

PRESS RELEASE

**HACHETTE CHILDREN'S GROUP ANNOUNCES
THIRD VIRTUAL OPEN DAY FOR NORTHERN,
SCOTTISH AND IRISH PICTURE BOOK WRITERS
AND ILLUSTRATORS**

Hachette Children's Group to hold virtual open day to find new picture book (fiction and colour non-fiction) writers and illustrators from the North of England, Scotland and Ireland.

London, UK: 5th January 2023

Hachette Children's Group is delighted to announce that they will host their third **virtual open day** to discover **picture book** writers and illustrators from the North of England, Scotland and Ireland. The open day takes place on the 8th June 2023 and will be open to fiction and non-fiction picture book creatives.

The day will give talent from the North of England, Scotland and Ireland 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 on the 5th January 2023 and close on the 30th March 2023. Appointments at the virtual open day are limited up to 30 spaces, and writers and illustrators will be selected for appointments based on the strength of their submission and meeting the criteria. All appointments will be assigned in advance.

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

Layfield says: *'There is so much talent in the North, Scotland and Ireland still to be discovered and we are committed to pioneering innovative ways to find it. This initiative opens the doors to budding picture book creatives and is a great way for us to forge even closer links to writers and illustrators outside of the 'London bubble'. We can't wait to look at this year's submissions!'*

'These open days provide a welcome opportunity to showcase Northern talent and increase representation in books and the publishing world, which is something we feel very strongly about here at Seven Stories. Whether gaining valuable feedback from Hachette's experienced team, learning more about routes into publishing or signing a career-changing deal, it really is an opportunity not to be missed for any emerging author or illustrator.'

Wendy Elliott, CEO, Seven Stories

'Hachette's Picture Book Open Days are a wonderful opportunity for emerging talent in Ireland to make an impression and to get invaluable feedback from a top-level publishing team. Picture books are such an important introduction to reading for children; this is an open door that we hope will invite a diverse range of new voices to come forward and tell their stories, whether that be through words or pictures.' **Elaina Ryan**, CEO, Children's Books Ireland

'Taking part in the HCG Open Day was a complete career-changer for me. I was over the moon just to have the opportunity to get feedback on my portfolio from an Art Director, but it became much more than that when I was offered my first kids' book deal! I really can't recommend this opportunity enough.' **Sally Agar**, former attendee

Appointments:

- Writers and illustrators who have been selected will be contacted and given their slots for the open day
- Appointments will be 15-minute slots held via Teams or on the phone for writers only, if needed

Submission criteria:

- Applicants must be over 18
- Open to writers and illustrators living in the North of England (North West, North East and Yorkshire), Scotland and Ireland only

- Entrants must be previously unpublished in picture books (that is, they must not have had any book previously published by a publisher or self-published in any format or be under a contract to have their work published).
- Only one project to be submitted and, if successful, only the same project to be discussed at the meetings
- The entries will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria. We're looking for a well-written piece of writing (in rhyme or prose) with a strong hook or theme. It should introduce a memorable character or characters and have a strong plot. The text must (in HCG's opinion) sit firmly in the picture book genre for 3-5 year-olds and be a work of fiction or non-fiction.
- Entries must be text or artwork for children, not for adults
- Writers should submit one complete picture book text in rhyme or prose (maximum 700 words) to be reviewed by an editor
- Writer-illustrators should submit one complete picture book text in rhyme or prose (maximum 700 words) plus three pieces of their artwork (in colour) to be reviewed by an editor or designer
- Illustrators should submit three pieces of their picture book portfolio (in colour) to be reviewed by a designer
- The entries must be in English and must be in a legible font and font size
- All submissions to be emailed as a PDF or Word document to:
picturebookopenday@hachettechildrens.co.uk
- Please include your name in the file name and the region you live in and whether you are a writer, illustrator or writer-illustrator in the body of the email

Please note that submissions that don't comply to the criteria (e.g. word count) will be automatically rejected. If you have any queries regarding the criteria, please email:
picturebookopenday@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/>

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For more information, please contact Dominic Kingston at Hachette Children's Group on 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, Laurence King Children's Books, Pat-a-Cake, Wren & Rook, Franklin Watts and Wayland Books.

The Group publishes a wide range of authors, illustrators, series and licences including: Cressida Cowell, Kes Gray, Jim Field, Jessica Townsend, Onjali Q. Raúf, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Matthew Syed, David Almond, Lauren Child, Sinead Burke, Rachel Bright, Marion Deuchars, Dermot O'Leary, Nick East, Dean Atta, Francesca Simon, Alex T. Smith, Zanib Mian, J.K. Rowling, Giles Andreae, Guy Parker-Rees, Benjamin Zephaniah, Piers Torday, Alice Oseman, Juno Dawson, Pippa Curnick, Dr Ranj Singh, Simon Farnaby, Leigh Bardugo, *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.

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