

PRESS RELEASE

## **HACHETTE CHILDREN'S GROUP ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL OPEN DAYS FOR NORTHERN AND SCOTTISH PICTURE BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS**

*Hachette Children's Group to hold virtual open days to find new picture book writers and illustrators from the North of England and Scotland*

**London, UK: 10<sup>th</sup> June**

**Hachette Children's Group** are delighted to announce that they will host **two virtual open days** to discover **picture book** writers and illustrators from the North of England and Scotland. **The first virtual open day will be for writers on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and the second one will be for illustrators on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

The days will give talent from the North and Scotland the opportunity to engage directly with a publishing team from Hachette Children's Group and receive industry feedback and direction on their work.

Submissions open 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and close 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Spaces at the virtual open days will be limited and all appointments will be assigned in advance.

Attending the days will be **Picture Book Development Director, North, Emma Layfield** (based in Manchester) along with other picture book editors and designers from Hachette Children's Group.

**Layfield says:** *'There is a huge creative talent pool in the North of England and Scotland and we can't wait to discover, nurture and encourage budding new picture book writers and illustrators. We are actively looking for creatives with different voices and from different backgrounds.'*

**Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director, Manchester City of Literature says:** *'I am delighted to see Hachette Children's Group launching their online development days across the North of England and Scotland. When UNESCO gave Manchester the designation of City of Literature, they were recognising the wealth of talent amongst our local writing community. It is so pleasing to see one of the major publishers responding to this and joining our thriving independent publishing scene to support and publish local writers and illustrators.'*

**Kaye Tew, Director Manchester Children's Book Festival & Project Manager at Manchester Writing School, Manchester Metropolitan University says:** *'Having had the pleasure of working with writers, illustrators and all those supporting them for many years, I know the world of writing for children to be a wonderfully supportive place. It is fantastic to see this brought together by Hachette Children's Group, and in the North! A fabulous initiative that I'm very happy to support.'*

#### **Appointments:**

- Writers and illustrators who have been selected will be contacted and given their slots for the open days
- Spaces are limited, so if you don't hear back from us by the 1<sup>st</sup> October, please apply again for our next open day
- Appointments will be 15-minute slots held via Zoom or on the phone due to the Covid-19 pandemic

#### **Submission criteria:**

- Applicants must be over 18
- Open to writers and illustrators living in the North of England (North West, North East and Yorkshire) and Scotland only
- Entrants must be previously unpublished in children's books
- Entries must be text or artwork for children not for adults

- Writers should submit one complete picture book text (maximum 1000 words) to be reviewed by an editor
- Writer-illustrators should submit one complete picture book text (maximum 1000 words) plus three pieces of their artwork (in colour) to be reviewed by an editor and designer
- Illustrators should submit three pieces of their picture book portfolio (in colour) to be reviewed by a designer
- All submissions to be emailed as a PDF or Word document to:  
[picturebooksubmissions@hachettechildrens.co.uk](mailto:picturebooksubmissions@hachettechildrens.co.uk)
- Please include your name in the file name and also whether you are a writer, illustrator or writer-illustrator

If you have any queries regarding the criteria, please email:  
[picturebooksubmissions@hachettechildrens.co.uk](mailto:picturebooksubmissions@hachettechildrens.co.uk)

**Data protection:**

- The picture book team will get in touch with you regarding your submission only – you will not be added to any marketing mailing lists
- You will only be contacted by the picture book team if you have an appointment
- The picture book team will retain your records for 6 months at which point they will be deleted

For more information on Hachette’s privacy policy, please click on the below link:  
<https://www.hachettechildrens.co.uk/landing-page/hachette-childrens-group/privacy-notice-general-hcg/>

**-Ends-**

**For more information, please contact Dominic Kingston at Hachette Children’s Group on [dominic.kingston@hachettechildrens.co.uk](mailto:dominic.kingston@hachettechildrens.co.uk) or on 02031226095**

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Hachette Children’s Group**

Hachette Children's Group is one of the largest children's publishers in the UK, with an excellent track record in creating bestselling and award-winning books for children. The Group aims to cater for every child, with baby and pre-school books, picture books, gift, fiction, non-fiction, series fiction, books for the school and library market and licensed publishing and comprises the imprints Hodder Children’s Books, Orchard Books, Orion Children’s Books, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Quercus Children’s Books, Pat-a-Cake, Wren & Rook, Franklin Watts and Wayland Books.

The Group publishes a wide range of authors, illustrators, series and licenses including: Cressida Cowell, Kes Gray, Jim Field, Jessica Townsend, Onjali Raúf, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Matthew Syed, Bryony Gordon, David Almond, Lauren Child, Patrice Lawrence, Dermot O’Leary, Francesca Simon, Alex T. Smith, Zaniab Mian, Nadiya Hussain, Giles Andreae, Piers Torday, Rainbow Magic, Beast Quest and Pokémon.

Hachette Children’s Group is also the publisher of author Enid Blyton, and the owner of Enid Blyton Entertainment.

**[hachettechildrens.co.uk](http://hachettechildrens.co.uk)**

**[@hachettekids](https://www.instagram.com/hachettekids)**