



Manchester Literature Festival

Events and Activities for
Children and Families

October 2026



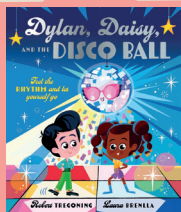
Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY



**MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL**

Early Years Fun



Little Reads Family Days

Saturday 24 October, 10.30am – 3pm

Manchester Central Library & Oldham Library

Take part in a joyful day of stories, theatre, music, dancing, crafts and family fun. Help create some magical shoes with **The Elves and the Shoemaker** in an interactive show from Peoplescape Theatre, packed with music, puppetry, clowning and storytelling. Strut your stuff with author and West End musical theatre star **Robert Tregoney** in a confidence-boosting event inspired by his latest picture book *Dylan, Daisy and the Disco Ball*. Explore storytelling through movement with dancer **Magdalen Bartlett** (Manchester) and participate in a special Storytime with our Little Reads storyteller **Adam Perrot** (Oldham) as well as free craft activities. Suitable for ages 3+.

These events take place at Manchester Central Library and Oldham Library at different times throughout the day. For full details of events and to book tickets visit:

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



Gruffalo Granny Celebration

Sunday 11 October, 12pm – Film Screening

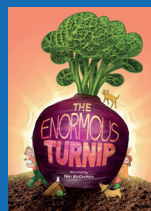
1.15pm – Gruffalo Granny Storytime with Liz Fost HOME

Enjoy a magical big-screen adventure as we celebrate the first new Gruffalo story in over 20 years and the return of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved characters. Screenings of *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child* will be followed by a special **Gruffalo Granny Storytime** and creative craft activities. Suitable for children aged 3+. Both films are rated U.

Film tickets £4.70 (inc. £1.20 booking fee)

The workshop is FREE, but booking recommended due to limited places

Book at homemcr.org / 0161 200 1500



The Enormous Turnip

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October, 11am & 2pm

Z-arts

Living in their tiny shed squeezed in amongst the garden tools, Mr and Mrs Chickweed's amazing prize-winning vegetables have taken over everything. Help save the day as we pull *The Enormous Turnip* out of the ground before it takes over the planet! Presented by Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company in partnership with Z-arts. Suitable for all the family (recommended for ages 3 – 10).

Tickets £10.50 (inc. commission fee)

Book at z-arts.org / 0161 226 1912

Events for Curious Families



Hugh Bonneville – Rory Sparkes and the Spy Who Loved Tea Saturday 17 October, 2pm – 3pm HOME

Join actor, author and star of *Downton Abbey* and *Paddington*, Hugh Bonneville, for a family event celebrating his latest Rory Sparkes spy adventure – full of humour, intrigue and brilliant illustrations by Loretta Schauer. Rory Sparkes thought the new family across the road were perfectly ordinary – until he started to suspect they were hiding a secret...

Hear Hugh share the inspiration behind the book, introduce Rory's latest escapade and celebrate the joy of storytelling in conversation with radio presenter Jojo Silva. Suitable for ages 7+.

Tickets £10 inc. spy-themed activities to take home
Book at homemcr.org / 0161 200 1500



Ben Nuttall's Footy Factory Saturday 10 October, 11am Stockroom, Stockport

The undisputed World Number One football freestyler (he even performs for Manchester United) and social media superstar brings us his book, *Ben Nuttall's Footy Factory!* But will Ben Nuttall just be talking about his tricks? Oh no, he'll be showing you step-by-step how to do them – and you'll also hear the incredible stories of the famous players who performed them for real on matchday! Your mind will be BLOWN. Suitable for ages 7+.

Tickets £5
Book at manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk / 0161 876 2015



Beano Presents Dennis the Menace's Year of Mischief! Wednesday 28 October, 11am – 12pm Z-arts

Beano's Directors of Mischief and Mayhem, Mike Stirling and Craig Graham, share top-secret tips for creating laugh-out-loud comic strips and reveal their smash-hit latest Beano Boomic *Dennis the Menace: Mischief at the Museum!* Celebrate Dennis the Menace's 75th birthday and help co-create the funniest comic strip of ALL TIME! Presented in partnership with Z-arts. Suitable for ages 6+.

Tickets £10
Book at manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk / 0161 876 2015

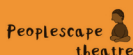
Events for Children, Families and Schools

Whether you're into poetry or spy fiction, football or dancing, there's something for everyone to enjoy and new things to discover at our fun, interactive events celebrating the National Year of Reading.

Visit the website to see the full Festival programme:
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk
 and follow us on social media
 @McrlitFest



CREATE!



STOCKROOM

Events for Schools



Frank Cottrell-Boyce – The Blockbusters!
 Tuesday 13 October, 11am – 12pm
 Manchester Central Library

Frank Cottrell-Boyce takes us on a hilarious Hollywood adventure as he talks about his latest brilliant book, *The Blockbusters!*, about a boy named Rafa who accidentally strays onto a major movie set and swaps places with a famous actor. Frank is the recent Waterstones Children's Laureate and author of several bestselling children's books including *Millions* and *Cosmic*. Suitable for ages 9 – 11.

FREE tickets for schools allocated on a first come, first-served basis.
 Book at manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



Joseph Coelho – Poems to Grow With
 Friday 16 October,
 10am – 11am & 11.30am – 12.30pm
 Manchester Central Library

Come on a camping trip with an outdoor feast or have an adventure – just you and your dog. Be a GIANT of learning, find a message in a bottle, sail the storyteller seas, or travel to the end of the earth. Join former Waterstones Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho for an inspiring and interactive celebration of poetry. Suitable for ages 6+.

FREE tickets for schools allocated on a first come, first-served basis.
 Book at manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



Creative Connection – Go All In
 Friday 23 October, 1pm – 2pm
 Manchester Central Library

Join us for a celebration of creativity, collaboration and community as young people from across Manchester and Salford take to the stage with original songs inspired by this year's National Year of Reading theme, Go All In. Led by Create Arts this award-winning project brings disabled and non-disabled students together to write, compose and perform new music alongside professional musicians.

Book FREE places by emailing
miriam@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk