff, and schools potentially missing out on booking additional sessions as they may not have been passed information regarding the festival.



## Lack of Public Space

The previous location of Kingsley & Co was inside the Strand Shopping Centre, which gave us access to the space outside the shop for large-scale events. Due to the renovation of the Strand, we were forced to move locations, and while the new shop location is working well and now has an exterior window, we have lost access to the additional space outside the shop. The pirate sandpit was therefore hosted in the Hive, a unit inside the shopping centre and not related to Kingsley & Co.

Consequently, we made fewer sales of Kingsley & Co products compared to the same period during the 2023 festival, and staff at both locations anecdotally noted that many people had not come from the other event and did not know there was something else happening somewhere else.

We were also not able to host a literary fair this year, where local authors and artists could showcase their work next to the shop, which would have engaged many more authors and celebrated local writing.

## Funding

Funding remains a challenge across the board, and this year we struggled to source the funding to match previous years. While we were still able to plan and execute a successful event, we had to reduce some aspects such as fewer Golden Tickets printed, fewer new books bought for the Golden Ticket scheme, and fewer contributors engaged or for fewer days.

If we had been able to access more funding for various sources, we could have engaged more partners, or been able to support schools with financial challenges to access the events.

We are grateful to those who did contribute to the festival including:

**The Granada Foundation**

**The JJ Charitable Trust**

**Cradle to Career**

**The Siobhan Dowd trust**

**Cargill PLC**



# Next Steps

BCLF 25 was our fifth literary festival and each event has built and improved on the last. This year we had additional staff to support with the administrative demands of the planning of the festival, as well as the physical staffing during events.

This is the first year that we hosted the BCLF in the new Kingsley & Co location on Stanley Road, which used to be a bank. The upstairs café space and discovery rooms and downstairs classroom have all been completely refurbished and decorated and were an excellent location for the workshops throughout the festival. Our next focus is to develop the vault into an escape room, which was hugely popular last year (a dragon themed escape room) as well as an excellent addition to the shop during normal opening hours. Furthermore, we are looking to create a hidden discovery room behind the bookcases in the café, which is very popular with children to be able to walk through the wall to a room filled with sensory activities. If both of these projects were completed it would enhance the schools visits to Kingsley & Co and increase capacity, however it would require additional staff and volunteers to manage the rooms, as they are separate from the main space and require specialist knowledge.

We would also look to hire a festival planner in 2027 to provide additional support during both the planning and delivery of the festival. This would relieve pressure on existing staff and allow someone with a specific focus and specialist knowledge to work on the BCLF27.

# Summary

The BCLF 25 took months of planning and preparation and had a huge impact on thousands of children, families, authors, artists, and performers who took part. Schools appreciated the promotion of literacy and creativity from 'real life' authors, while parents valued access to free, high quality cultural activities.

Local authors, artists, and performers, as well as some from further afield, had the opportunity to perform, engage with and inspire children. Contributors enjoyed the opportunity to engage with children directly and speak about their own books or art. The festival promoted Bootle as a destination and drew schools and families from across the city to attend. We also have had some interest from authors based in Wales and the south of England, showing the reach that the Literary Festival has. Kingsley & Co was showcased as an excellent destination year-round to promote literacy and a love of reading.

Thousands of children received free quality books of their own, were inspired to read, write, tell stories, and use their imaginations.

# Thank You

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our funders, partners artists, authors and volunteers. Thank you for helping us to bring the magic of story to the children of Merseyside.

## **Authors, artists, and performers**

- Frank Cottrell-Boyce
- Ali Harwood
- Jude Lennon
- Dave McCluskey
- Vince Cleghorne
- Natalie Denny
- Jamie Broad
- Marie Basting
- Gav Cross
- Curtis Watt
- Bear Stories (Steven Camden)
- Jessica Bowers
- Lisa J Allen
- Professor Elemental (Paul Alborough)
- Liverpool HEMA (Keith Farrell)
- Phil Burrows
- Helen Poole

## **Creatives, Contributors and Partners**

- Lee Radford
- Mike Walker, Start Creative CIC
- Alan Clare
- Andy Kent, Angel Solutions
- The Strand Shopping Centre
- The Hive
- Nicky Roach, Ykids Ambassador
- Green Sefton
- Sefton Council
- Bootle Town Hall

## **Funders**

- Granada Foundation
- Siobhan Dowd Trust
- Cradle to Career
- Cargill
- JJ Charitable Trust



## Schools

- All Saints Catholic Primary School
- Archbishop Blanch CofE High School
- Barlows Primary School
- Bedford Primary School
- Chesterfield High School
- Christ Church Church of England Primary School
- English Martyrs Catholic Primary School
- Formby High School
- Foundations for LIFE
- Great Crosby Catholic Primary School
- Green Park Primary School
- Hatton Hill Primary School
- Hillside High School
- Kings Leadership Academy Hawthornes (KLAH)
- Linacre Primary School
- Longmoor Lane CPS
- Lordsgate (Burscough)
- Lydiate Primary School
- Meols Cop High School
- Newfield SEMH School, Thornton
- North Liverpool Academy
- Northway Community Primary School
- Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
- Springwell Park Community Primary
- St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary (Rainhill)
- St Elizabeth's R C Primary School
- St John Vianney Catholic Primary School
- St Luke's Halsall Church of England Primary School
- St Monica's Catholic Primary School
- St Oswald's CE Primary School
- St Paul's Catholic Primary School
- St Philip's Church of England Primary School
- Stanley High School
- Thomas Gray Primary School
- Ursuline Catholic Primary School
- Waterside Academy
- West Kirby School and College
- Woodlands Primary School