

Primary schools

Top tips

For preparation

- Make sure the whole school knows about the Empathy Day Festival – encourage all students, staff, families and governors to take part
- Use our [short powerpoint](#) to introduce the concept of empathy in an assembly, and with staff to show how reading builds empathy. Build anticipation for the festival!
- Plan whole school activity – all classes can watch the Empathy Day Assembly with Frank Cottrell-Boyce on **12 June**
- Plan class or year group activity. Some schools come off timetable on Empathy Day itself for a whole school celebration
- Make sure parents and carers know about Empathy Day. From **1 May**, encourage them to download the Family Toolkit from www.empathylab.uk and make the most of half-term, just before the festival, for empathy activity
- Plan visits to the school or public library or your local bookshop, to choose and share great empathy reads
- Arrange an author or illustrator visit to happen during the festival – let the author/illustrator know you are participating in the Empathy Day Festival and ask them to focus their visit on empathy in their books

For during the Festival

- Take a giant JUMP photo with pupils holding their favourite empathy-boosting books
- Have an Empathy story time each afternoon using books from the Read for Empathy collection. Classes could recommend and share books from their Empathy Bookshelf

Using the Empathy Challenge activities ([HERE](#)) why not:

- challenge individuals to take part in as many as they can
- choose activities to do as a class – share the results across year groups
- focus on a different activity each day of the Festival
- send activities home for children to do with the adults who care for them

