

The
Children's
Booker
Prize
2027

supported by

AKO Foundation

The Children's Booker Prize 2027

Rules & submissions

The inaugural Children's Booker Prize 2027 is open for submissions from UK and Irish publishers from 28 April 2026 for books published between 01 November 2025 and 31 October 2026. Please read the rules below carefully before submitting any titles.



Submission forms are online here:

<https://thebookerprizes.com/enter-the-childrens-booker-prize>



Direct any submission queries to the Booker Prize Foundation:

CBPsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

Deadlines and key dates

To assist the judges with the volume of reading required, please send submissions to the Booker Prize Foundation as soon as they are available and do not wait until the deadlines.



Books published between 01 November 2025 and 31 May 2026

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by 25 May 2026.



Books published between 1 June 2026 and 31 October 2026

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by 22 June 2026.



Call-ins (explained in the rules on page 8)

All call-in nomination forms, justification letters, first chapters and full PDFs must be submitted by 22 June 2026.



Final assets

Please ensure that you have supplied final versions of your print and digital assets for all of your titles by 14 August 2026. These will be utilised to prepare for the public shortlist announcement in November 2026.

If any of these deadlines present a problem, please email the team at the address above.

Children's Booker Prize 2027 announcement dates



**Announcement of adult judges, child judge
recruitment and publisher submissions:**

Tuesday, 28 April 2026



Announcement of shortlist and child judges:

Tuesday, 24 November 2026



Ceremony and announcement of winner:

Tuesday, 2 February 2027

About the Booker Prize Foundation and the Children's Booker Prize

The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no.1090049) established in 2002, which exists to inspire more people to read – and write – the world's best fiction. It is responsible for awarding the Booker Prize, the International Booker Prize, and now the Children's Booker Prize.

The Booker Prize, which is for fiction written originally in English, has rewarded and celebrated world-class talent for over fifty-five years, shaping the canon of 20th and 21st century literature. In adding the International Booker Prize for translated fiction and a year-round, far-reaching digital portfolio, the Booker Prizes are now the globally recognised home of great writing.

The addition of the Children's Booker Prize supported by AKO Foundation, which aims to engage and grow a new generation of readers by recognising and championing the best children's fiction from writers around the world, means that readers can now see the Booker Prizes as a partner for life.

The Children's Booker Prize will be awarded annually by the Booker Prize Foundation to the best (in the opinion of the judges) eligible work of fiction for children aged eight to 12, written by an author of any nationality either originally in English or translated into English, and published in the UK and/or Ireland.

The inaugural shortlist of eight books will be chosen by a panel of three adult judges and announced in November 2026. Three child judges will join the adult judges to select the winner, which will be announced at a ceremony in February 2027. At least 30,000 copies of the shortlisted and winning books will be gifted to ensure more children can own and read the world's best fiction.

The website, thebookerprizes.com, supported by the Booker Prizes social channels – is a unique online space which showcases around 700 exceptional books that have won, or been longlisted or shortlisted, for the Booker Prize and International Booker Prize, and soon the Children's Booker Prize. The website aims to be an entertaining and illuminating content destination that combines both practical information about the prizes past and present with fresh and original features, to bring the books and their authors to life and encourage readers to visit the 'Booker Library'.

Other aspects of the Booker Prize Foundation's work include the funding of Braille and audio editions of Booker Prize books through the RNIB, the annual UEA Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship, PEN Presents x the International Booker Prize, which supports and funds translators from the Global Majority, and Books Unlocked, a long-standing reading initiative in prisons.

Gaby Wood, Chief Executive of the Booker Prize Foundation, says:

'The Children's Booker Prize is the most ambitious endeavour we've embarked on in 20 years – and we hope its impact will resonate for decades to come. It aims to be several things at once: an award that will champion future classics written for children; a social intervention designed to inspire more young people to read; and a seed from which we hope future generations of lifelong readers will grow. In other words, the Children's Booker Prize is not just a prize – it's part of a movement: a cause that children, parents, carers, teachers and everyone in the world of storytelling can get behind.'

Administration and judging

The prize is administered by the in-house team at the Booker Prize Foundation, led by the Chief Executive, Gaby Wood.

