

# FRIENDS OF VALENTINES MANSION



## Children's Writing Competition 2026

Open to all year 5 & 6 children in Redbridge



**Write a letter as if you lived long ago for  
your chance to WIN!**

Imagine you are a child in the 1800s visiting Valentines Mansion for the first time. Write a letter to your best friend describing your day - what did you eat, play or discover? Or send a thank you letter to the family who lived here!

### FUN FACT!

In the 1800s children wrote letters with quill pens dipped in ink!

-  **1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE: £60**
-  **2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE: £40**
-  **3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE: £20**

**Scan here for more fun facts and tips!**



**CLOSING DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

[www.valentines.org.uk](http://www.valentines.org.uk)

Emerson Road, Ilford, IG1 4XA

**VISION**   
REDBRIDGE  
CULTURE & LEISURE



# Children's Writing Competition 2026

## Entry Form

Child's Name: .....

School: .....

Year Group: 5  6

Class Teacher's Name: .....

Name of parent/guardian: .....

I understand that the letter, the first name and the name of the school of all the winners will be published on the FOVM website [www.valentines.org.uk](http://www.valentines.org.uk).

Signed (parent/guardian): .....

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

### How to Enter

**Please send your entries, no longer than one size of A4 by:**

#### Email

From a parent/guardian/teacher with '**HOOKER PRIZE 2026/Child's Name**' in the subject line to: [info@valentines.org.uk](mailto:info@valentines.org.uk) attaching the competition entry as a Word or PDF document (or typed into the body of an email). We cannot accept photos of entries. Please include the school name and year group of the child, as well as parent/guardian and class teacher's names, or attach this completed form, saved as a PDF.

#### Post or in person

Feel free to pop along to Valentines Mansion any Sunday or Monday, 12pm-3pm to hand deliver your entry or post it to:  
**FOVM Hooker Prize, Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road, IG1 4XA.** Please include your contact details and this completed form, **with your name and your school's name written on the back of your entry**.

**Please note:** We love to see handwritten or illustrated entries, simply pop these over to us by post or in person, or scan and save them as a PDF before emailing to us. You may also email your contact details along with the name of your child, so we can contact you about the prizegiving event

**Winners will be announced at the  
Special Family History Day at Valentines Mansion on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

We'll also let your school know if you have won.

#### **The Hooker Prize:**

This special competition, held annually to inspire young people, is named in memory of Cherry Hooker, an inspirational former Chair of the Friends.