



Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

How do I book an author event? Contact your local Independent Usborne Partner to arrange your author event. They will:

- Organise the event from start to finish
- Provide promotional posters
- Arrange pre-orders of books for your pupils
- Give you a free books allowance to spend

If you're not already in contact with an Independent Usborne Partner you can find them here: <https://qr.usborne.com/2kaaw>





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Alex Atkinson

Spooksmiths Investigate Series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2 and Year 7

Key themes: Friendship, bravery, inspiration, resilience, history and the importance of keeping a sense of humour



In-person events

Option One: Author talk/assembly (45–55 minutes)

(Audience: Key Stage 2. Happy to accommodate any number of pupils within that age group.)

Take a deep dive into where stories and inspiration come from, learn why you should be suspicious of careers quizzes and discover some weird, spooky and downright creepy facts that are guaranteed to give you the shivers. It will include a short reading, quiz and Q&A.

Option Two: Workshops (45–55 minutes each)

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

- Unleash your imagination
- Making brilliant characters

Virtual events

Short author talk and/or Q&A (30–40 minutes)

Technical requirements

- Ability to share presentation and slides on PowerPoint
- Pens, pencils and paper for workshops
- For virtual talk Zoom preferred but can also use MS Teams

Fees

In-person events:

Author talk/assembly + signing: £150*

Author talk/assembly + one workshop + signing: £200*

Author talk/assembly + two workshops + signing: £300*

Author talk/assembly + three workshops + signing: £400*

* + travel expenses

Virtual events:

Short author talk and Q&A: £50



Location / Travel: Based in Hertfordshire. Willing to travel (including outside of the UK) if expenses are covered. Alex is not available for events during school holidays.

Alex can adapt events for children with English as a second language with support from the teaching staff.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Claire Barker

Knitbone Pepper Ghost Dog Series

Events suitable for: Years 2 and 3

Key themes: Friendship, acceptance, change, tolerance, grief, imagination, pets, historical timelines

In-person events

Author Talk (50 minutes)

(Claire can accommodate any number of pupils for all of her events.)

A fast-paced, fun session, all about my stories and how brilliant it is to be an author. It will be full of interesting pictures, peculiar pets, funny tales, odd objects and readings to grab the young imagination.

Virtual events

Author talk modified for a virtual setting.

Technical requirements

- Ability to use any virtual meeting platform

Fees

In-person events:

Half day: £430

Full day: £600

Author talk (one hour) + book signing: £230 (+ travel and accommodation)

Virtual events:

Author talk (50 minutes): £120

Location / Travel: Based in Devon. Willing to travel to events in the UK if travel and accommodation expenses are paid.

Claire can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.



Claire was absolutely brilliant! She catered for the needs of our school, ensuring all children could access and enjoy her inspiring talk!

Martha Walke,
St Andrew's Primary School





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

P.G. Bell

The Big Bad Wolf Murder

The Beanstalk Murder

The Train to Impossible Places Trilogy

Events suitable for: Upper Key Stage 1 and all Key Stage 2

Key themes: Reading and writing for pleasure, unlocking your imagination, storytelling

In-person events

Author Talks/Assemblies (45–55 minutes)

(No maximum number of pupils)

Both options require PowerPoint.

Option one: “Once Upon a Murder”

Learn how P.G. Bell’s fairytale whodunnits, *The Big Bad Wolf Murder* and *The Beanstalk Murder*, put deadly twists on classic tales. Meet the characters, explore the mysteries and peek behind the scenes to discover how the stories came about. Pupils then get a chance to turn detective and re-imagine some favourite fairytales as murder mysteries — choose your victim, nominate a detective, and follow the clues to the solution! The event concludes with a Q&A, book sale and signing session.

Option two: “Telling Impossible Tales”

P.G. Bell reveals how a bedtime story grew into his best-selling book, *The Train To Impossible Places*. He then takes pupils on a whirlwind tour through the characters, worlds and storylines of the series, before inviting them to brainstorm some brand-new adventures. This is a fun, funny and engaging session that encourages children to think about their own creativity. It culminates in a Q&A, book sale and signing session.

Creative Writing Workshops (45–55 minutes)

(Maximum group size: 40 pupils)

Option one: “A Trio of Tricks to Tell Your Tale”

We all love stories, but what really makes them tick? And how can we tell our own? This highly interactive workshop explores the three key building blocks of any good story and lets pupils put them into practice straight away, whilst encouraging questions and the sharing of ideas. Perfect for supercharging creative writing skills!

Option two: “Building Better Worlds”

All P.G. Bell’s books involve strange and magical worlds, and this interactive workshop shows children how to create their very own. Together, we’ll use arts and crafts to explore the importance of setting in storytelling, as pupils create illustrated postcards of their newly created worlds. This is an informal session, ideal for younger age groups, including lower KS2 and upper KS1.

Option three: “Making Good Stories Better”

“All good writing is rewriting.” This workshop demystifies the editing process, with visual examples of my own work, so children can see just how much I get wrong the first time



The online session with P.G. Bell was like a journey through one of his books: fast-paced, funny and very entertaining!

Teacher, St Bernadette’s Catholic Primary School, Birmingham



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around, and how I go about fixing it. We'll discuss how to give and receive feedback, and the best ways to make their own stories clearer and more effective. This session can be tailored for older age groups, up to KS3 and 4.

Virtual events

Virtual Author Talks (45–50 minutes)

These are live, online versions of P.G. Bell's author talks – Once Upon a Murder and Telling Impossible Tales. He introduces himself, along with the main characters and themes of his books and explains how he came to write them. He also gives a brief reading with on-screen illustrations and supplies creative writing prompts for pupils to use in class or at home. The talk culminates with a Q&A session.

Virtual Q&A (25 minutes)

This is a short, informal session, perfect for classes that have read any of P.G.'s books. He gives a live online reading, followed by a Q&A session.