Each year's panel of adult judges will be chosen with the advice of the Booker Prize Foundation Advisory Committee and appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation. Three adult judges, including a Chair, are responsible for compiling a shortlist of eight books.

Three child judges, recruited via a nationwide competition, will join the adult judges to choose the winner. The judges are solely responsible for the decisions as to which books will be recognised.

The prize may not be divided (except in accordance with these rules) or withheld. If a vote becomes necessary, the Chair will abstain ensuring an odd number of votes and putting the children in a majority.

Prize money

There is a prize of £50,000 for the winning book and £2,500 for each shortlisted book. If the book is translated the prize money will be split equally between the author and translator (or the translator's share will be divided equally between multiple translators). If the book is a graphic novel, the prize money will be divided equally between the author and illustrator. If the book is illustrated, the prize money will be shared between the author and illustrator based on one of the following splits: either 50:50 or 75:25, as determined by the Booker Prize Foundation, in consultation with the adult judges.

Publishers' entry quotas

Any reference to "work" or "works" throughout these rules means a work or works of fiction.

Works to be considered by the judges can only be submitted by the publishers identified in 1a. below.

Details are as follows:

- Each eligible publishing imprint may submit up to two works each;
- Each eligible publishing imprint may also nominate up to five additional works for the adult judges to consider for their call-ins (further instructions on page 8);
- The adult judges may also call in any work published in the eligible time period, even if that work has not been submitted or nominated for a call-in by a publisher.

- The submission numbers are capped to enable all the judges to consider all submissions. A call-in system exists to allow publishers to write to judges to pitch for additional books to be considered – please pay careful attention to this element of the judging as it plays a key role. If you feel that judges should know about specific books beyond those you have entered via the submissions and call-in process, please write to the Chief Executive via the submissions email address.
- All submissions, call-in nominations and judges' call-ins are made on a confidential basis between publishers and the prize. The prize will not accept entries where the author or agent has required a publisher to make a submission – see rule 1.h.
- Submissions may not be used to publicise an author, translator or illustrator in the future, unless they have been shortlisted or won.
- All data and personal information shared with the Booker Prize Foundation shall be handled in accordance with its [privacy policy](#).
- **Publishers are not required to make a financial contribution to the Booker Prize Foundation at any stage, including if they have a book shortlisted or if it wins the prize. The rules outline all other publisher commitments should their book be shortlisted or win.**

Rules

1. Eligibility

- a. Any work of fiction in print or electronic format, written originally in English or written in another language and translated into English, and published in the UK and/or Ireland by an imprint formally established in the UK and/or Ireland (see 1b. and c. below) is eligible. The imprint must publish at least two works of contemporary fiction by different authors each year. These two will not include a work by the publisher. If the publisher is a company, the two will not include a work by the person who owns the majority shareholding or otherwise controls the company.
- b. In determining whether the work is published in the UK by an imprint formally established in the UK the publisher must comply with all of the following:
 - i. the imprint sells its list in pounds sterling;
 - ii. where the imprint's books are sold in print, its books are distributed through national UK retail outlets;
 - iii. the imprint has its principal place of business in the UK and is subject to UK registration and regulation including the primary liability to pay tax in the UK on all of its trading activities as a publisher, and

Rules

- iv.** that the work in question is one for which the publisher has been allocated a UK and Ireland International Standard Book Number.
- c.** In determining whether the work is published in Ireland by an imprint formally established in Ireland 1b. i. ii. iii. & iv. apply but substituting Ireland for UK and although in Ireland the publisher's list may be in euros, to remain eligible a work must comply with 2a. iv., 2c. ii. and iii., and 2d. iii.
- d.** The work must be published in the UK and/or Ireland between 01 November 2025 and 31 October 2026.
- e.** Works that have been self-translated are eligible.
- f.** Graphic novels and illustrated titles are eligible.
- g.** Short story collections by a single author are eligible.
- h.** Self-published works are not eligible where the author, translator or illustrator is the publisher. If the publisher is a company which has been specifically set up to publish the work in question, and/or the author, translator or illustrator is the person who owns the majority shareholding or otherwise controls the company, the work is not eligible. Works which have been published via a commercial arrangement through which the publisher is paid by the author are not eligible. Where an author or their agent require submission as a condition of a work's publishing contract that work will not be eligible.
- i.** No work is ineligible because it has previously won any other prize.
- j.** The author, translator and/or illustrator of the work must be living at the time it is submitted or called in. The work will only remain eligible for as long as its author is alive through the various stages of the prize up to the time of the announcement of the winner, although this is subject to the discretion of the Chief Executive.
- k.** All books must be written by a human author and (if applicable) translated by a human translator. Books that include any text written using Artificial Intelligence technology are not eligible.
- l.** The decision of the Chief Executive as to whether a work is eligible will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.

