PARTNER SCHOOLS · BUKMUK INTER SCHOOL SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION 2026

The coordinator's guide

You are the person at your school who holds the code and answers the questions. This is the whole job, with pictures of every screen you will meet.

EIGHT MINUTES TO READ

ENTRIES CLOSE 30 NOVEMBER 2026, 11:59 PM IST

THE WHOLE JOB, IN FIVE LINES

1. Send your school code to your parents.
2. They enter at bukmukpublishing.com/competition. ₹200 with your code, ₹490 without it.
3. Sign in at bukmukpublishing.com/competition/school to watch the entries arrive.
4. Tell us if a name appears that is not one of your students.
5. Entries close 30 November 2026, 11:59 pm IST. Results are announced in December.

01 WHAT YOUR SCHOOL GETS

- Complimentary creative writing workshops, author meets and storytelling sessions at selected schools, run by our team in person or online.
- Entry at ₹200 instead of ₹490 for every student at your school, through your code.
- Your school's name printed beside each of its published authors.
- A participating schools page inside each anthology.
- The Bukmuk Shield for the school with the most published authors.

NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR 2027

All three anthologies go on display at the fair, with the name of every participating school printed in them.

There is nothing for the school itself to pay, and no minimum number of entries. One story from your school is welcome. So are two hundred.

02 YOUR SCHOOL CODE

Your code looks like BKMK-2026-XXXXXX. We email it to you when your school joins. It is what brings entry down to ₹200 for your families, so it is worth understanding what it does.

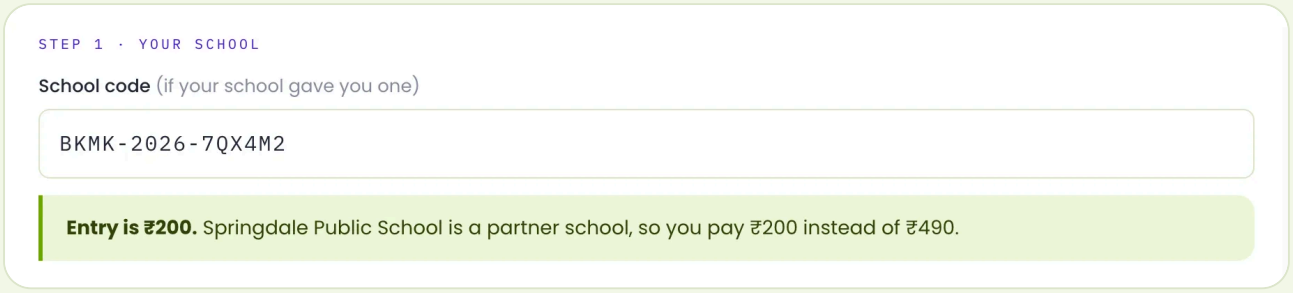
A parent types it into the first box of the entry form. The form checks it while they type, names your school back to them, and the fee drops to ₹200.

Share it the way you would share any circular: on your school app, in a class group, in a newsletter, on a notice board. Keep it inside your school community rather than on a public social media post, because it lowers the fee for anyone who has it, and ties their entry to your school.

WORTH KNOWING

The code is not a password. Every parent in your school has it, so it cannot on its own let anyone see the list of entries. Signing in to your school page needs the code *and* your coordinator email. That is section 04.

Lost the code, or want it changed? Write to helpdesk@bukmuk.com and we will send it again.



WHAT A PARENT SEES WHEN YOUR CODE IS ACCEPTED. SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME.

03 WHAT A PARENT DOES

You will be asked this more than anything else, so here is the whole thing. It takes about five minutes at bukmukpublishing.com/competition.

1. **Your school**
   They type your school code. Entry becomes ₹200.

2 **The young writer**

Child's name, age, school and class. Anyone aged 6 to 17 can enter.

3 **The story**

They pick a theme, give the title and rough word count, and attach the story as a Word file or a PDF, up to 10 MB. The story needs to be written before they start the form.