Technical requirements

- Access to PowerPoint
- Basic art materials
- Writing materials
- Zoom, Microsoft Teams or Google Meet for virtual events
- Technical run-through preferred for virtual events
- Microphone if event is for 200+ pupils

Fees

In-person events:

Half day (any three one-hour sessions + book signing): £360 (+ travel, accommodation, and food expenses)

Full day (any five one-hour sessions + book signing): £540 (+ travel, accommodation, and food expenses)

Virtual events:

Author Talk: £96

Q&A: £60

Location / Travel: Based in Cardiff. Willing to travel anywhere (including outside of the UK) if travel and accommodation expenses are covered.

P.G. Bell can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

P.J. Canning

21% Monster Series

Events suitable for: Key Stages 2/3 (Years 7-8)

Key themes: The importance of being different, hybrid animals, percentages and developing your own ideas

In-person events

Assembly Presentation and Q&A (45-60 minutes)

(Assembly presentations can be given to a whole key stage. Approx. up to 200 pupils.)

P.J. will share some readings from his book and give pupils a chance to imagine what hybrid they would want to be. Q&A to follow.

Workshop (Half Day)

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

P.J. will talk about how he created the main characters and how they deal with being different. He'll share surprising scientific facts about animal hybrids and show how he used the characteristics of two different species to make the heroes of 21% Monster. There will then be an activity session for pupils to either invent their own 'hybrid hero' or design a piece of futuristic technology.

Technical requirements

- The ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet and MS Teams for virtual events
- Writing and drawing materials

Fees

Assembly Presentation and Q&A: £200

Half day (may change dependent on number of classes): £300

Location / Travel: Based in Cambridge – can travel up to 90 minutes.

P.J. works full time and so has limited availability for events. He can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Zanna Davidson

Billy and the Mini Monsters series

Izzy the Inventor series

Events suitable for: Reception to Year 3

Key themes: Character creation, story writing and drawing, science and invention



In-person events

Zanna is able to offer whole assemblies for Reception–Year 3 as well as much smaller sessions for classes.

Billy and the Mini Monsters Creative Writing Workshop (45 minutes)

(Audience: Reception to Year 2)

Create your own Mini Monster characters and then put them in a comic strip story.

Izzy the Inventor Session (45 minutes)

(Audience: Reception to Year 1–3)

We will look at amazing inventions thought up by children. We then act out a scene from the story and end with science experiments (slime, rubbery eggs, origami water balloons).

Creative map-making session (45 minutes)

(Audience: Year 1–3)

This session involves acting out part of the Izzy the Inventor and then creating fairytale maps as a basis for an adventure story.

Technical requirements

- PowerPoint access
- Writing and drawing materials

Fees

45 minutes: £75*

Half-day: £150*

Full day: £250*

* + travel and accomodation expenses (Travel fees: 45p per mile)



Location / Travel: Based in Surrey, willing to travel up to 1 hour. Zanna is willing to travel outside of the UK for festivals but is unable to attend school events.

Zanna can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Helena Duggan

A Place Called Perfect Series

The Light Thieves Series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Friendship, family, resilience, environment, science, critical thinking, the power of imagination



In-person events

Presentation and author Q&A

Helena will deliver a presentation talking about her books and the inspiration behind them. She'll do a short reading, get the class thinking with some key questions and then do a Q&A with them.

Virtual events

Presentation and author Q&A

Same as in-person events.

Technical requirements

- The ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meets and MS Teams for virtual events.
- Children will need writing and drawing materials (e.g. pens, pencils, paper)

Fees

In-person events: Presentation and author Q&A: €150 (+ travel expenses)

Virtual events: Presentation and author Q&A: €100

Location / Travel:

Willing to travel within Ireland.

Helena Duggan can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026



Rowan Foxwood

Heartseer: The Tale of Anise Star

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2 and Year 7

Key themes: Creative Writing, Fantasy, Story-Telling, Magical Creatures, Folklore, Mythology, Legends, Fairy Tales, Creativity, Inspiration, Magic, Dyslexia

In-person events

All in-person author visits will include a book signing session. We recommend leaving 30 minutes for this.

Option One: Author Talk (50 – 60 mins)

(Audience: Years 3 – 7)

An hour of magic, myths and monsters, Rowan will talk about the real-life folklore that inspired her work, introduce you to the magical creatures from her book, and talk about her personal journey writing with dyslexia. The event will finish with a live reading and a Q&A session.

Option Two: Creative Workshop (45–60 mins or 2 x 30 min Workshops)

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils. Audience: Years 4 – 6)

Words are like Lego bricks—you can build just about anything with them! Learn how to play with words and, if there's time, design your own Daemon or Deity, just like in *Heartseer!* (NOTE: When run in combination with the Author Talk Assembly, this workshop can be run as two shorter workshops of 30 minutes each.) The event will finish with a Q&A session.

Option Three: Story-Spinning Workshop (45 – 60 mins)

(Maximum group size: 40 pupils. Audience: Years 6 – 7)

The pen is mightier than the sword, but just as hard to wield, and while everyone has a tale to tell, getting words on the page can be a whole other story. Join Rowan for a crash-course in story-spinning, with a series of exercises designed to help you set-up everything you need to begin your very own story! The event will finish with a Q&A session.

Virtual events

All events are offered virtually.

Technical requirements

- Ability to present Powerpoint slides
- For workshops, children will need writing materials (eg. paper, pencils, pens).
- Tables & chairs are also recommended. (See group size suggestions above)
- Rowan is able to tailor some events to suit specific requirements and interests, or work with school clubs or groups. Please contact for more details and to discuss options.



