

# Bristol Schools of Sanctuary

## Spring Newsletter

February 2026



A special thank you to the schools who continue to provide high-quality induction, EAL support, and pastoral care for sanctuary-seeking pupils. We recognise the significant work that goes into welcoming new students and helping them to settle and succeed.

We also understand how challenging it can be when, after days or months of support, families are dispersed to another area. This can be difficult for pupils, families, and staff alike. Please know that we are here to support you with training, advice and resources.

Contact:

[Education@bristol.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:Education@bristol.cityofsanctuary.org)

Please find:

- News
- World Book Day ideas,
- Ways to support multilingual readers in the National Year of Reading
- Healing Classrooms training for term 4
- Refugee Festival information
- Legal Aid Support for families



Tessa McNab and Homa Banaei  
Bristol Schools of Sanctuary Local Leads

In Cotham School, **The Seats of Resistance Project** shows the power of student voice, creativity, and collective action. Developed by students, the project centres around a circular bench designed to bring the school community together, *"The circle has no beginning and no end, reflecting the continuous support and solidarity we must offer each other"*.

## Speech made by a unity student for the Launch of this project in 2025

*"Today, we're not just presenting a project; we're unveiling a symbol. A symbol born from the brilliant ideas and dedicated effort of every single person who contributed. What started as individual thoughts has been developed into a singular, cohesive project. This work represents three core pillars: **resistance**, **unity**, and **acceptance**.*

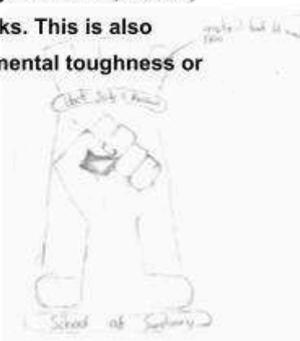
*It is an act of **resistance** against the casual cruelties of racism, the injustices of inequality, and the temptation to deny the truth of these issues. We refuse to look away. It represents the fierce **unity** we have forged, and our unwavering **acceptance** and embrace of every single student at Cotham, no matter their background, story, or identity.*

*This moment is not a conclusion; it is a launch. The work is not yet finished. Like the Cotham student body, this project will continue to grow and develop. It is a living testament to our commitment.*



### Mental Resistance -

Mental or emotional resistance refers to a person's ability to withstand and recover from challenging situations, stress, and setbacks. This is also known as mental toughness or resilience.



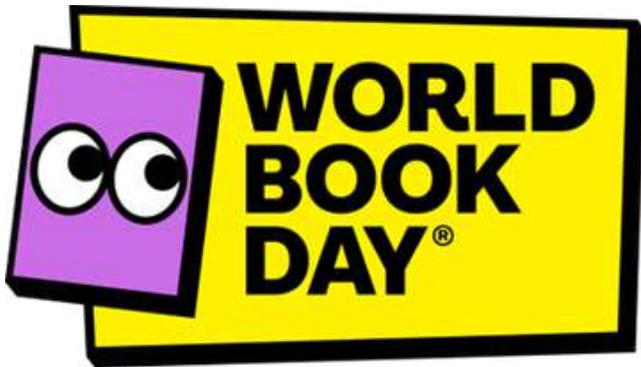
### Seat of Resistance

- Final Outcome October 2026 - bench to surround a **School of Sanctuary** tree for Black Resistance
- Created by students - each student builds and creates a
- Individualised for **Diversity**
- Assembled in **Unity**
- A resistance movement - developing strong social connections = **Seat of Resistance**

**Resistance materials** are substances specifically chosen for their ability to resist certain forces, environmental conditions, or other forms of degradation

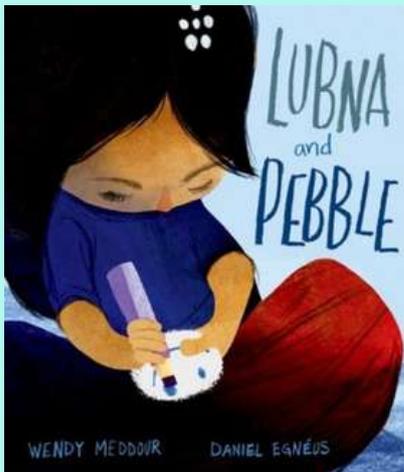


# World Book Day



World Book Day (5th March) is a valuable opportunity to explore themes of forced migration, identity, and belonging with pupils.