4 **Parent or guardian**

A grown-up gives their name, email and phone. The email matters, because that is where the certificate goes.

5 **Before you send it**

They confirm the story is the child's own work, written without AI tools.

6 **Send**

They pay ₹200 by UPI, card or net banking. A confirmation email arrives with an entry reference. Ask parents to keep it, because it lets us find a story straight away.

READY TO SEND TO PARENTS

Copy this, put your own code in place of the Xs, and send it on WhatsApp or email.

```
Our school is taking part in the Bukmuk Inter School Short Story Writing
Competition 2026.

Your child writes one short story on the theme for their age group. A
jury reads every entry, and the ten best stories in each age group are
printed in that age group's own book, three books in all, each with an
ISBN, sold on Amazon in India and worldwide.

Because we are a partner school, entry is ₹200 for our students instead
of ₹490. Use our school code:

BKMK-2026-XXXXXX

Enter here: bukmukpublishing.com/competition
It takes about five minutes. Have the story ready as a Word file or a
PDF.

Entries close 30 November 2026, 11:59 pm IST.
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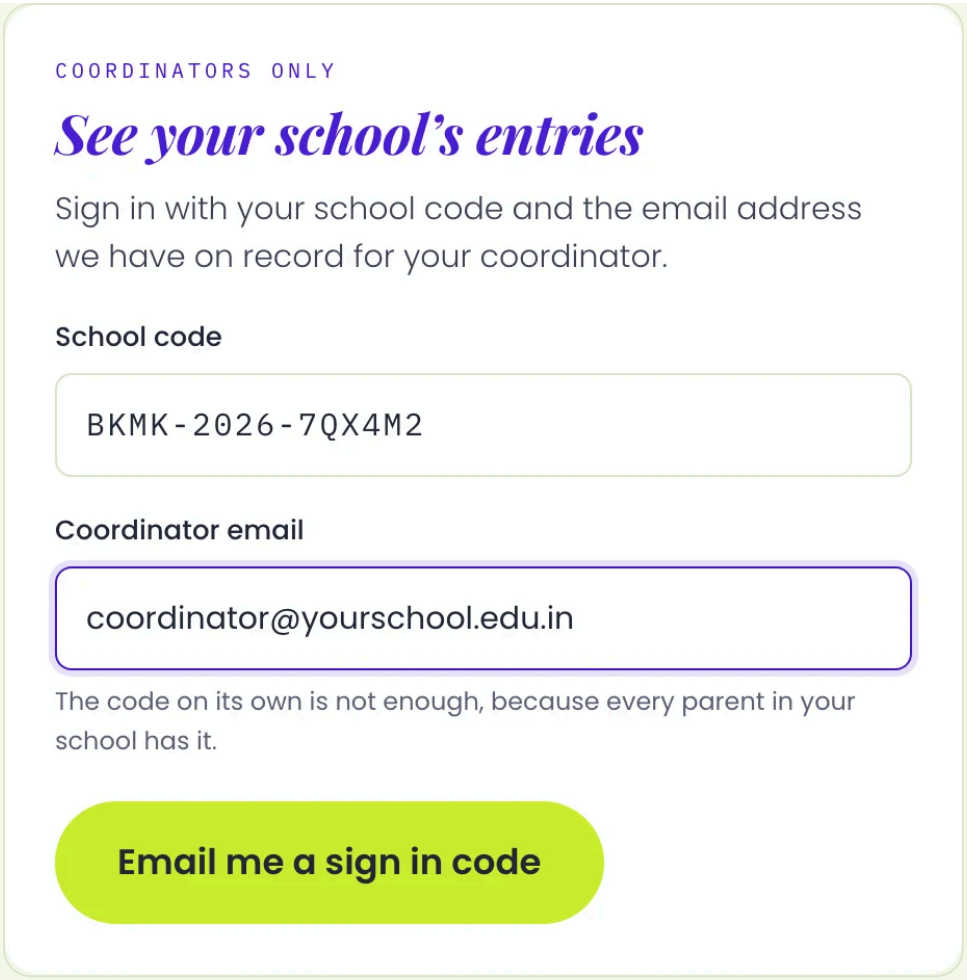
A child may enter more than one story, as long as each is in a different theme. A parent who stops halfway does not lose anything, because what they typed is kept on their own device.

04 SIGNING IN TO YOUR SCHOOL PAGE

Your school page lives at bukmukpublishing.com/competition/school. Bookmark it. There is nothing to install and no password to remember.

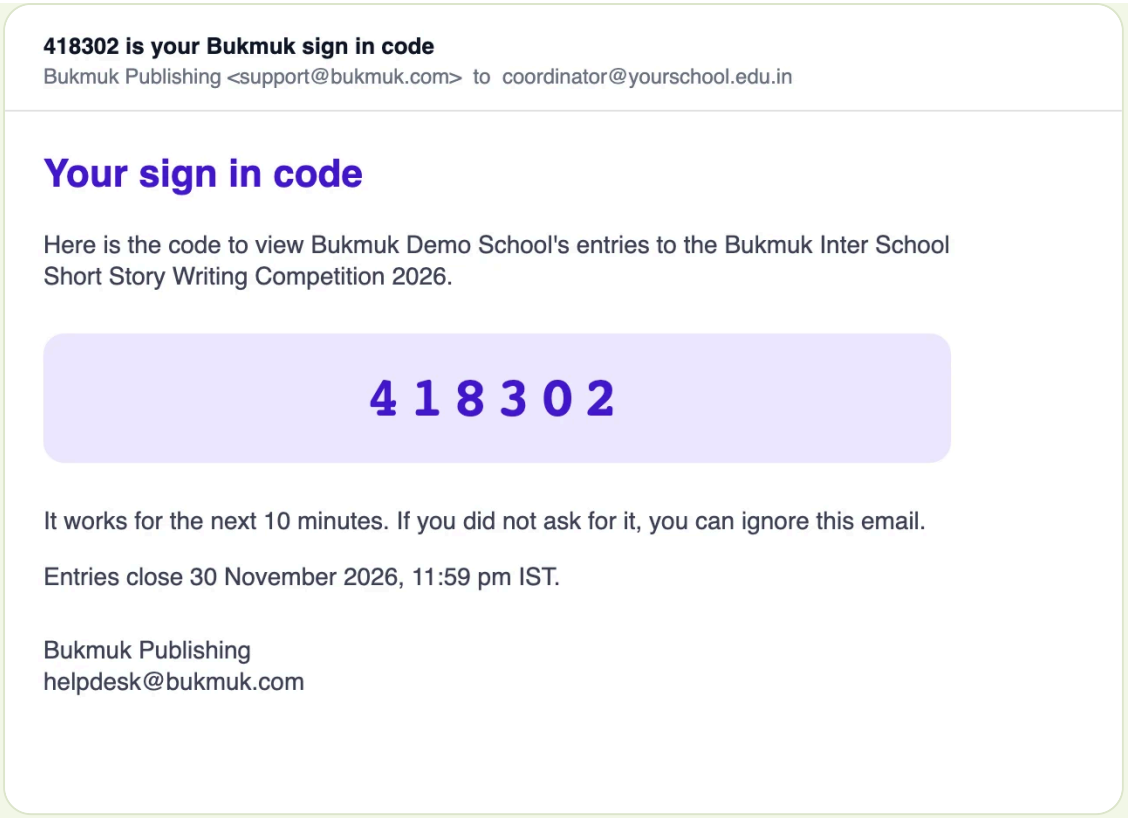
1. **Type your code and your coordinator email**
   It must be the email address we have on record for you. If a colleague tries their own address it will not work, and the page will not say why.



