

THE
READING
AGENCY



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Book Club Day UK



READING REBELS

**Workplace
Communications Toolkit**

11 September 2026

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Start a reading rebellion at work

Book Club Day UK is back on 11 September 2026 – and this year, we're inviting workplaces across the UK to join the reading rebellion.

Run by national charity The Reading Agency, Book Club Day UK is a celebration of books, conversation and the connections we make through reading together.

And you don't need an existing book club to take part.

Take 15 minutes out of the working day to swap recommendations. Start a bookish debate over lunch. Fill your workplace with the books your colleagues love. Hold a book swap. Or use the day to finally start that workplace book club you've been talking about.

However you take part, Book Club Day UK is a chance to get colleagues talking, discover something new about the people you work with and make reading impossible to ignore.

Be a Reading Rebel

This year's campaign celebrates the rebellious spirit of reading and the power of book clubs to bring people together, spark debate and generate new ideas.

We're asking people everywhere to **Get your books out. Find your people. Start a conversation.**

Because the biggest rebellion starts on a single page.

Book Club Day UK and the National Year of Reading

Book Club Day UK takes place during the National Year of Reading 2026 – a UK-wide campaign to reignite a culture of reading for pleasure.

Its message, "If you're into it, read into it," encourages people to discover reading through the things they already love – whether that's sport, music, food, gaming, film, fashion or something completely different.

Your workplace can volunteer to Go All In during National Year of Reading on Book Club Day UK by hosting your own Book Club Day.

Going All In with the National Year of Reading means following your interests and passions - using reading to explore what matters to you and sharing that joy with others.

That means there's no right way to be a reader – and no right way for your workplace to join in. Ready to start your workplace reading rebellion? Pick an activity on the next page.



Choose your reading rebellion

You don't need a book club. You don't need everyone to read the same book. You don't even need an hour.

This Book Club Day UK, choose an activity that works for your workplace and get colleagues reading, recommending, debating and talking.

The 15-minute book club

No homework. No set book. Ask everyone to bring something they're reading – or something they'd recommend – and spend 15 minutes swapping suggestions.

Book Clubs: The Original Social Network event

Host a special watch along event after work to hear from panellists Ruby Gray, Dr Michael Durrant and Yassmin Abdel-Magied about the history — and future — of book clubs. More on page 6.

Get Your Books Out

Ask colleagues to bring in a book they love and take over a communal space with them. Add a note explaining why you'd recommend it, then share your workplace bookshelf using #GetYourBooksOut.

The Great Book Debate

Start an argument – the friendly kind. Pick a question and let colleagues choose a side:

Book or film? Audiobook or print? Dog-ear the pages or never? Finish every book or give up when you're bored? Run it over lunch, on Teams or Slack, or put up a voting board and let the debate run all day.

Blind Date with a Book

Wrap a selection of books and write three clues about each one on the outside. Let colleagues choose their next read without judging it by its cover.

The Great Workplace Book Swap

Bring one. Take one. Discover something new. Set up a swap table somewhere everyone will see it and invite colleagues to leave recommendations inside the books they loved.

Rebel Recommendations

One book. One minute. Make us want to read it.

Give colleagues 60 seconds to pitch a book they think everyone else should try. Run it in a team meeting, over lunch or online.

Guess the Reader

Collect colleagues' favourite books anonymously. Put them up on a wall or your staff intranet and challenge everyone to match each book to its reader.

Start your own book club

Ready for something longer-lasting? Use Book Club Day UK to launch a workplace book club. Our [Book Club Hub](#) has everything you need to get started.

However you join in, make some noise about it. Share what your workplace is doing using #BCDUK and #GetYourBooksOut and tag @readingagency.



How much time have you got?

5 mins? Get Your Books Out

15 mins? Rebel Recommendations

30 mins? Great Book Debate

Lunch hour? Book Swap / 15-Minute Book Club

Go big? Launch your workplace book club



Keep the reading rebellion going

Book Club Day UK can be the start of something.

If your colleagues enjoyed swapping recommendations, debating books or reading together, why stop after 11 September?

Start a workplace book club and join the [Book Club Hub](#) – The Reading Agency's online home for book clubs and readers across the UK.