2. Key stages of the prize

a. General

Books published between 01 November 2025 and 31 May 2026

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by 25 May 2026.

Books published between 1 June 2026 and 31 October 2026

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by 22 June 2026.

- i. Where print or proof copies are already available, 8 copies together with a PDF of the text must be sent at the same time.
- ii. If proofs are sent initially, 8 copies of the finished work must then be sent as soon as they are available.
- iii. E-books are accepted on condition that the publisher sends 8 bound print copies with their submission, for the judges' consideration. The publisher must also agree to the shortlist and winner requirements detailed on pages 8–10.
- iv. Unless published only as an e-book, at the date of publication of the work at least 1,000 copies must be available for retail in the UK (or in the case of a work published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland).
- v. **For each title, publishers must email the following assets, by the respective deadlines above:**

-
- **A high-resolution colour image of the book cover (minimum 800 pixels high)**
-
- **A press release for the book**
-
- **Multiple high-resolution headshots of the author and (if applicable) the translator and/or illustrator (at least one that is landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide)**

Final assets

Please ensure that you have supplied final versions of your print and digital assets for all of your titles by 14 August 2026. These will be utilised for the public announcement in November.



If any of these deadlines present a problem, please contact:
CBPsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

Full details of where to submit are in the Next steps section on page 12.

b. Call-in nominations

The call-in system is a secondary method of submission for the prize and the judges are required to consider the nominations carefully. Each imprint may nominate, by 22 June 2026, up to five further eligible works. An imprint that only publishes one contemporary work a year and is therefore not eligible to make a standard submission may nominate that work as a call-in as long as it is otherwise eligible.

Call-in nominations should be supported by:

- **A PDF of the book. If no text is available at the time of a call-in, it should be forwarded as soon as it is available.**
 - **The first chapter in a separate PDF file**
 - **A justification letter (no more than 250 words) on headed paper explaining why the work should be considered, written and signed by the commissioning editor.**
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Full details of where to submit are in the Next steps section on page 12.

- The adult judges may also call in any work published between 01 November 2025 and 31 October 2026, even if that work has not been submitted or nominated for call in by a publisher. If the publisher agrees that the work is to be considered then the publisher must sign an undertaking to the effect that the publisher will comply with all the rules of the prize. The work will not be further considered without this signed undertaking.

c. Shortlist

If a work is shortlisted its publisher will be notified under embargo to enable them to undertake the following requirements:

- where the work concerned was published before the announcement of the shortlist and when submitted, or called in, was only available in print format, make the work available for sale as an e-book within 10 days of the announcement of the shortlist.
- where the work concerned was published before the announcement of the shortlist and when submitted, or called in, was published only as an e-book, have no fewer than 1,000 print copies available for retail sale in UK (or in the case of a work published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland) within 10 days of the announcement of the shortlist.