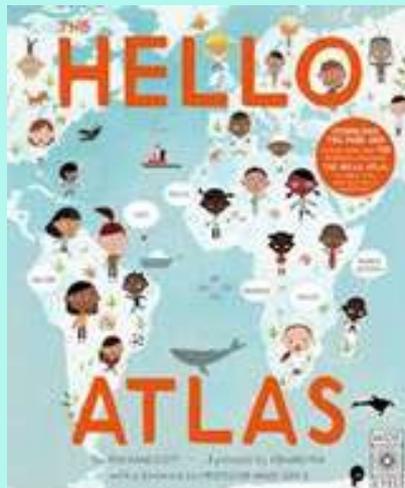
## Recommended Books



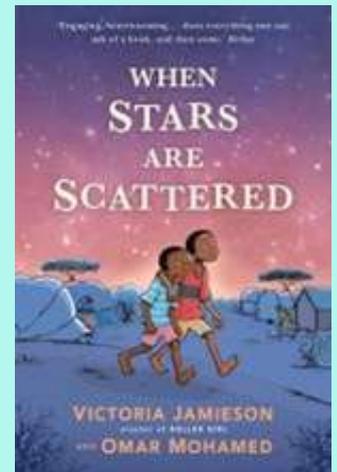
**In an unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis, a young girl must decide if friendship means giving up the one item that brings her comfort during a time of utter uncertainty.**

Lubna's best friend is a pebble. Pebble always listens to her stories. Pebble always smiles when she feels scared. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna realizes that he needs Pebble even more than she does.

Recommended for age 4 – 11 year olds.



The Hello Atlas, written by Ben Handicott and illustrated by Kenard Pak, is an engaging children's book that introduces over 100 languages from around the world. Recommended for children aged 6–9.



Omar and his brother Hassan, two Somali boys, have spent a long time in the Dadaab refugee camp. Separated from their mother, they are looked after by a friendly stranger. Life in the camp isn't always easy. The hunger is constant . . . but there's football to look forward to, and now there's a chance Omar will get to go to school . . . With a heart-wrenching fairytale ending, this incredible true story is brought to life by Victoria's stunning illustrations.

Recommended for 8–12-year-olds.

# World Book Day Quiz - The Great Big Footy & Booky Quiz 2026



05 Mar 2026 9:30am - 10:15am Online

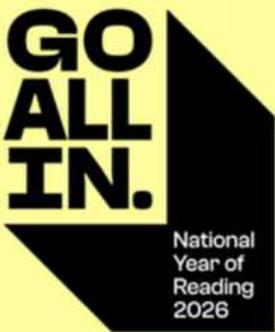
Teachers and pupils (aged 8 to 12), join the free 45-minute online quiz. The quiz will feature two rounds of questions (one football-themed, one reading-themed) pitched by your footballing heroes and our writer pals.



[Sign up for the Footy Booky Quiz 2026](#)

## National Literacy Trust

Teaching resources and activity ideas for schools on World Book Day and beyond



[Visit the Go All In website](#)



**Spring resources and toolkit**

Kickstart your school and settings reading journey with this starter toolkit which is packed with everything you need to inspire your pupils and boost reading engagement. Discover key dates, essential information, and ready-to-use assets to help you plan effectively. Each term throughout 2026, they will release fresh resources aligned with our theme for that term. **Spring term resources are available now, explore them today!**



[Download your Toolkit](#)

## National Year of Reading 2026: Celebrating Reading in Multilingual Classrooms

Including teacher advice, insights from EAL trainers, tried-and-tested classroom ideas, high-quality teaching resources, and useful blogs focussed on how both schools and families can champion reading with multilingual children.



[Click Here](#)

The Bell Foundation

## Where to purchase dual language and foreign language books?



### [Mantra Lingua](#)



publishes over 500+ dual-language books and ebooks in 60+ languages paired with English, focusing on EAL (English as an Additional Language), multicultural themes, and inclusivity. Designed for children (KS1-KS3)



### [Browns Books](#)



also offers an extensive foreign language materials for primary and secondary schools including translated novels, popular titles and dual language picture books.

### [World Stories](#)



is a growing collection of stories from around the world. The collection includes retold traditional tales and new short stories in the languages most spoken by UK children.

## Events



### **Refugee Week 16 – 22 June 2025**

This year's theme is Courage. The word courage comes from the Latin cor, meaning "heart."

Please visit their website [here](#)



# A Day of Welcome



A Day of Welcome is an annual event that takes place on the Friday before Refugee Week. It provides an opportunity for primary and secondary schools to engage with issues relating to refugee migration and to promote a culture of welcome and understanding.



A Day of Welcome 2026 will take place on Friday 12th June. Schools interested in running A Day of Welcome can register to access a range of supporting resources including assemblies and lesson plans for primary and secondary pupils and free live events

· Available online 17 April 2026.



## Training

### Healing Classrooms Training

Healing Classrooms offer free training sessions and resources to educators and schools supporting refugee and asylum-seeking students in the UK.

- [Healing Classrooms Basics Training](#)
- [Healing Classrooms CPD Course](#)
- [Bespoke Whole School Training](#)

Contact [Freda.Alrefaai@rescue-uk.org](mailto:Freda.Alrefaai@rescue-uk.org) or visit their [Website](#)



## Support for Asylum Seekers



Bristol Law Centre has been awarded a Public Law contract by the Legal Aid Agency, so they have more scope to look into cases of age disputed young people, with a view to a possible challenge.

Steffan is the solicitor who is supervising this team - please get in touch directly: [steffanr@bristolawcentre.org.uk](mailto:steffanr@bristolawcentre.org.uk)

Wishing you a happy half term!