Everything your new book club needs

On the Book Club Hub you can:

- Apply for free book sets from publishers in exchange for reviews
- Find your next read with recommendations, reviews and book news
- Bring your meetings to life with discussion guides, extracts, book trailers and other resources
- Share your book club so new members can discover it
- Get the latest opportunities through the monthly [Book Club Hub bulletin](#)

For every book club, every genre, every reader.

bookclubhub.org.uk

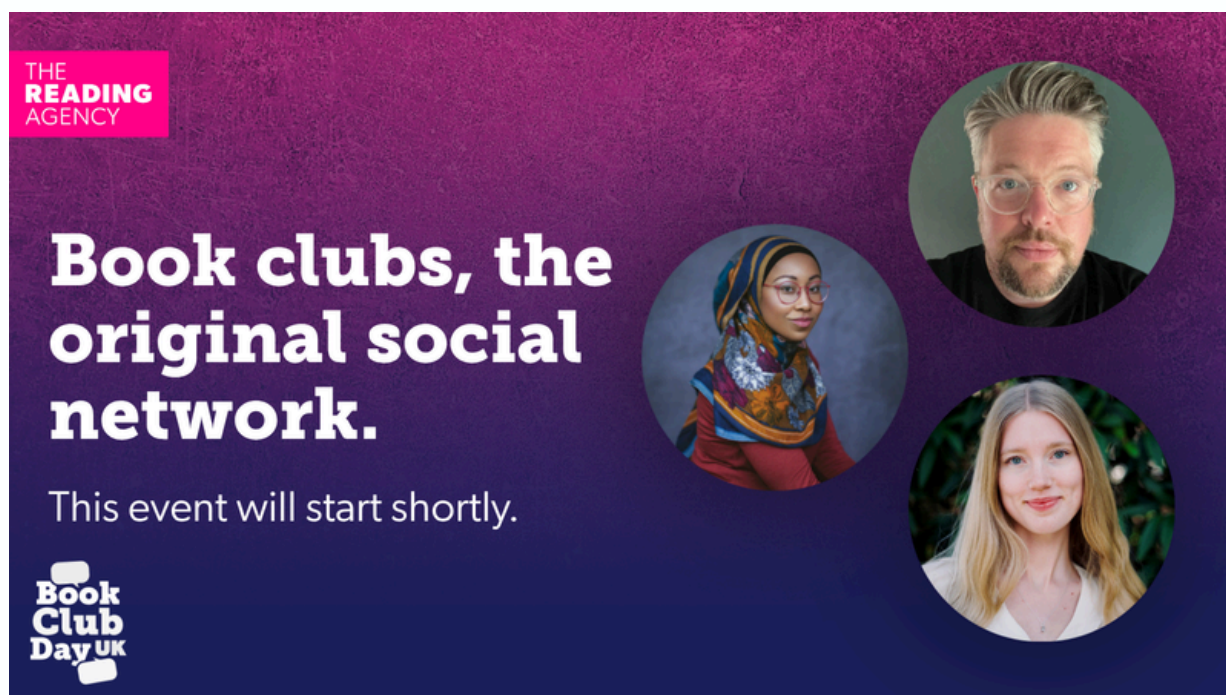
Already have a workplace book club?

We'd love to hear about it. Throughout the year, The Reading Agency features book clubs from across the UK on the Book Club Hub.

Tell us about your workplace reading community and you could see your club featured.



Book Clubs: The Original Social Network event



Online event

Friday, 11 September • 6:15 PM - 7 PM

On Book Club Day UK, this event will be a special discussion exploring the history — and future — of book clubs and shared reading.

Book Club Day UK is on 11 September and to celebrate we have a fantastic, free online event that book clubs or individuals who love reading can join to take part in the celebration.

Ruby Gray will host a special conversation with author Yassmin Abdel-Magied and historian Dr Michael Durrant exploring the history — and future — of book clubs. In conversation, they will share their thoughts about the importance and history of shared reading and book clubs and how this may have affected personal and social change over time.

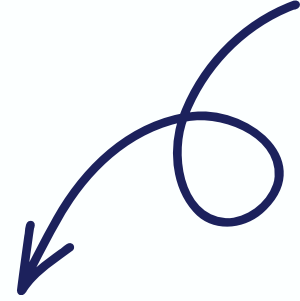
To book your place, register via the [Zoom link](#).

Who is this event for?

Book club members, librarians, educators and members of the public who have an interest in reading.



