

# Prison Reading Groups Family Days Report 2017



# 2017 figures

**23** Family Days  
**1300+** books sent to  
**20** prisons for  
**750** children



## Plans for 2018:

In 2018 we will support 45 Family Days, sending 1600 books and 1200 bags to 40 prisons around the UK.



Prison Family Days are an opportunity for parents to spend time with their children and partners. The importance of family contact for both prisoners and their families is well-recognised and family days occur on a regular basis, incorporating activities and games alongside valuable one-on-one time.

Prison Reading Groups (PRG) and our parent charity Give a Book support these days by sending a book bag for each child visiting a parent in prison. PRG also arranges for a volunteer to help on the day, giving out books and encouraging family reading activities.

Where possible, parents and children read and explore together. Both the book and the book bag are tangible reminders of a good day spent as a family.

### FOR PARENTS

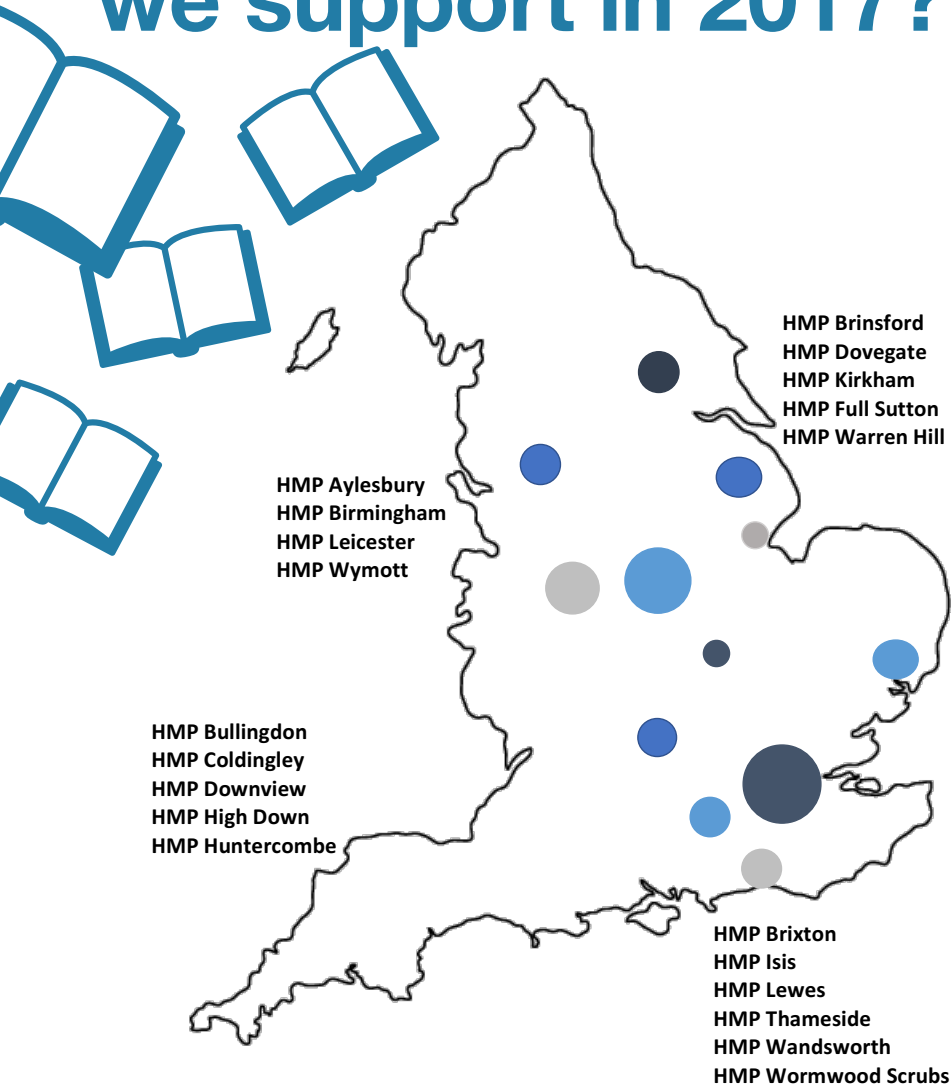
Please tell us what you think of the book bag scheme. Did your child enjoy getting a book? And if you looked at it together, was it a good way to spend time on a Family Day?

*I think this is a lovely idea esp on a special visit so father & son can bond with each other by reading*

Did the children say anything about being given a book and book bag to take home?

*'Can I keep it?'*

# Which prisons did we support in 2017?



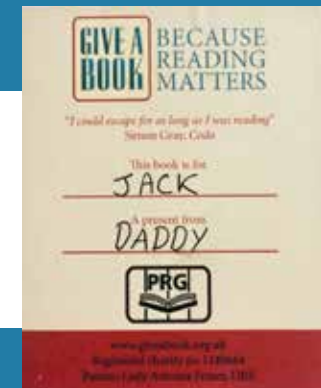
We welcome enquiries from prisons interested in support for Family Days. Please email [info@prg.org.uk](mailto:info@prg.org.uk) for more information.

# What's in a Bag?



Each child visiting on a Family Day is given a book with a Give a Book bag, notepad, pencil or crayons.

We also send a bookplate to be stuck inside each book so it becomes a personal gift from parent to child.