Author Events

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Fees

In-person events:

One event (Approx. 1 Hour 30 mins. Includes: One event, Q&A and a book signing): £150*

Half-Day (Approx. 2 Hour 30 mins. Includes: Two events, Q&A and a book signing): £250*

Full-Day (Approx. 3 Hour 30 mins. Includes: Three events, Q&A and a book signing): £350*

Festival (This is a tailored experience. Includes: Four or more events, Q&A and a book signing): £450*

* + travel expenses

Discounts available for early-booking.

Virtual events:

£100 per event, then £75 for any additional events.

Location / Travel: Based in Wiltshire. Open to events anywhere throughout the UK.

Accommodation may be required for destinations over 60 miles or 2 hours away. Rowan is also willing to travel for school events outside of the UK.

Rowan works part-time but is able to work school holidays and weekends. Rowan can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026



Cat Gray

The Spirit Snatcher and Spellstoppers

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Creative writing, the power of storytelling

Cat is unable to do in-person events at this time.

Virtual events

Author Talk and Reading (45 minutes)

Cat will talk about her own journey to writing for a living, both as an author and a journalist, and what it's like to be a writer. She'll discuss the importance of stories and why they matter. This will be followed by a short reading and a Q&A session.

Author Q&A (20 minutes)

An informal and interactive session where children can meet an author and ask any questions they have about the book. Perfect if your students are reading or have read *Spellstoppers* or *The Spirit Snatcher*!

Technical requirements:

- Happy to use any virtual meeting platform

Fees

Author Talk: £100

Q&A: £50

Location / Travel: Cat is only able to offer virtual events at this time.

Cat can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.

Related websites and resources:

The Spirit Snatcher Activity Sheet: https://usborne.com/media/usborne/activity_sheet/file//s/p/spirit_snatcher_activity_sheet.pdf

Spellstoppers Activity Sheet: https://usborne.com/media/usborne/activity_sheet/file//s/p/spellstoppers_creative_writing_activity_sheet_v3_2_.pdf





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026



Sarah Hagger-Holt
Just Like Everyone Else
Proud of Me
Nothing Ever Happens Here
The Fights That Make Us

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3 (years 5-8)

Key themes: Identity (in particular LGBTQ+ identity), empathy, celebrating difference and diversity, friendship

In-person events

Option one: Extra – ordinary stories (60 minutes)
(Audience: Sarah can deliver her events to any size class or year group, and can be adapted for smaller and larger groups.)

The session includes an introduction to the author followed by interactive writing challenges and ‘top tips’ on turning ‘ordinary’ real-life stories into something extra-ordinary. Sarah will also give a reading from either *Nothing Ever Happens Here*, *Proud of Me*, or *Just Like Everyone Else*. Then there will be a Q&A and chance to hear about her author journey, as well as the opportunity for pupils to create a unique, extra-ordinary story.

Option two: From Prejudice to Pride (60 minutes)
(Audience: Years 6-8. Ideal for a whole year-group assembly)

Ideal for a whole year-group assembly) The session includes and introduction from the author followed by an LGBTQ+ history quiz. Sarah will also give a reading from either *Nothing Ever Happens Here*, *Proud of Me*, or *Just Like Everyone Else*. Then there will be a Q&A and chance to hear about her author journey, including why she focuses on LGBTQ+ characters. This will be followed by a whole class activity to create a unique story.

Option three: LGBTQ+ club session (30- 45 minutes)
(Audience: Years 7-13 who are part of a school LGBTQ+, Pride or Diversity group)

The session includes informal chat and Q&A about writing, LGBTQ+ books and characters. It includes readings from her own books and book recommendations to take away.

Option four: Author Q&A (30 minutes)

The session includes a short introduction and reading from *Nothing Ever Happens Here*, *Proud of Me*, or *Just Like Everyone Else*. This is followed by an open Q&A on writing, reading, the issues raised in her books, or anything pupils like!

Virtual events

We had such a great session with the author. The children were fascinated by the 1980s artefacts and I thought that Sarah was a really engaging speaker. I also thought that she spoke about the LGBTQ+ issues with the appropriate sensitivity for Year 6 children, hopefully inspiring them to be inclusive, respectful and to stick up for what they believe in, especially where they encounter intolerance and injustice.

Mrs Sheath, Year 6 teacher, Bromley Library school event





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Virtual events are the same content as the in-person events.

Technical requirements

- Access to pen and paper for children.
- Option to use PowerPoint and/or flip chart (but can do without)
- Can use all platforms: Zoom, MS Teams or Google Meet
- Sarah Hagger-Holt is also able to talk through the school's specific requirements/areas of interest and tailor events to suit. She is also really happy to do events for secondary school Pride or LGBTQ+ groups of all year groups.

Fees

In-person events:

Full day (up to the equivalent of four hour-long sessions): £450

Half day (up to the equivalent of two hour-long sessions): £275

All hour-long sessions: £150

Virtual events:

All hour-long sessions for schools cost £100 (virtual) or £150 (in-person)

All 30-minute sessions for schools cost £50 (virtual or in-person)

All 30-minute sessions for schools cost £50 (virtual or in-person). However, they are only available in person if you also book at least one hour-long session

Location / Travel: Based in Hertfordshire / Northwest London, open to events anywhere if travel and accommodation expenses are covered. Sarah is also willing to discuss travel outside of the UK – all expenses will need to be covered.

Sarah Hagger-Holt can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

- The Fight That Makes Us discussion questions: https://usborne.com/media/usborne_pdfs/The_Fights_That_Make_Us_Dicussion_Notes.pdf

Nothing Ever Happens Here resources: [Nothing-ever-happens-here-book-club-notes.pdf](https://usborne.com/media/usborne_pdfs/Nothing_ever_happens_here_book_club_notes.pdf) (usborne.com)

- Video resources and schemes of work for Nothing Ever Happens Here on Authorfy here: [Sarah Hagger-Holt – authorfy](https://authorfy.com/sarah-hagger-holt)



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Author Events

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A.M. Howell

The Garden of Lost Secrets

The House of One Hundred Clocks

Mystery of the Night Watchers

The Secret of the Treasure Keepers

Mysteries at Sea series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Historical research, finding inspiration in the world around us, creative writing, WWI on the home front, life after WWII, ships and the sea.

