

For immediate release – Thursday 13th February 2020

‘Transformative, effective and ingenious’, CLPE wins Eleanor Farjeon Award 2019 for outstanding contribution to the world of children’s books.

- The prestigious annual award is presented to an individual or organisation whose commitment and contribution to the world of children’s books is deemed to be outstanding
- The CLPE were announced as winners by the award’s facilitators, the Children’s Book Circle, ahead of a presentation ceremony in central London
- The award recognises the importance of the charity’s work on improving literacy for all children.

The charity, The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education has been named as the 2019 recipient of the Eleanor Farjeon Award, which was announced at an evening ceremony in central London on Wednesday 12th February 2020. The award, established in 1966 to honour the writer Eleanor Farjeon, recognises outstanding commitment and contribution to the world of children’s books. Previous recipients include Philip Pullman, Michael Rosen, Shirley Hughes and Malorie Blackman.

Christabel McKinley, Co-Chair of the CBC, said: “This year we wanted to honour the scope and ambition that the CLPE has demonstrated in their pursuit of improving literacy for all children. The holistic approach they have taken - providing a wealth of resources for both children and educators through relevant research, tailored training and their beautiful new library – has proved ingenious and demonstrably effective. It is with great pleasure that we would like to recognise the commitment the CLPE has already made to furthering child literacy, and we look forward to watching the transformative results of their work continue.”

The CLPE has been working in the field of children’s literature for nearly fifty years and their work benefits nearly 5 million children in schools across the country. In just the last two years the charity has:

- Produced the first ever report into representation within children’s books: *Reflecting Realities*
- Championed the importance of poetry – running the only award solely for children’s poetry, the CLiPPA which involves children from all over the country and brings 1000 children to the National Theatre to celebrate poetry.
- Launched research which shows the power of the picture book and the importance of drawing for developing literacy
- Crowdfunded the creation of the ‘Literacy Library’ at their London centre, building a new space for 23,000 children’s books for teachers, publishers, literacy organisations, authors and charities to use. CLPE now share this space with two other literacy charities, the Driver’s Youth Trust and First Story.
- Written a book for teachers, *The Power of a Reading Rich Classroom*, published by SAGE Publications in February 2020
- Worked collaboratively with publishers to produce events for more than 90 authors, illustrators and poets, including a new programme of events for 2020, Literacy Library Presents
- Worked face to face with 3,000 teachers across the country each year and provided online resources and support for thousands more.

PRESS RELEASE

Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive of the CLPE, accepted the award on the charity's behalf. She said: "Eleanor Farjeon was such a champion of children and of books and we are so honoured to have our work recognised by this prestigious award. Children's literature is the absolute heart of all our work at CLPE where we support children to become literate and to develop a love of reading and writing in their homes, in schools and in libraries. Receiving this recognition will help us to do even more for children, in more places and with more books."

For more information or to speak to someone about the award, please contact Sarah James (sarah@clpe.org.uk)

Notes for Editors:

About The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education:

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is an independent UK charity dedicated to raising the literacy achievement of children by putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning. It is a charity with a national and international reputation for excellent literacy training and resources. Visit www.clpe.org.uk for further information or follow CLPE on Twitter @clpe1.

About The Eleanor Farjeon Award:

The Eleanor Farjeon award was established in 1966 in memory of children's writer Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Although best known for the hymn 'Morning Has Broken', she was a prolific author of poems and stories, and recipient of both the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award and the Carnegie Medal. The Award was set up to reflect her passion for children's books, and each year is awarded to an individual or organisation who has demonstrated exceptional service to the industry.

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