Most importantly, the books! We send new books, carefully chosen with the help of children's bookshops, publishers and specialist volunteers to get a selection of engaging, accessible and varied books.

The children at Family Days range from under a year to 17 years old, so sending age-appropriate books is essential. The feedback we receive on a regular basis helps to inform our book choices, and we try to include a mix of classic and modern titles.



# Volunteer Involvement

*‘I was struck with how proud one dad was with how well his son was doing at school. All the families were so appreciative and it felt tremendously worthwhile.’*

Family Days vary at each prison, but where possible we arrange for a volunteer to attend on the day.

In some prisons where there is a dedicated book corner the volunteer may be located there, on hand to give out the book bags and encourage children and parents to spend time together with the books. In other prisons, the volunteer may circulate among the families, perhaps handing out the book bags, chatting and helping with other organised activities.

PRG works with a contact at each prison to get the relevant information ahead of the day, and to make sure the books get there on time.

# Feedback

We gather feedback from each Family Day we support, from children and parents as well as prison staff. This is a great way for us to learn which books are popular, how reading can fit into the Family Day setup, and how to continue improving our support.

The book bag scheme is a very good idea and it made the children very happy. We all looked at it together as a family and helped if each other out - We really enjoyed it and hope to do it next time :-)

6. Do you have a favourite book? If you do, what is it called?  
Harry Potter

# Funders and Partners



## Prison Reading Groups

PRG sets up and funds voluntary reading groups and provides support for family reading initiatives in prison.

## Give a Book

Give a Book facilitates the giving of new books, working with prisons, schools and various organisations to help promote reading for pleasure, and to give books where they can really make a difference.

## Siobhan Dowd Trust

PRG's support for Family Days is made possible by ongoing and generous funding from the Siobhan Dowd Trust. We are very grateful for this support.

## Penguin Random House

Thanks to Penguin Random House for their generous donation of over 300 children's titles for Family Days in 2017 and their ongoing support in 2018.

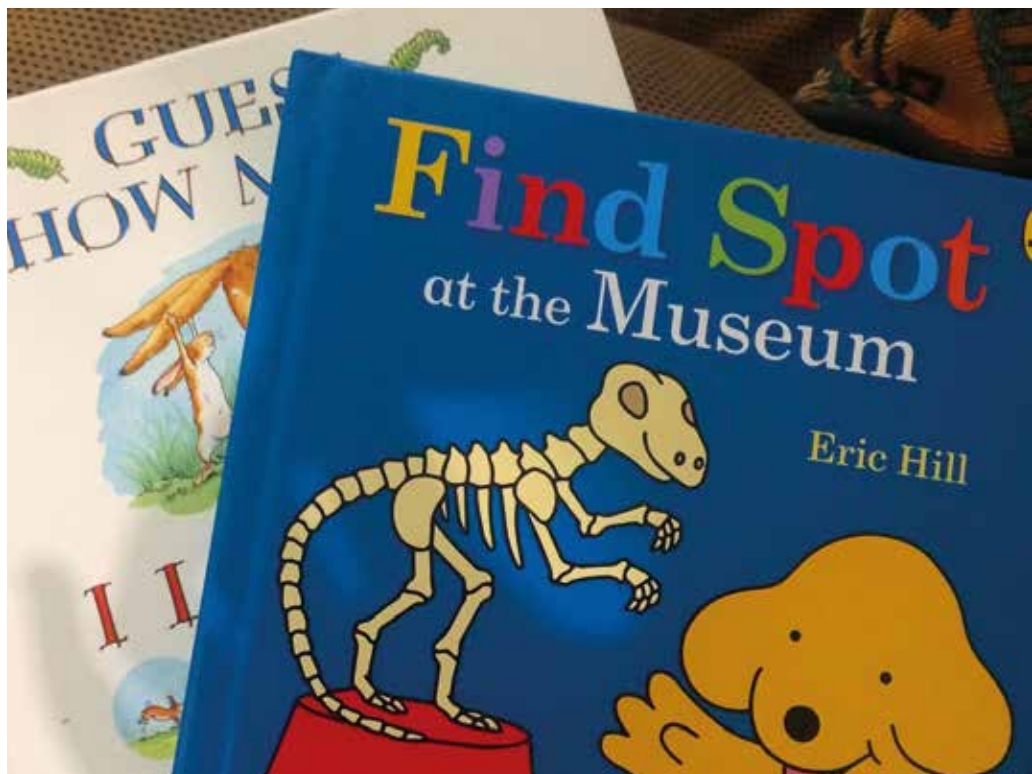
## Alligator's Mouth

The Alligator's Mouth is an independent children's bookshop in Richmond. In 2017 they provided expert advice and recommendations and supplied Family Day books with generous discount.

## Wandsworth Grant Fund

The WGF helps fund PRG's support for Family Days and reading initiatives at HMP Wandsworth.

We would be delighted to hear from prisons and organisations interested in Family Day partnerships and we welcome enquiries via [info@prg.org.uk](mailto:info@prg.org.uk)



Thank you for the Books  
My Boys loved them.  
Today was perfect.

For more information visit our website  
[www.prison-reading-groups.org.uk](http://www.prison-reading-groups.org.uk)

Prison Reading Groups (PRG) is part  
of Give a Book [www.giveabook.org.uk](http://www.giveabook.org.uk)