THE SIGN IN CARD

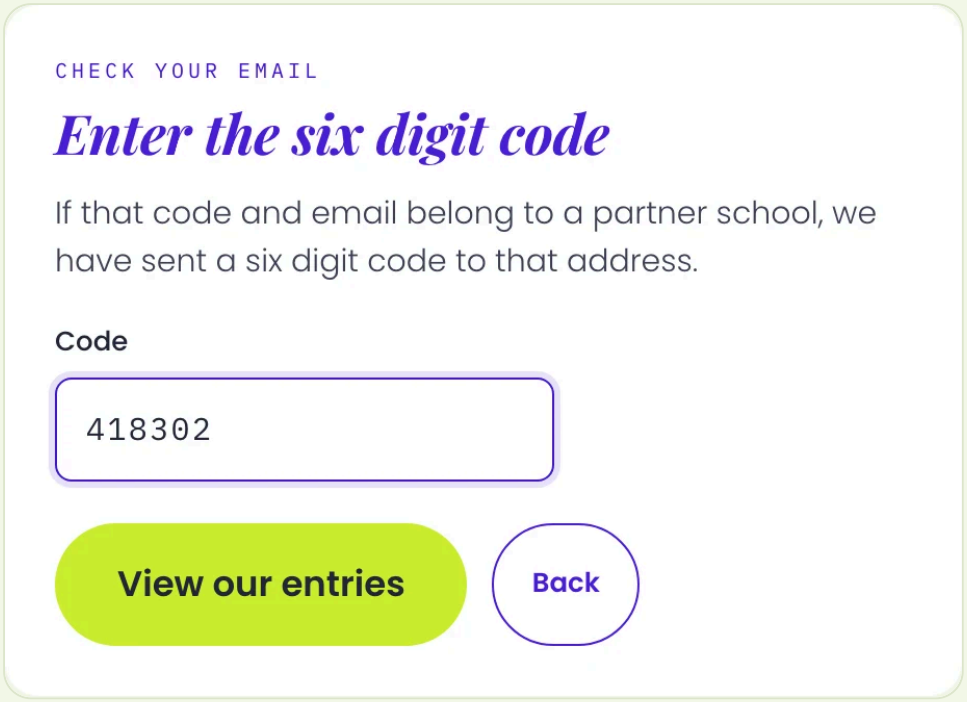
2 **We email you a six digit code**

It arrives from support@bukmuk.com and works for ten minutes. If it is not in your inbox, look in spam and in your school mail filter.



THE EMAIL THAT ARRIVES

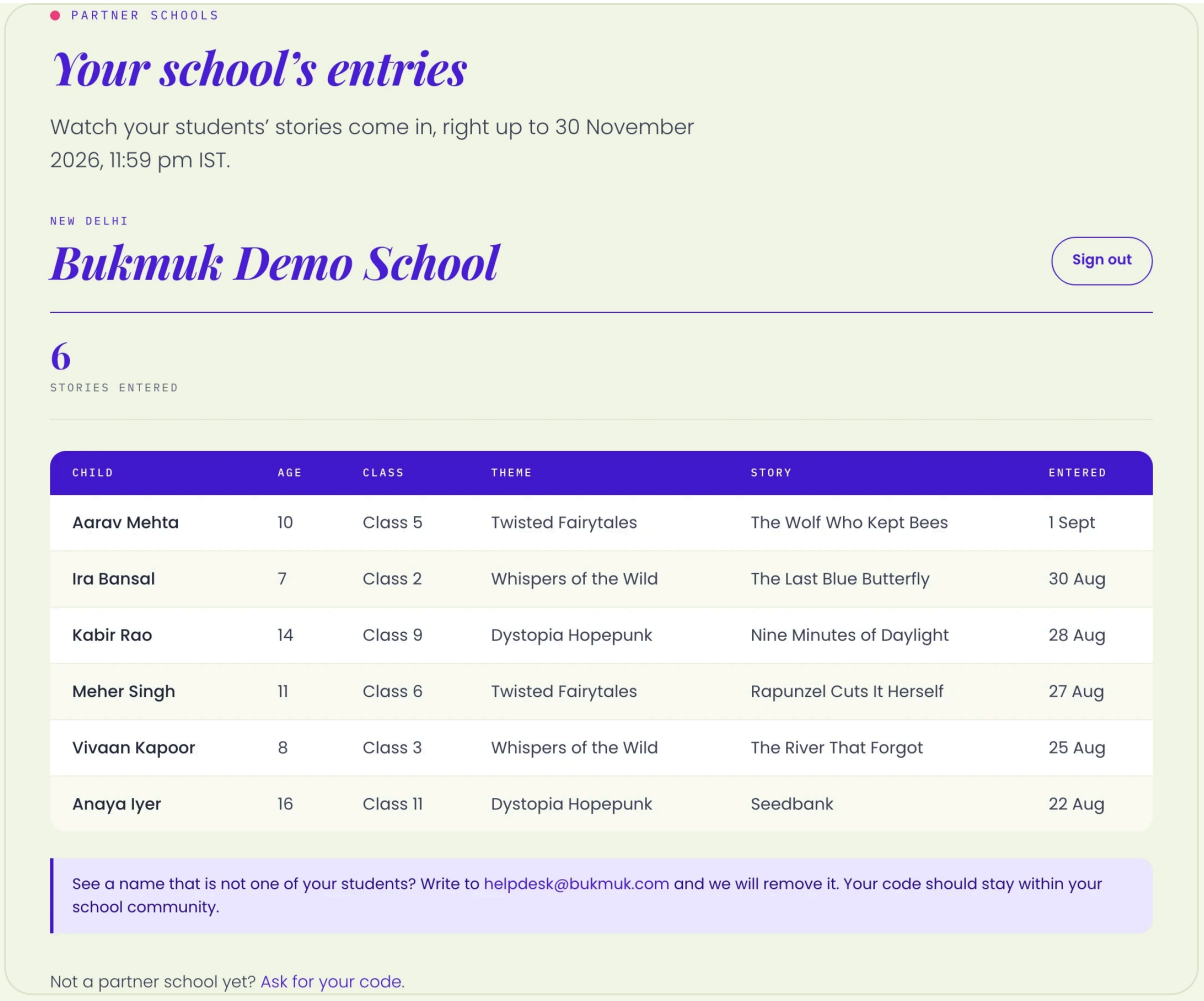
3 Type the code in



CONFIRMING THE EMAILED CODE

4 You are in, for two hours

After two hours the page asks for a fresh code. That is deliberate: the list holds children's names, and a page left open on a staffroom computer should not stay open all week.



YOUR SCHOOL'S ENTRIES. SAMPLE SCHOOL AND SAMPLE NAMES.

> **If sign in does not work**, the page will not tell you whether it was the code or the email that was wrong. That is on purpose, so that nobody can use it to test codes. WhatsApp us on +91 81302 86286 and we will sort it out in a minute.

05 WHAT YOU CAN SEE, AND WHAT YOU CANNOT

YOU CAN SEE

- How many stories your school has entered so far.
- Each child's name, age and class.
- The theme they chose and the title of their story.
- The date the entry came in.

YOU CANNOT SEE

- Parent email addresses, phone numbers or home addresses. Those belong to the family, not to us to hand on.
- The story files themselves.
- Anything about judging. No shortlist, no scores, no status, until results are announced.

The list updates as entries arrive, so refreshing during the last week is the point of the page. It shows only stories that were actually submitted, so a parent who started the form and stopped will not appear.

06 THE WEEKLY EMAIL, AND WHAT TO CHECK

Once a week we email you the same list, so you do not have to sign in to keep an eye on it. The email only goes out when your school has at least one entry.

