**Under embargo until 00:01 Monday 13September**

**Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall extends her Patronage of BookTrust**

BookTrust has great pleasure in announcing that Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall has kindly agreed to extend her patronage of the UK’s largest children’s reading charity. After a decade as Patron of BookTrust, The Duchess of Cornwall’s continued support coincides with the charity’s new strategy which focuses on supporting children from disadvantaged families to enjoy the transformative benefits of reading.

From babies, through to children in their early teens, reading can have a profound and lifelong positive impact on children’s lives, affecting their health and wellbeing, creativity and educational outcomes. Through partnerships with health services, libraries, schools, early years practitioners and more, BookTrust supports millions of children every year with books, resources and reading support to help develop a love of reading.

As a well-established and passionate advocate for reading, literature and literacy, The Duchess of Cornwall has become a key figure championing BookTrust’s work and inspiring children to read by sharing her favourite children’s book recommendations and her views on why reading and telling stories are such an important part of childhood. The Duchess of Cornwall has been a strong supporter of BookTrust over the years and most recently, she joined Cressida Cowell, the Waterstones Children’s Laureate, to open one of the new school libraries as part of the Life-changing Libraries campaign.

Diana Gerald, CEO of BookTrust, said: “There’s never been a more urgent time for us to encourage a new generation of children on their reading journeys. Our aim at BookTrust is to get all children reading, regularly and by choice, and our bold new strategy is focused on finding innovative ways to ensure children from disadvantaged families are not left behind. HRH, The Duchess of Cornwall is an incredible champion for children’s reading and we’re delighted that with her continued patronage, we can support millions of children to reap the life-changing benefits of reading.”

Earlier this year, The Duchess of Cornwall launched a new initiative to celebrate all forms of literature. The Duchess of Cornwall’s Reading Room features in-depth interviews with authors in a space for book lovers of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. To find out more and to join the conversation, follow @duchessofcornwallsreadingroom on Instagram.

[The Next Chapter](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/about-us/strategy/), BookTrust’s new strategy, sets out how the charity will bring the benefits of reading to children in the greatest need and support all children to establish reading habits and behaviours as early as possible.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Media Contact**

For further information please contact Lizzie Hubbard, Communications Officer, at press@booktrust.org.uk

**About BookTrust**

BookTrust is dedicated to getting children reading because we know that children who read are happier, healthier, more empathetic and more creative. Their early language development is supported and they also do better at school. We are the UK’s largest children’s reading charity; each year we reach 3.9 million children across the UK with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading, because we know that reading can transform lives. We work with a variety of partners to get children excited about books, rhymes and stories, because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. Our books are delivered via health services, libraries, schools and early years practitioners, and are supported with guidance, advice and resources to encourage the reading habit. [booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/)