In-person events

Author talk (60 minutes)

(Maximum group size: small year groups up to an assembly of 400)

PowerPoint presentation focusing on research and inspiration on one or more of A.M. Howell's books.

All talks include a reading and question-and-answer session.

Writing Workshops

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

Option one: The Garden of Lost Secrets

Life during WWI on the home front.

Option two: The House of One Hundred Clocks

STEM focus on inventions and clocks in Edwardian England.

Option three: Mystery of the Night Watchers

Using your hometown as story inspiration.

Option four: The Secret of the Treasure Keepers

Life post WWII, archaeology and East Anglian treasure finds.

Option five: Mysteries at Sea series

Ann-Marie's childhood travels as inspiration, the RMS Queen Mary and fun facts about the vessel and the people who travelled on her.

Option six: Crafting a good story opening

Virtual events

Q&A (30 minutes)

Ann-Marie will introduce herself and her books and then take questions, for example on writing historical fiction, aspects of creative writing, what it's like to be an author.

She's happy for questions to be submitted in advance, or to take them on the day. Suitable for large or small groups.

KS2 thoroughly enjoyed this experience, for some it was the first time meeting an author in real life. The children loved answering questions about their own experiences of writing and were eager to participate when they discussed their own story lines.

Librarian, Bungay Primary School

The workshop was absolutely perfect. I was really impressed with the detail of planning for the event and everything was so smooth. [Ann-Marie] has such a natural and encouraging way with the children, too.

Great Dunmow Primary School, Essex





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Writing workshop: Crafting a good story opening

Technical requirements

- Access to PowerPoint presentations
- Access to Zoom, Teams and Google Meet for virtual events

Fees

In-person events:

Half day (two talks): £350 (+ travel expenses)

All hour-long sessions: £200 (+ travel expenses)

Virtual events:

Q&A: £75

Writing workshop: £200

Location / Travel: Based in Suffolk, willing to travel throughout East Anglia and to London. A.M. Howell is also willing to travel outside of the UK.

A.M. Howell can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.

Related websites and resources

- Usborne Quicklinks and resource packs available on her book's pages on [Usborne.com](https://www.usborne.com).





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Matt Killeen
Orphan Monster Spy
Devil Monster Spy

Events suitable for: Key Stage 3/4

Key themes: War & moral complexity, resistance, Nazi Germany, reading and writing, colonialism

In-person events

Author talks

Option one: Talk on Heroes, Resistance and Nazi Germany

Option two: Talk on the inspiration behind Orphan Monster Spy

Option three: Talk on the inspiration behind Devil Darling Spy

Creative writing workshop on beginnings, The Sitch & The Thing
Also analysing great book openings and narrative structures

Virtual events

Virtual events are the same content as the in-person events.

Technical requirements

- Access to PowerPoint to share presentation (without audio)
- Matt can provide worksheets and pre-reading for workshops, but this is optional

Fees

In-person events:

Full day: £400*

Half day: £285*

*+ travel expenses

Virtual events:

Full day: £250

Half day (up to three sessions): £150

Location / Travel: Based in Surrey, willing to travel anywhere.

Matt Killeen can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

- Teacher resources available to download:

bookclubqs-oms.pdf (usborne.com)



Matt's visit was an inspiring and thought-provoking experience. Matt's passion for storytelling, combined with his ability to weave historical truth into gripping fiction, left a lasting impact on everyone. It was a privilege to hear him speak.

The Ashcombe School





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

David Owen

Alex Neptune series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: The boundless possibilities of the world's oceans, how they can inspire us to create stories, and the importance of protecting the ocean as part of the wider climate emergency

In-person events

The Ocean's Infinite Stories (45–60 minutes).

(Maximum group size: 200 pupils)

After introducing himself and the world of Alex Neptune, David will talk about how the ocean – from ancient folklore to items washed up on the beach – can inspire anybody to create stories. He will share some amazing ocean artefacts along with some gob smacking facts in an interactive quiz, before finishing with a general Q&A and book signing.

Create a Pirate workshop (45–60 minutes).

(Maximum group size: 60 pupils)

David will introduce some of the world's most famous pirates and the incredible stories that turned them into legends. Then he will lead a workshop of treasure hunting and sea shanties in which children will create their own legendary pirate story, including designing a flag that will strike fear across the high seas!

Virtual events

Virtual events are the same as in-person events with some changes to suit the virtual environment.

Q&A

David will also offer a shorter Q&A session for any group size.

Technical requirements

- Ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides
- Microphone for larger groups
- Writing materials.

Fees

In-person events:

Full day (three–four sessions): £425*

Half day (two sessions): £300*

*+ travel expenses



David Owen hosted several assemblies for our year groups. He delivered exceptional, informative and fun presentations for our students. For our lower year groups he talked about his writing journey, and helped them design their own pirate. Encouraging them to write a story about them. For the upper school year groups he gave them all sorts of ideas for writing their own books. He spoke about how his love of the sea is expressed in his story telling, and his passion for conservation. David was well prepared for the questions the students had, and held their attention through each session. I recommend you invite him to your school.

Mark Drewery,
Rokeby School,
Kingston



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Virtual events:

One-hour session: £100

Virtual Q&A: £50

Location / Travel: Based in Brighton. Willing to travel anywhere within two hours for a full or half day visit. David is also willing to travel outside of the UK if travel costs and accommodation are covered. David works four days a week but with advance notice is able to work flexibly to fit in school visits.