When it arrives, read the names. You are the only person in the world who knows whether "Aarav, class 4" is really a child at your school. If a name is not one of your students, write to helpdesk@bukmuk.com and we will remove the entry and, if it keeps happening, issue you a fresh code.

WHY WE ASK

Your code lowers the fee and ties each entry to your school. If it travels outside your school, families with no connection to you are counted as yours, and your school's own count stops meaning anything. A quick read of the list each week is the only check that works.

07 THE QUESTIONS PARENTS ASK YOU

The code is not being accepted.

Ask them to check for a stray space, and that it is the letter O against the digit zero. Our codes never use the letters I and O or the digits 0 and 1, exactly so this cannot happen. If it still fails, send them to WhatsApp +91 81302 86286.

I already paid ₹490 before I knew about the code.

Tell them to write to helpdesk@bukmuk.com with their payment reference and your school's code. We refund the ₹290 difference. The entry stays in, and it counts for your

school.

My child is between two age groups.

A story is always judged against others by children of the same age. The theme defaults to their age group, but a child close to a boundary may write to the neighbouring theme if the idea suits it better. The word count then follows the theme they picked.

Can my child enter twice?

Yes, as long as each story is in a different theme.

Does every child get something?

Every child who enters receives an eCertificate. The thirty published authors receive a physical certificate of international publication, two author copies, literary gifts, an author page on our site, and a share of the ₹15,000 in cash prizes.