Get your colleagues involved



Staff newsletter/intranet

[Image assets can be found here.](#)

Join our reading rebellion this Book Club Day UK

On 11 September, we're joining workplaces and book clubs across the UK to celebrate Book Club Day UK – a national celebration of books, conversation and reading together from The Reading Agency.

And there is no required reading.

We'll be joining the reading rebellion by [ADD YOUR ACTIVITY AND WHERE AND WHEN TO TAKE PART].

Bring a book you love, a recommendation you're desperate to share or simply come along and discover your next read.

Whether you read every day, haven't picked up a book in years, prefer audiobooks or aren't quite sure reading is your thing, you're invited.

Get your books out. Find your people. Start a conversation.

Teams/slack

 We're starting a reading rebellion.

It's Book Club Day UK on 11 September and we're getting involved with [ACTIVITY].

[WHERE]

[WHEN]

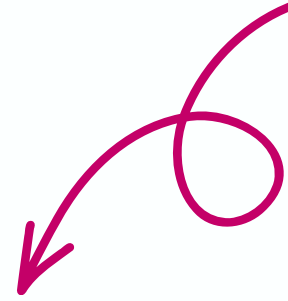
[WHAT TO BRING / HOW TO JOIN]

No required reading. No book-club expertise necessary. Just come along and join in.

Get your books out.



Share your reading rebellion



Pre Launch

[Image assets can be found here.](#)

 We're joining the reading rebellion.

This #BookClubDayUK, we're getting our colleagues talking about books, swapping recommendations and discovering what everyone else is reading.

On 11 September, we'll be [ADD ACTIVITY].

Because the biggest rebellion starts on a single page.

#BCDUK #GetYourBooksOut @readingagency

Launch Day

 The reading rebellion has reached [WORKPLACE NAME].

Today we're celebrating #BookClubDayUK by [ADD ACTIVITY].

We're getting our books out, sharing recommendations and discovering something new about the people we work with.

 Here's what our workplace is reading...

#BCDUK #GetYourBooksOut @readingagency

Share your workplace bookshelf

What happens when you ask an entire workplace for the one book they'd recommend?

We asked ours – and this is what happened. 📌

What's the one book you'd add?

#BookClubDayUK #GetYourBooksOut @readingagency



Why reading together works

Book clubs are about much more than books.

They give people something to talk about, introduce us to different perspectives and create opportunities to connect with people we might not otherwise get to know.

That's what makes reading together such a simple but powerful activity to bring into the workplace.

Reading gets people talking.

139% more likely to talk about reading.

Book club members are 139% more likely than non-members to talk about reading with other people at least once a week.

Reading creates connection.

86% more likely to feel connected.

Previous research from The Reading Agency found that book club members were 86% more likely to say reading helped them feel connected than people who weren't currently in a book club.

Sharing makes reading more enjoyable.

91% say talking about books makes reading better.

When we spoke to book club members across the UK, 91% told us they find reading more enjoyable when they can discuss the book with others.

Reading opens up new perspectives.

Reading increases our knowledge of the world, while reading fiction is associated with better social cognition and understanding how other people think and feel.

So take 15 minutes. Put the emails down. Pick the books up. And give your colleagues something different to talk about.



About The Reading Agency

Everything changes when you read.

Welcome to The Reading Agency. We're a UK charity with a mission to inspire social and personal change through the proven power of reading. We work with individuals of all ages, communities and trusted partners to share the transformative benefits of reading for happy, healthy and thriving lives.

In the UK...

- 1 in 6 (8.5 million) adults struggle to read
- 1 in 4 children in England cannot read well by the age of 12

This limits life chances and choices.

Reading for pleasure and empowerment makes us more aware and informed. It helps us grow our imaginations. It makes us more empathetic and understanding of other people and cultures. It supports our health and wellbeing. It increases our ability to learn new skills. It helps us to communicate our ideas more effectively. It opens doors. It brings joy.

We know that not everyone has an equal start in life, so we support readers to create social connections and improve their reading skills. We help people manage their health and wellbeing through reading. Working with public libraries, prisons, hospitals and other community settings, last year our wide range of activities touched the lives of 2.5 million people. But with a UK population of over 67 million that isn't nearly enough. We want to get more people fired up about reading because everything changes when you read.

The Reading Agency is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.
Find out more at www.readingagency.org.uk @readingagency