David is unable to offer any events until September 2025.

David can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Serena Patel

Anisha, Accidental Detective series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 1 & 2

Key themes: Family, friendship, creative writing, mystery plotting, taking inspiration from real life and using it in our writing

In-person events

Author Talk Assembly and Q&A (60 minutes)

(Audience: Key Stage 1 & 2)

Serena will talk all about her journey to becoming an author, inspiration for the books and the importance of seeing ourselves in stories. She'll share how we can use real life to inspire our writing and will give pupils an insight into what it's like to be an author. Finally, she'll give some top tips for aspiring writers before inviting questions from the children. Serena can tailor the event to suit the year groups.

Workshops

(Maximum group size: whole year groups if the hall is available, approx 90 – 180 children)

Option one: Anisha, Accidental Detective Mystery Plotting (45 minutes)

(Audience: Years 5 & 6)

Serena will introduce herself and what inspired her to become an author. She'll discuss what makes a good mystery and the importance of red herrings, motive, settings and suspects. The children will have a chance to come up with their own mystery using the key ingredients they have discussed.

Option two: Pia's Pet Club Animal Adventures

Children will be encouraged to imagine they are an animal causing chaos in the house or at school and writing from that perspective.

Virtual events

Virtual events are the same content as the in-person events.

Technical requirements

- Ability to share presentation slides on PowerPoint
- Children will need writing materials (e.g., pens, pencils and paper)
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet and MS Teams for virtual events (Calls to be set up and hosted by the school)

Fees

In-person events:

Full day (Assembly, two workshop and a book signing): £700

Half day (Assembly + one workshop and a book signing): £500





Author Events

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Virtual events:

One session (Q&A and signed bookplates to be sent to partner in advance of the event): £200

Location / Travel: Based in Walsall West Midlands, willing to travel up to 1.5 hours by car.

Serena Patel can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026



Jenny Pearson

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates

The Incredible Record Smashers

Grandpa Frank's Great Big Bucket List

Operation Nativity

The Boy Who Made Monsters

Shipwrecked

Speedwheels 3000: The Race Against Crime

Shrapnel Boys

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Happiness, Facts, Records, Amazing Oldies

In-person events

Assembly (60 minutes)

The assembly includes Super Miraculous Facts, Quizzes, World Records (including an attempt at one), old people doing amazing things. Plus, some monster stuff too. Around Christmas Jenny can adapt to include Operation Nativity and some Christmas activities.

Writing workshops

Jenny explores the key elements of creative writing with pupils, from character to plot. In workshops pupils will look at the building blocks of characters and stories and give pupils the chance to develop their own ideas.

Virtual events

Virtual Author talk (60 minutes)

Adapted from the in-person events.

Writing workshops (60 minutes)

Same content as the in-person events.

Technical requirements

- Ability to share presentation slides on PowerPoint (ideally with sound)
- Jenny will forward worksheets to schools be printed ahead of the sessions
- Children will need writing materials (e.g., pencil and paper)
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet and MS Teams for virtual events

Fees

In-person events:

Half day (Assembly + Q&A, workshops and signing): £250 + VAT (+ travel expenses)

Full day (Assembly + Q&A, workshops and signing): £500 + VAT (+ travel expenses)

Virtual events:

Assembly: £100 + VAT



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Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Workshops: £100 + VAT

Location / Travel: Based in Durham, willing to travel anywhere as long as travel and accommodation expenses are covered. Available for events from Monday to Wednesday.

Jenny can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download:

[The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates | Usborne Publishing](#)

[Operation Nativity | Usborne Publishing](#)

[The Incredible Record Smashers Assembly | Usborne Publishing](#)



USBORNE



Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Clare Povey

The Wanderdays: Journey to Fantome Island

The Bastien Bonlivre Adventures

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Protecting the natural world, dealing with worries, the wonders of the ocean, bravery, friendship, the power of imagination and storytelling, creating villains, language learning

In-person events

Option one: Build Your Own Villain (One hour but can be adapted to run for shorter or longer periods.)

(Maximum group size: can be adapted for smaller and larger groups.)

Audience: Suitable for KS2 or 7–11 years)

Join Clare Povey, author of the Bastien Bonlivre Adventure series and *The Wanderdays: Journey to Fantome Island*, for an interactive, engaging event that is all about the characters we love to hate: villains!

During this event, Clare will discuss the different villains and shades of villainy in her books (think self-obsessed best-selling authors, manic scientists, and a David-Attenborough-if-he-was-evil explorer!) She'll lead a Villains quiz, using examples from books, films and TV, to test the audience's knowledge on how well they know — and understand — the best villains of our time.

Clare will invite children to create their own villains with her 'Build Your Villain' worksheet, which asks nine essential questions of your baddies.

Requires tech to show PowerPoint. Clicker desirable, but not essential. Children will require writing materials.

Option two: How To Be an Explorer (One hour, but can be adapted to run for shorter or longer periods.)

(Audience: Suitable for KS2 or 7–11 years)

Come and listen to author Clare Povey talk about her latest book, *The Wanderdays: Journey to Fantome Island*, and how you can bring out the explorer inside you!

Discover the ways in which you can nurture your natural curiosity. Whether you're a Flo Wanderday (brave) or a Joseph Wanderday (nervous), Clare will share her top tips on how to make the most of the world we live in. Full of fun facts about nature and our oceans, quizzes on famous explorers and their achievements, and takeaway activities to continue your exploring at home and beyond.



Clare did a fabulous workshop on Villains with our pupils in Year 3-6. Our pupils loved the workshop and enjoyed the process involved in developing their villains. We look forward to having Clare back at Ashford School.