We live outside India.

Children abroad are welcome, and receive their certificates digitally.

Can a teacher help with the story?

The story must be written entirely by the child, and without AI tools. We may ask to see drafts. Encouragement is welcome. Writing is not.

08 THE DATES

30 NOVEMBER 2026, 11:59 PM IST

Entries close. A hard cut off, not a soft one.

DECEMBER 2026

Results announced. Thirty stories selected.

NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR 2027

All three anthologies on display, with your school named in them.

Most entries arrive in the last ten days. If you plan one reminder to parents, send it in the third week of November.

09 ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Bukmuk Inter School Short Story Writing Competition 2026 is open to children aged 6 to 17. Each child writes one short story on the theme for their age group and sends it in. A jury reads every entry. There is no audition and no shortlist to get through first, so a child who has never entered anything before starts level with everyone else.

The ten best stories in each age group are printed in that age group's own anthology, three books in all, each with a real ISBN and sold on Amazon in India and worldwide. Selected stories are lightly copy-edited and never rewritten, because the point of the book is the child's own voice.

Entry is ₹490 per story for the public, and ₹200 for students of partner schools. Read the full terms, refund and privacy policy.

WHAT THE PUBLISHED AUTHORS GET

- The story printed in their age group's anthology, with a real ISBN
- A physical certificate of international publication
- Two author copies of their book
- A share of ₹15,000 in cash prizes
- An author page on bukmukpublishing.com
- A book launch event

AGES 6 TO 8