Key stages of the prize

- iii. enter into discussions with the Booker Prize Foundation about making the title available as a paperback as soon as possible if the work is only available in hardback.
- iv. agree to a special print run of 3,750 paperback copies of the work at the original specification, to be sold to the Booker Prize Foundation at a discount of 60% to enable a targeted nationwide bookgifting campaign. A total of 30,000 copies of the shortlisted books will be donated to provide access to children, and we will work with charitable partners to achieve this. The special edition must include an acknowledgment of the gifting programme – the design will be supplied by the Booker Prize Foundation and the placement will be agreed with the publisher.
- v. enter into discussions with the Booker Prize Foundation about making the title available as an audiobook if one is not already available.
- vi. grant the Booker Prize Foundation permission (including by obtaining any necessary licences and consents) to use the work for publicity or promotional purposes on the Booker Prizes website, social channels or any other partner websites, platforms or materials, as agreed with the publisher in advance.
- vii. unless otherwise agreed with the Booker Prize Foundation, ensure that print runs of the book refer to the shortlisting on the front or back cover, using the relevant Children’s Booker Prize 2027 branding, as shared and approved by the Booker Prize Foundation; the submitting publisher must bring this requirement to the attention of the literary agent and to its global counterpart(s) elsewhere.
- viii. use best endeavours to provide within two weeks of the shortlist announcement an electronic text and audio version (if one is available) to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) for the purposes of producing and distributing on a not-for-profit basis accessible copies to visually impaired persons. It is the publisher’s responsibility to inform rights owners that accessible copies may be produced and distributed. The Booker Prize Foundation will provide funding for the production of the winning book into an edition for the visually impaired as required.

d. Winning

If a work wins its publisher will:

- i. have no fewer than 1,000 print copies available for retail sale in UK (or in the case of a work published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland) within 10 days of the announcement of the winner, unless the book is highly illustrated, in which case the Booker Prize Foundation will liaise with the publisher to discuss timeframes.

- ii. use best endeavours to ensure that all future print runs of the book refer to the win on the front or back cover, using the relevant prize branding, as shared and approved by the Booker Prize Foundation; the submitting publisher must bring this requirement to the attention of the literary agent and to its global counterpart(s) elsewhere.

3. Marketing and expectations

- a. It is a strict condition of entry that publishers agree to make it a priority to ensure that authors, translators and/or illustrators whose works are submitted or called in make themselves available for publicity from shortlist stage on and that shortlisted authors, translators and/or illustrators will participate in the ceremony and a series of shortlist public events for children. The winning author, translator and/or illustrator is requested to participate in a media day, and at least one public event for children. If there is any problem over the author, translator and/or illustrator's availability, the Booker Prize Foundation must be informed immediately. Publishers are responsible for arranging their author, translator and/or illustrator's travel and accommodation for events, and covering costs.
- b. The publisher, publicist and agent of a shortlisted author, translator and illustrator are strongly advised to attend a briefing meeting that is convened by the Booker Prize Foundation to discuss the campaign plan.
- c. None of the print copies that are required as part of the submissions process or as call-ins will be returned to the publishers. At least 50 additional copies of shortlisted titles will be required at shortlist stage for promotional purposes – final quantities will be specified on notification.

Next steps

Complete our online forms. There are two types of form to fill in:



Submission form

(please submit one form for each submitted title)



Call-in nomination form

(please submit one form for each nominated title)

Sending copies and assets

For submissions

Send 8 physical copies of each submitted book to the below address.

Please ensure you mention **The Children's Booker Prize 2027** on the address label.

If you are ordering or transferring titles to us from a Parallel account, please also note The Children's Booker Prize 2027 on your invoice, this helps the titles to be correctly allocated to our account.

The Children's Booker Prize 2027

Parallel.Net Limited, 8 Hurlingham Business Park,
Sullivan Road, London, SW6 3DU



Email the below to the Booker Prize Foundation at:
CBPsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

- A PDF of the book
- A high-resolution colour image of the book cover (minimum 1080 pixels high)
- A press release for the book
- Multiple high-resolution headshots of the author, and (if applicable) the translator and/or illustrator (at least one that is landscape orientation at a minimum of 3000 pixels wide)

For call-in nominations



For each call-in nomination, email the below to the Booker Prize Foundation at: CBPsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

- A PDF of the book. If no text is available at the time of a call-in, it should be forwarded as soon as it is available
- The first chapter in a separate file
- A justification letter (no more than 250 words) on headed paper explaining why the work should be considered, written and signed by the commissioning editor.

Deadlines

Please revisit page 1 for the deadlines

Queries



Please send all submission queries the Booker Prize Foundation at: CBPsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org