

NEW HOMES FOR PRE-LOVED BOOKS



WELCOME!

We're delighted you've expressed an interest in running a Book Drive within your community. So many families value the opportunity to find new homes for their pre-loved books, whilst there are thousands of children for whom donated books will have a real impact.

SOME CONTEXT

The Children's Book Project is a national charity that believes every child should have access to good quality, exciting and relevant books. We'd like every child to feel part of a wider reading community and to draw inspiration and pleasure from words and pictures. We want to address book poverty and to change the statistics around book ownership:

- **1 in 8 disadvantaged children have no books of their own*.**
- **By age 11 there is a 12 month literacy and language gap between those with books at home and those without*.**

We achieve the above with the help of organisations such as yours, working across the UK to match families whose children have grown out of their books with schools whose communities have fewer books of their own. In turn, we invite practitioners in these schools to use these books in whichever way(s) will have greatest benefit to the children and young people they support.

YOUR SCHOOL BOOK DRIVE

This booklet sets out how you might run a Book Drive in your setting, what you need to plan for and the way(s) in which we can help.



HOW TO PLAN YOUR BOOK DRIVE



IDENTIFY A RECIPIENT SCHOOL

Visit our national map to identify a school near you to receive your donated books. Check that it supports children the same ages or younger than those in your own community. www.childrensbookproject.co.uk/donate-books/

Email schools@childrensbookproject.co.uk and we will put you in direct contact with your chosen school so that they can anticipate and plan for your donation.



PICK A DATE & A COLLECTION MECHANIC

The most impactful Book Drives are held over two consecutive mornings, with books dropped off by parents on arrival at school. However you might want to run yours differently e.g. tied in with another event or on one day only. Parents do need reminding though so a two-day drop does gather momentum.



PROMOTE WIDELY & EMPHASISE 'GENTLY USED'

Most Book Drives yield a surprising number of beautiful books. PTA and class reps are the most effective channels along with your school newsletter, website and social media. Please emphasise that only gently used books should be donated: they should not be torn, badly worn or yellowed.

Make your own posters to advertise your event or download:
www.childrensbookproject.co.uk/donate-books/



RUN YOUR BOOK DRIVE

Families love to have a clear out and also enjoy sharing details of those books they simply can't pass on (we love hearing about these favourites). Your Book Drive is a great opportunity for bookish chats and a celebration of reading.





SORT AND BOX YOUR DONATED BOOKS

Books will arrive unsorted, in bags and boxes of all sizes. They should ideally be delivered to your chosen school sorted and neatly boxed. We've outlined the process for sorting and boxing your books below. Further details on our book categories follow over the page.

1. Weed out the tatty ones
2. Weed out the inappropriate ones
3. Sort by reading stage
4. Count the number of suitable books
5. Box up neatly and label each box

We suggest you set aside two hours for sorting and boxing your books and where possible enlist the help of your charity reps, Duke of Edinburgh students, PTA, reading volunteers or other support. It's a fun process but requires a little care and attention to ensure that the books donated to your chosen school are in good condition, are relevant and presented in a way that they can easily use.

Unusable books can be taken to a charity shop or donated at a book bin.



DELIVER TO YOUR RECIPIENT SCHOOL

Register your donation via our map and arrange a mutually convenient time to deliver your books to your recipient school and drop off your boxes!



CELEBRATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Highlight all elements of your Book Drive. We will celebrate all your bookish adventures!



lonbookproject



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BOOK SORTING 101



We've gifted over 500k books to children across London in the past three years and have first-hand experience of the books that schools do not want to receive. Please use the following guide to a) help you weed out any unwanted books and b) organise those books you are donating.



Remove tatty books:

- Creased / broken spine
- Torn or bent
- Scribbles on pages
- Used e.g. stickers or colouring pages



Remove inappropriate books:

- Adult books
- Academic books e.g.
- Bond Papers
- Yellowed / old books



Remove irrelevant donations:

- Toys / DVDs
- Books for the wrong age range

Then please sort all remaining books by the following categories. These are naturally quite subjective: please feel free to make your own decisions. It is very helpful for schools to receive books that have been pre-sorted. There is a further crib-sheet online.

BABY BOARD BOOKS Books with stiff, cardboard pages

PICTURE BOOKS Anything you might read aloud to a child

PHONICS Any book designed to help children learn to read

EARLY READERS Early entry reading books e.g. Horrid Henry

CHAPTER BOOKS (FOR UP TO AGE 11) For readers of all abilities

NON-FICTION (FOR UP TO AGE 11) Includes activity books, poetry, annuals

TEEN FICTION AND NON-FICTION All suitable for up to 14 years (not adult)