

Northumberland Schools Library Service

Newsletter 80

July 2026

What a busy term!

Connected Readers

In May our librarian, Deborah Whinney, joined educators and librarians across the north at the North East Combined Authorities conference *Connected Readers: Grow a Reading for Pleasure Culture* where she led a workshop about the value of reading and the important role Schools Library Services play.

The NECA team were also keen to offer schools who attended the conference the chance to apply for Inspire Grants. One of our schools has been successful in applying for funding to inspire reading in the autumn term in collaboration with SLS. Watch this space for more on this next term.

School Librarians meetings

Many of you may be unaware that as well as resources to schools we also provide the opportunity for Middle and High school librarians to meet and gain peer support from colleagues in similar positions across the county and beyond.

At our last meeting we had a brilliant presentation from Fiona Corbett, the Digital Liaison Officer for Northumberland Libraries, about AI and its impact on school libraries.

We also had a visit from Councillor Wendy Pattison, Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism. who came along for the presentation and to find out more about how SLS supports school librarians.



Staff Changes



We are pleased to announce that our library assistant Julia has been appointed to the role of Library Supervisor on a part-time basis. Congratulations Julia!

SLAs andDon't Forget Your Topic Requests

Thank you to all the schools who have subscribed to SLS for the next academic school year 2026/2027.

We really appreciate your support and are very pleased that so many schools continue to value the resources and services which we provide.

If your school doesn't subscribe to the Schols Library Service, but would like to find out more about how we can support your pupils and staff, please contact us at generalSLS@northumberland.gov.uk

We have a range of SLAs to suit all needs – and budgets - and would be happy to discuss your individual requirements.

Topic Requests

Liz & Julia have already started putting the topic requests together for the **AUTUMN TERM**.

If you haven't already done so, please make sure we have your requests for **AUTUMN 2026** curriculum resources ASAP. These will be delivered to your school straight after the summer break.

[This link](#) will take you to the topic request form. The form can also be found on our [website](#).

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

This summer, Northumberland Libraries invite children to discover the joy of reading through Read to the Beat! — the music-themed Summer Reading Challenge 2026.

As part of the National Year of Reading, we are encouraging families to make reading part of their summer adventures. Children can sign up at the library and enjoy rewards along the way.

If you would like a librarian to visit your school to present a special assembly promoting the Challenge, please email:

mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk



We will have lots of brilliant events, competitions and prizes to be won.

Full details will appear on our library website www.mylibrary.co.uk and social media pages.

'Read to the Beat' launches on Saturday 4th of July and runs for the whole of the summer holidays. It is totally free, and children can join in the fun at any of our libraries

Please do tell your families about this year's challenge.

Thank you for your continued support of our Summer Reading Challenge – let's keep children reading over the long summer holidays!

Northern Children's Book Festival 2026

We're excited to share details with you about this year's Northern Children's Book Festival, taking place in November.

Over the course of two weeks, Northumberland Libraries will be bringing four wonderful children's authors to the county, and we'd love them to visit your school.

Monday 16th November - Tor Freeman - [Tor Freeman](#)

Comic and graphic novel creator, regularly featured in The Phoenix
Suitable for **KS1** and **KS2**

Tuesday 17th November - Dean Atta - [Dean Atta](#)

Picture book author, including Auntie's Bangles
Suitable for **Early Years** and **KS1**

Tuesday 24th November - Joseph Coelho - [The Poetry of Joseph Coelho – Poetry of Joseph Coelho](#)

Former Children's Laureate, award-winning author and poet
Suitable for **KS2**

Thursday 26th November - Melissa Weliver - [Melissa Welliver Author - Home](#)

Author of YA fantasy and dystopian novels, including To The Death
Suitable for **KS3**



The cost of a full-day visit with up to three sessions is £350, whilst individual sessions are £120. This is a great opportunity to team up with other local schools and get the children together so you can share the cost.

And finally.....

We hope you all have a fantastic Summer break... well deserved! We will be open during the school holidays if you wish to pop in and visit.

Please contact us by email at generalsls@northumberland.gov.uk and keep up to date with all our latest news by following us on Facebook and Instagram @NLandSLS

Schools Library Service
Cleaswell Hill, Guidepost,
Choppington, Morpeth
Northumberland, NE62 5DW
01670 620072
generalsls@northumberland.gov.uk



"Everything good, everything magical, happens between the months of June and August"

Jenny Han, The Summer I Turned Pretty