**Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Awards 2018 Shortlist Announced**

* 15 nominated titles across 5 categories: ‘Baby & Toddler’, ‘Picture Books’, ‘Fiction’, ‘Learning & Development’ & ‘Favourite Characters’
* Winners to be announced on Wednesday 29th August, alongside the ‘Sainsbury’s Children’s Classic’ award
* Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Awards now in its fifth year

Sainsbury’s is pleased to bepartnering with BookTrust again for the 2018 Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Awards. Sainsbury’s is passionate about supporting its youngest customers at the start of their reading journey; the Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Awards aims to recognise and celebrate some of the best and most enjoyable books in children’s publishing. As the UK’s largest children’s reading charity, the BookTrust’s initiatives reach millions of children each year, recognising the power of reading to transform a child’s life.

Alongside the shortlisted winners which will be announced at the awards event on Wednesday 29th August, Sainsbury’s will also announce the winner of the annual ‘Sainsbury’s Children’s Classic’ award– an accolade celebrating a book which has brought joy to generations of children, that parents will have grown up reading and that will continue to delight many more children to come.

**Emma Brewster, Senior Books Buyer for Sainsbury’s** said: “We’re thrilled to be in our fifth year of the Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Awards. The volume and quality of nominations for this year’s categories have been the highest to date. It has been exciting to see all the newly published titles from the last year and the shortlist creation has been incredibly challenging. Of particular note this ye are the fiction and picture book categories, and the shortlist reflects the strength and diversity of children’s publishing today.”

**Jill Coleman, Director of Children’s Books, BookTrust said**: “We’re delighted to be working with Sainsbury’s on its Children’s Book Award. Sainsbury’s is a great partner for BookTrust because they share our passion for getting children reading. We love that they are so committed to promoting brilliant books that are sure to excite, entertain and engage families. The judges certainly have their work cut out for them this year - the shortlist is fantastic and there are so many great books to choose from.”

**Shortlisted Titles:**

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| **Category** | **Title** | Author | Illustrator | **Publisher** |
| Baby and Toddler | Are You There Little Fox? | Sam Taplin | Emily Dove | Usborne |
| Baby and Toddler | Norman’s New Shell | Paul Linnet | Sue Hendra | Simon & Schuster |
| Baby and Toddler | My Magical Unicorn |  | Yujin Shin | Campbell/ Macmillan |
| Picture Book | 100 Dogs | Michael Whaite |  | Penguin Random House |
| Picture Book | How to be a Lion | Ed Vere | Ed Vere | Penguin Random House |
| Picture Book | Wildest Cowboy | Garth Jennings | Sara Ogilvie | Macmillan |
| Fiction | Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow | Jessica Townsend |  | Orion |
| Fiction | Sky Song | Abi Elphinstone |  | Simon & Schuster  |
| Fiction | The Nothing to See Here Hotel | Steven Butler | Steven Lenton | Simon & Schuster |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Learning and Development | Fantastically Great Women Who Made History | Kate Pankhurst | Kate Pankhurst | Bloomsbury |
| Learning and Development | The Book of Comparisons | Clive Gifford | Paul Boston | Ivy Kids |
| Learning and Development | You Are Awesome | Matthew Syed | Toby Triumph | Wren & Rook/ Hachette Children’s Books |
| Favourite Characters | Big Stickers For Tiny Hands: PJ Masks |  |  | Pat-a-cake/Hodder & Stoughton |
| Favourite Characters | Peppa’s Magical Unicorn |  |  | Ladybird/ Penguin Random House |
| Favourite Characters | Pokémon 1001 Sticker Book |  |  | Orchard Books / Hachette Children’s Books |

The “Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Awards” celebrate the very best in children’s books. Each year Sainsbury’s invites all its children’s book publishers to nominate up to two books for each of the award categories, which this year include: Baby & Toddler, Picture Books, Fiction 6 years plus, Learning & Development and Favourite Characters. The winning author in each category will receive a prize of £1,000 and the winning titles and shortlisted books will be promoted in Sainsbury’s stores in the run-up to Christmas. Sainsbury’s sells children’s books in more than 300 supermarket stores across the UK. In 2013 was awarded the title “Children’s Bookseller of the Year” at The Bookseller Industry Awards.

**Notes to Editors**

Sainsbury’s commitment to helping customers live well for less has been at the heart of what we do since 1869. Today that means making our customers’ lives better and easier every day by offering great quality and service at fair prices – across food, clothing, general merchandise and financial services – whenever and wherever they want to shop.

As our customers’ lives change, so will our business. Sainsbury's acquired Home Retail Group, the owner of Argos and Habitat, on 2 September 2016, creating one of the UK’s leading food, general merchandise and clothing retailers - a multi-product, multi-channel business with fast delivery networks. J Sainsbury plc operates over 600 Sainsbury’s supermarkets and more than 800 Sainsbury’s Local convenience stores, as well as over 800 Argos stores – more than 2,200 locations in total.  In addition, we have major online channels for food, clothing, general merchandise and financial services. We sell over 90,000 products and employ 195,000 colleagues across the UK and Ireland. The iconic Habitat furniture and home furnishings brand operates out of five stand-alone stores in London, Leeds and Edinburgh as well as six Mini Habitats in Sainsbury’s supermarkets.

Sainsbury’s Bank offers accessible financial services products such as credit cards, insurance, travel money and personal loans that reward customers. Our vision is to be the most trusted retailer where people love to work and shop. Our colleagues, strong culture and values are integral to achieving this vision and driving our success – now and in the future.