Park Way welcomed Clare Povey to our school and we were so excited to meet her! She worked across our KS2 classes, sharing her amazing books and hosting workshops with our pupils! All the children were fully engaged and both pupils and adults raved about how interesting and fun the workshops were.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Option three: How To Write A Mystery (One hour, but can be adapted to run for shorter or longer periods) (Suitable for KS2 or 7–11 years.)

How do you write a mystery? In this session, author Clare Povey will break down the essential ingredients of mystery stories:

- A look at typical types of mysteries (murder, kidnapping, sabotage, disappearance)
- Setting and atmosphere
- Creating your characters (detectives and villains)
- Plot and pace (how to structure your story)

This session will include creative writing and drama exercises, designed to help kids think about the different ways in which we can bring words to life.

Virtual events

One-hour workshops/talks virtually
Q&A for 30 minutes

Technical requirements

- Requires tech to show PowerPoint.
- Clicker desirable, but not essential
- Children will require writing materials
- Happy to use Google Meet, Zoom, or Teams to technical requirements

Fees

In-person events:

Half day (Assembly + maximum two workshop): £300*

Full day (Assembly + maximum four workshop): £500*

*+ travel expenses

Virtual events:

One hour session: £120

Thirty minute Q&A: £50

Location / Travel: Based in Chelmsford, Essex. Willing to travel to anywhere in the UK, provided travel and potential accommodation costs are covered. Clare is also willing to travel outside of the UK.

Clare works part-time, so her main school visit days are usually Thursday and Friday. Clare can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Radhika Sanghani

The Girl Who Couldn't Lie

How to Get Magically Popular

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3

Key themes: Lying, honesty, friendship, magic and yoga

In-person events

Option one: Truth and lies (60 minutes)

(Maximum group size: 500 pupils)

A fun, interactive presentation on the inspiration behind *The Girl Who Couldn't Lie*, including Radhika's decision to quit lying. Features fun facts on the benefits of honesty, as well as the kinds of lies we all tell. Radhika also speaks about her career as an author, Malory Towers screenwriter and journalist, before inviting questions from the audience.

Option two: Create your own magical object (45 minutes)

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

A creative writing workshop inspiring children to create their own magical object. Just like Priya's truth-telling bangle, students will write about their own objects with magical powers.

Option three: Yoga and storytelling (60 minutes)

A unique session combining the power of storytelling with a short meditation and easy yoga session, inspired by Radhika's latest novel *How to Get Magically Popular*. As a trained yoga teacher, she'll use movement to tell them the story of her book, all about a girl who meditates her way to becoming psychic.

Virtual events

Virtual author talk (60 minutes)

Adapted from the in-person events

Writing workshops (45 minutes)

Same content as 'Create your own magical object'

Technical requirements

- Ability to share Powerpoint slides, ideally with a clicker
- Children will need writing materials (pens and paper)
- Mats and PE clothing for the yoga and storytelling session

Fees

In-person events:

Half day: £400*

Full day: £600

*+ travel expenses



It was one of our best author visits ever. Our Key Stage Three students really enjoyed Radhika's visit to JAGS. From her assembly talk to her creative writing workshops, the students were joyfully engaged in a range of curriculum-related activities based on The Girl Who Couldn't Lie."

Helen Stein, Head of Library at James Allen's Girls' School



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Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Virtual events:

One session: £250

Location / Travel: Located in London. Happy to travel if expenses are covered. Radhika is also willing to travel outside of the UK.

Radhika can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Hannah Shaw

Unipiggle the Unicorn series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 1/2 (years 1–4)

Key themes: Imagination, creativity and the power of drawing to help support with writing

In-person events

Interactive front led session/assembly (45 minutes)

This is followed by a story extract from the latest Unipiggle book in the series and a draw-along / live drawing. The session concludes with a Q&A. After a front-led session, there is the option of 45 minute individual class workshops developing story worlds and characters from 'Magical Maps'. A book signing session can be organised at the end of the day.

Virtual events

Virtual assembly (45 minutes)

Using props and magic tricks the presentation and story will be followed by a virtual draw-along on the 'drawing-cam' and a Q&A at the end. Linked worksheets will be emailed to school prior to event. There is also an option of signed stickers that can be posted.

Technical requirements

- Zoom (a secure link and information will be emailed after booking)
- Q&A and sound to be managed by teacher
- Ability to share presentation slides on PowerPoint / Acrobat Reader
- Access to a flip chart
- Children will need writing and drawing material (e.g. pens, pencils, paper)

Fees

In-person events:

Interactive front led session/assembly (local schools only): £150 (+ travel expenses)

Full day (three–four workshops following front led session/assembly): £450 (+ travel expenses)

Half day (local schools only): £275 (+ travel expenses)

+ £50 for any school visits where an overnight stay is required.

Virtual events:

One session: £85/class

Please book more than one session if more than four classes wish to join at once

Location / Travel: Based in Gloucestershire. Willing to travel (including outside of the UK) if expenses are covered. If you would like to book a one off or half day session which requires further travel, please enquire whether this possible.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Hannah can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download:

- Hannah's events involve a follow up worksheet based on creating a story world and lots of linked activities are available on her website

Website: www.hannahshawillustrator.co.uk/activities





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Darren Simpson Scavengers The Memory Thieves Furthermoor

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3

Key themes: Waste and recycling; questions and curiosity; world building and creative writing; imagination and inspiration; feelings and friendship

In-person events

Author Talk & Presentation

Get an inside look at the inspiration behind Scavengers, The Memory Thieves or Furthermoor. This session will include a short reading, humorous interactive games, and a Q&A session.

Option one: Scavengers Workshop

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

Explore character perspectives.

Option two: The Memory Thieves Workshops

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

Explore world building.

Option three: Furthermoor Workshop

(Maximum group size: 30 pupils)

Explore character development and setting.

To make the most of workshops, Darren recommends that pupils have either seen the related book's presentation or read its opening chapter. This isn't essential, though. For workshops, Darren requests that there is at least one teacher in class to help facilitate the session.