Whispers of the Wild

300 TO 600 WORDS

A story where nature holds the magic. Forests, oceans, animals, wild places.

AGES 9 TO 11

Twisted Fairytales

600 TO 1,000 WORDS

Take a fairytale everyone knows and turn it upside down. The villain might be the hero.

AGES 12 TO 17

Dystopia Hopepunk

1,000 TO 1,500 WORDS

A world that has gone wrong, and a young person who finds the light in it anyway.

10 ABOUT BUKMUK

Bukmuk is a children's library and a publishing house for young writers. We run writing studios and workshops, and we publish children's books properly: an ISBN, a printed edition, distribution on Amazon in India and overseas, an author page for every child, and a royalty on every copy sold.

The competition is how a school-sized group of children reaches that same shelf in one season, without a family paying for a book of their own.

Bukmuk Library and Bukmuk Publishing are brands of iKitaab Web, BW31A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

FOUNDER AND CURRICULUM LEAD

Shefali Malhotra

A storyteller with over eleven years of experience, and the founder of Bukmuk. She reads the entries herself.

CO-FOUNDER AND PROGRAMME CURATOR

Abhinav Girotra

Twenty five years in industry, now curriculum designer and mentor to the children in the programme.

11 WHEN YOU NEED A PERSON

Ask us anything.

A code that will not work, a parent stuck on the upload, a name on your list you do not recognise, or a date you want to move for your school. We would rather sort it out than have a child miss the deadline over something small.

Go to your school page **The competition page**

SHEFALI MALHOTRA

Founder, and the person who reads the entries.

WHATSAPP OR CALL

+91 81302 86286

EMAIL

helpdesk@bukmuk.com

Not a partner school yet? Ask for your code.