



From James Priestman, chair of the judges, Young People's Poetry Competition 2023

Dear Poetry teacher, librarian or enthusiast,

As you and your pupils mark World Book Day, I'd like to remind you that the Chiswick Book Festival Young People's Poetry Competition will be taking place again this year and we're really looking forward to receiving your entries.

It's the 13th year of the competition and we know how highly it is valued by schools and the parents of those whose children have taken part and won prizes.

As a performance poet myself, I'm delighted to have had the privilege of chairing the judges since the very first competition in 2011 - and to have shared the stage at the prizegiving with many well-known children's writers, including Roger McGough, Cressida Cowell, Clare Balding and David Wood.

Last year, the prizewinners received copies of 'Only One of Me', poems for children by James Berry, the "Windrush Poet" who lived here in Chiswick. This year we're celebrating the centenary of the Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to WB Yeats, who was a Chiswick schoolboy for a while!

The competition is open to children in **School Years 3 – 7 (ages eight to twelve years)**.
The deadline for the submission of poems is mid-day on Tuesday 6th June 2023.

We have selected this date so that teachers can plan poetry-writing into their lessons at the end of the Spring term or the start of the Summer term (or both!).

I will send you the full rules and entry forms at the start of the Summer Term.

I know many of you already receive the Festival newsletter. If you do, you will have read yesterday's news that the Chiswick Book Festival has just donated £11,000 to reading charities and St Michael & All Angels Church, which hosts and runs the Festival. If you don't, you can read it here and I'd encourage you sign up for your own copy:

<http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net/join-our-mailing-list/>

You can read lots more on the Festival website: www.chiswickbookfestival.net - including the Chiswick Writers Trail, which lists 21 notable poets, playwrights and novelists who have lived in Chiswick: <https://www.chiswickbookfestival.net/chiswick-timeline-writers-trail/>

Yours sincerely,

James Priestman
Chair of the Judges