Virtual events

Virtual events offer the same content as in-person events.

Technical requirements

- Access to PowerPoint
- Microphone if necessary

Fees

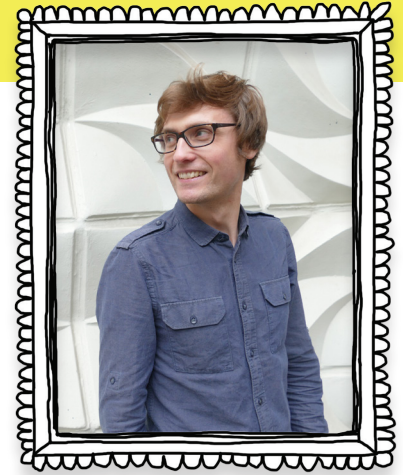
In-person events:

One hour (presentation/workshop): £190

Half day (two sessions of one hour, each of which can be a presentation or a workshop): £315

Three sessions: £375

Full day (four sessions): £500



The creative writing workshop with Darren Simpson was amazing. I loved it!"

Esme,
Year 7 Student

Darren's workshops inspired the children and really got their imaginations fired up!

Francis Ebling,
Teacher, Dovecote
Primary School, Clifton



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Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Virtual events:

Thirty minutes (reading and Q&A): £60

One hour (presentation/workshop): £145

Half day (two sessions of one hour, each of which can be a presentation or a workshop): £235

Three sessions: £280

Full day (four sessions): £375

Location / Travel: Based in Nottingham — Willing to travel (including outside of the UK) if expenses are covered.

Darren can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Emma Swan

Cruise Ship Kid 'Thief at Sea'

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Nautical, intergenerational relationships, friendship, drama and expect the unexpected!

In-person events

Assembly (60 minutes)

West End Actress Emma, spent her childhood living on cruise ships. Her parents worked onboard and like her protagonist, Silver, she was 'ship-schooled,' while travelling the globe. In this special event, Emma will reveal what life was like at sea and how it felt to be a mini crew member, in her cabin, at the bottom of the ship. The interactive elements in '*Cruise Ship Kid*' will be packed into this event with magazine-style quizzes, games and maybe a couple of interruptions from Silver herself! It's 'shore' to be a good time!

Creative Writing Workshop

(Maximum group size: can be adapted for smaller and larger groups.)

Emma will run a creative writing workshop inspired by the themes in '*Cruise Ship Kid*'. This can be tailored to a school's needs and class age-group. Options for this creative writing workshop are 'Diary writing' - to encourage pupils to find their unique creative voice, a 'Let's Create Memorable Characters' workshop - inspired by the over 80s 'Gang' in '*Cruise Ship Kid*', or a drama based workshop.

Virtual events

Virtual Author Talk (60 minutes)

Will be adapted from the in-person events

Virtual Creative Writing Workshop

Will be the same as the in-person event

Technical requirements

- Ability to share a powerpoint presentation (with sound if possible)
- Access to a flip-chart
- Writing materials (each pupil should be prepared with these in advance of the virtual session)
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet and MS Teams for Virtual Events (Calls to be set up and hosted by the schools)

Fees

In-person events:

Full day (up to the equivalent of 4 hour long sessions): £400



Emma is a West End actor who works frequently with Horrible Histories. She has performed to children across the country in some of the UK's largest and most prestigious theatres. She is very excited for her school's events for her debut novel 'Cruise Ship Kid', which will combine her skills as an actor, presenter and writer. Her other acting credits include the RSC, BBC Education and Doctor Who.



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Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Half day (up to the equivalent of 2 hour long sessions): £250

One hour session: £150

Virtual events:

All virtual events: £100

Location / Travel: Based in London – willing to travel anywhere, as long as travel and accommodation expenses are covered. Emma is also willing to travel outside of the UK.

Emma is an actor and self-employed. She has very good availability throughout the week, and is able to work around her acting commitments throughout the year.

Emma Swan can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Ashley Thorpe

The Boy to Beat the Gods

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3

Key themes: Mythology, creative writing, collective power and the common good, self-belief

In-person events

Option one: Old Gods, New Tricks — Assembly Talk

(Maximum group size: Ashley is able to adapt his workshops to the individual needs of a school)

Join Ashley Thorpe, author of the action-packed middle grade adventure *The Boy to Beat the Gods*, for an event that explores how stories of old have evolved to make the new. Learn about how Ashley took inspiration from the incredible lore about Yoruba deities — the Orishas — how a love of manga and video games exposed him to mythology from around the world and explore the fun and flexible nature of storytelling to create something new from tales of old.

Option two: Creative Writing Workshop

(Maximum group size: ideally delivered to individual classes of 20–40 but can also be done in an assembly hall with around 60 students.)

Join Ashley Thorpe for a creative writing workshop designed to make pupils see themselves as writers and to believe that they too have a story worth telling. Taking cues from his own creative process in creating the characters and world of *The Boy to Beat the Gods*, Ashley will guide pupils in using inspiration from what's come before to develop a creative piece unique to their own experience and passions.

Virtual events

Virtual events are the same content as the in-person events streamlined to include time for Q&A.

Technical requirements

- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet for virtual events

Fees

In-person events:

Half day (Assembly or class workshop with Q&A session): £200*

Full day (Assembly +/- multiple class workshops with Q&A session): £350*

*+ travel expenses

Virtual events:

One session: £75

Location / Travel: Based in Manchester. Happy to travel UK-wide if travel expenses are covered. Ashley is also willing to travel outside of the UK.



Ashley draws upon his own relationship with reading and writing to build engaging narratives which have the children wanting more. His workshop allowed the children to see themselves as writers and to believe that they too have a story to tell.

