

Promoting creativity, fun, 'audience' and 'purpose' with our writing celebrations!

We are pleased to invite your children to take part in our writing competition to inspire them to get writing. This year, we've partnered with Waggy Tails Rescue Centre for a dog-themed writing competition. The prompt and planning can be shared in class or sent home to parents/carers. Some schools will choose to use this for an in school 'independent write' whereas others will make it an optional home learning task.

WHO

Three Age Categories:

- Key Stage 1 - 5 - 6 year olds
- Key Stage 2 - 7 - 10 year olds
- Key Stage 3 - 11 - 14 year olds

RESOURCES

- Introduction Video by the Waggy Tails
- Story/poem stimulus
- Supporting Powerpoint slides

PRIZES

- Special guest at a Waggy Tails dog show
- Publication in the charity's publication
- Goody bag
- A celebration event on Saturday 25th April at Patch during the Bournemouth Writing Festival
- Certificates for all winners
- Stories/poems displayed at Bournemouth Library



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Once the entries have been gathered in, whittle them down and send off the best 2 entries from your class in each age bracket (up to 6 entries per school) to info@bournemouthwritingfestival.co.uk with the following details from an official school email address:

- 1) Name of school 2) Name of child 3) Age of child 4) Name of responsible teacher

For Home-Educated children, send your entry to info@BournemouthWritingFestival with the name and age of the child.

Entry Deadline: Sunday 15th March 2026

All entries will be judged by the Hengistbury Head Writer's Group

RULES

- The entry must be planned and written by the child (in class or at home).
- The pages must be named, with their age and their school on each page.
- The story or poem can be handwritten or typed.
- Dates must be adhered to due to the number of schools/children involved.
- Entries can be illustrated by the child too but we can't guarantee this will be published.

FORMAT

Story under 500 words
OR
a poem up to 30 lines

Illustrations welcome!



**Free and ticketed activities to
inspire children to write.**

Poetry Marquee

Music events



Workshops for kids

**Drop-in sessions
at Patch (Saturday)**

Writing on the Beach

**Bournemouth
Writing
Festival**
24-26 April 2026



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