Mr J Duckett –
Deputy Head and
Year 5 – Newchurch
Community Primary
School, Warrington

Such a great author workshop. We loved hearing Ashley's story about how he became an author and created the book. What an inspiring guy!

Mr G Elswood,
Head Teacher of
St Chrysostoms C of E
Primary, Manchester



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Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Ashley is unavailable between 15th to 27th October 2025.

Ashley Thorpe can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026



Tim Tilley *Harklights* *Witchstorm*

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3

Key themes: Nature, fairy tales, myths & legends, creating story worlds, illustration



In-person events

Option one: Author talk, reading and Q&A (45 – 60 minutes)
(Maximum group size: 300 pupils)

In this meet the author event, Tim will tell the children how he fell in love with storytelling, the inspiration and research for *Harklights*, introduce the themes and discuss his process of writing and illustrating. He will also give a short reading and suggest follow up activities. The event includes a brief reading, a draw along and ends with a Q&A session. There are take away creative activities the children can follow up in class or at home.

Option two: Fantasy Forest workshop (60 minutes)

(Maximum group size: two year groups)

Pupils will create their own fantasy forest map. This interactive workshop will include starter ideas, map-making tips, lots of encouragement, and a drawing demonstration.

Option three: Create your own Adventure Story (60 minutes)

(Maximum group size: two year groups)

Pupils will create their own story. This interactive workshop will include all the elements pupils need to start their own story, fun exercises, encouragement, tips and take-away tools to further develop their story.

Option four: Tailor-Made workshop

(Maximum group size: two year groups)

Get in touch with Tim to discuss other ideas for workshops.

Virtual events

Option one: Author talk, reading and Q&A (45 minutes)

Content is the same as in-person event.

Option two: Fantasy Forest workshop (60 minutes)

Content is the same as in-person event with added Q&A at the end.

Option three: Q&A

Technical requirements

- Fantasy Forest Workshop – class will need to provide own pencils (or pens) and A3 paper
- The ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides, whiteboard and pen, or flip chart
- It's helpful if the children have read or are reading one of Tim's books ahead of the sessions
- Tim prefers to use Zoom or Google Meet for virtual events but is happy to adapt

Fees

In-person events:

Single session (one hour): £150*

Half day (two sessions): £250*



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Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Three sessions: £300*

Full day (four sessions): £400*

*+ travel Expenses

Virtual events:

Thirty minutes (reading and Q&A): £55

One hour (presentation/workshop): £110

Half day (two sessions of one hour each): £190

Location / Travel: Based in Surrey. Willing to travel to anywhere in the UK, provided travel and potential accommodation costs are covered.

Tim Tilley can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Tamsin Winter

I Dare You

Girl (In Real Life)

Bad Influence

Jemima Small versus the Universe

Being Miss Nobody



Events suitable for: KS3 – Year 7, 8 and 9

Key themes: Social media, wellbeing, empowerment, mobile phones, the power of books.

In-person events

Author talk with Q&A (75 minutes)

(Maximum group size: 300 pupils)

Tamsin discusses the inspiration behind her award-winning books, her journey to becoming an author (which began at age eight!) as well as speaking honestly about the themes and issues affecting young people today: cyberbullying, mental health, body image, smart phones and the double-edged power of social media. Tamsin shares her best writing tips, and your students will get to hear some of Tamsin's hilarious stories (and failures!) from her days as an aspiring writer.

Fiction Writing Workshop (two hours)

(Maximum group size: 25 pupils)

Tamsin will take students on a powerful and unforgettable journey into their imagination. Your young writers will get a unique insight into creating fictional landscapes, story mapping, characterisation and narrative hooks from an award-winning fiction writer. During the workshop, Tamsin gives feedback and advice on students' own writing, and offers her best tips for developing their own unique style. They enter Tamsin's workshop as students, but leave as writers.

Virtual events

Option one: Q&A Session (30 mins)

Students can ask their burning questions about how to become an author, the inspiration behind Tamsin's award-winning books, and all aspects of the writing process from tricky first lines to writing The End and beyond!

Option two: Book talk and Q&A Session (45 mins)

An engaging and inspiring virtual author talk about the ideas and creative processes behind your chosen book. Students will be given a unique insight into the inspiration behind the story, characters and key themes, followed by a Q&A.

On behalf of the staff and students at Weald I'd just like to say a huge thank you for your wonderful talks to our year 8 students. As you could tell from the enthusiastic responses in the hall at Sevenoaks the students were highly entertained and interested in your experience. The subjects of your books really resonated with the students which is just so wonderful. Staff members present also really praised your talk as being uplifting and inspiring so thank you!

Weald of Kent
Grammar School

Thank you too SO MUCH for today! You were absolutely fantastic and delivered such inspiring messages (for students and adults!) – your talk will have had such a positive impact!

SDSA, a not-for-profit organisation committed to improving outcomes for children and young people.





Author Events

Academic Year 2025/2026

Option three: Virtual Creative Writing Workshop (60 mins)

(Audience: Key Stages 2–4, and are dyslexia–friendly.)

Virtual fiction writing workshop where students will go on a creative writing journey giving them a unique insight into creative writing processes. They will leave the workshop with valuable writing skills and understanding that they will remember for ever. Choose from either: Unconventional Heroes Characters or World Building.

Technical requirements

- Ability to share a powerpoint presentation (for both in–person and virtual events)

Fees

In–person events:

Author talk with Q&A: £325

Fiction Writing Workshop: £395

Full day: £695

Virtual events:

Q&A: £135

Book talk and Q&A: £185

Writing Workshop: £295

Location / Travel: Based in Leicestershire. Willing to travel anywhere in the UK. Tamsin is a full time writer so can be available for events. She has childcare commitments so her availability can vary.

Tamsin Winter can adapt events to work for children with English as a second language or for schools with special educational needs.



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