

Academic Year 2023/24



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: <u>https://gr.usborne.com/22h4x</u>





Academic Year 2023/24



Hannah Shaw Unipiggle the Unicorn Pig 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' (maximum 60 children).

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 / travel

In-person event:

Interactive front led session/assembly – £150 (+travel expenses) Full Day: 3–4 workshops following front led session/assembly – £400 (+travel expenses)

Virtual event: £75/class

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

Location/Travel needs to be within a 2.5-hour drive of Gloucestershire unless overnight accommodation is provided. Local schools are not charged for travel.

Hannah Shaw is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.







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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







Academic Year 2023/24



Aisha Bushby Tiny, the Secret Adventurer series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 1/2 (Years 2-3) Key themes: Exploration, nature, puzzles, games

In-person events

Presentation and Author Q&A (45 - 50 minutes)

Aisha is able to offer a presentation themed around her book with quizzes and games followed by a 15-20-minute Q&A session. The session works best when pupils have prepared questions in advance.

Virtual events

Presentation and Author Q&A (45 - 50 minutes)Same as in-person events

Technical requirements:

- Prefers to Use Zoom but can use MS Teams or Google Meet for virtual events
- Ability to share presentation slides on PowerPoint

Fees / travel

In-person events: Half day - £275 (+travel expenses) Full day - £375 (+travel expenses)

Virtual event: £75 for a 30-minute presentation and 15-20-minute Q&A

Location / Travel: Lincolnshire, willing to travel anywhere dependent on train links

Aisha Busby is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Website: aishabushby.com



Out July 2023







Academic Year 2023/24



Zanna Davidson Billy and the Mini Monsters series Izzy the Inventor series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 1 / 2 (Years 1–3) **Key themes:** Billy and the Mini Monsters, creating characters and comic strip stories

In-person events

Option one: Billy and the Mini Monsters (45 minutes)

A creative writing workshop (or creative drawing for younger years) — creating your own monster character/mini monster story. Time for questions at the end.

Option two: Izzy the Inventor (45 minutes)

A creative workshop coming up with imaginative inventions to solve every day or fairy tale problems. Followed by a science experiment (slime making) — if wanted — and time for questions at the end about writing.

Technical requirements:

- Ability to share presentation slides on Powerpoint
- Children will need writing and drawing materials (e.g. pens, pencils, paper)

Fees / travel

As an Usborne Author Zanna has a limited availability. She will not charge fees for events.

Location / Travel: Surrey, willing to travel up to 1.5 hours away. Please ensure that Zanna's travel expenses are covered from door to door. For events by car, mileage should be calculated at 45p per mile.

Zanna Davidson is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Website:

You can view all of the books, resources and activities at Usborne.com

Usborne.com | Billy and the Mini Monsters Usborne.com | Izzy the Inventor







ZANNA DAVIDSON MELANIE WILLIAMSON



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Academic Year 2023/24



Claire Barker Knitbone Pepper Ghost Dog series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 1/2, (Years 2-4)

Key themes: Friendship, being different, animals, humour, grief, coping with change

In-person events

Author presentation, reading and Q&A (45 minutes)

A general session about Claire, her stories and what it's like to be an author. It's full of interesting pictures, peculiar pets, funny tales, interesting objects and readings to grab the young imagination. A guaranteed fidget-free zone!

Virtual events

Author presentation, reading and Q&A (40 minutes) Same content as in-person event

Technical requirements:

- Can use Zoom, MS Teams for virtual events
- Requires a short tech check with school in the days before the event
- Ability to share presentation slides on PowerPoint
- Children will need writing materials (e.g., pens, pencils, paper)

Fees /travel

In-person event: Author presentation, reading and Q&A – £190 (+travel expenses) The event includes a follow up book signing and meet and greet.

Location/Travel: Devon, willing to travel around the west coast but will judge case-by-case

Virtual event: Author presentation, reading and Q&A - £120

Claire Barker is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Teaching pack on Accelerated Reader and YouTube channel Book resources: <u>Best Friends Forever | usborne.com</u> Website: www.clairebarkerauthor.com





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Academic Year 2023/24



Serena Patel Anisha, Accidental Detective series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 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)

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.

Silly Stories workshop (45 minutes)

Serena will introduce herself and what inspired her to become an author.

- Serena will talk about some of the inspiration behind the first Anisha book and how real life can creep into our stories.
- Serena will ask the children to think of a funny incident from their own lives, something totally ordinary and to amplify it for their story, making it sillier, louder, funnier. They can even draw it if they like.

Mystery Plotting workshop (45 minutes)

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.

Virtual events

The above in-person events can be offered virtually.

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 /travel

In-person events: Half day — Assembly + one workshop: £400 Full day — Assembly + two workshops: £600

All in-person events include a Q&A and book signing

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

Virtual events: available at £150 per session







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Serena Patel is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language with support from the teacher.

Related websites and resources

Website: www.serenakpatel.com



Out August 2023





Academic Year 2023/24



Jenny Pearson

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates The Incredible Record Smashers Grandpa Frank's Great Big Bucket List The Boy Who Made Monsters Operation Nativity (At Christmas)

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2 **Key themes:** Happiness, Facts, Records, Amazing

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 monstery 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 assembly above

Writing workshops (60 minutes)

The same content as 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 / travel

In-person events: Half day - Assembly + Q&A + workshops + signing: £2 + VAT (+travel expenses) Full day - Assembly + Q&A + workshops + signing: £500 + VAT (+travel expenses)

Virtual events: Assembly – £100 + VAT Workshops – £100 + VAT

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

Jenny Pearson is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.





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Related websites and resources

- Teacher resources available to download from <u>usborne.com</u>:
- The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates | Usborne Publishing
- Operation Nativity | Usborne Publishing
- <u>The Incredible Record Smashers Assembly | Usborne</u> Publishing

Website: www.jennypearsonauthor.com





Out July 2023





Academic Year 23-24



P.G. Bell *The Train to Impossible Places Adventures series*

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2, able to adapt to include Key Stages 1 and 3 **Key themes:** Reading for pleasure, storytelling, imagination, starting your own story



In-person events

Option one: Telling Impossible Tales — Author talk, reading and Q&A (45 — 60 minutes)

In this "meet the author" event, Peter tells the children how he fell in love with storytelling when he was their age, introduces them to the characters and worlds of his books and reveals the true tale of how a simple bedtime story grew into a bestselling series. The event includes a brief reading and a group exercise designed to prompt creative writing that children can do in class. The event ends with a Q&A session in which the children can quiz Peter about whatever they like, and is followed by a book signing. It can be tailored to smaller or larger groups as required, but is ideal for an assembly setting. The maximum group size: is 1,000 pupils.

Option two: A Trio of Tricks to Tell Your Tale (50 - 60 minutes)

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. In the session Peter gives children the chance to write the beginning of their very own story and the tools to take their tale further. The workshop is designed to supercharge children's imaginations and creative writing skills and there is the opportunity to share ideas and ask lots of questions throughout. The maximum group size is 30 pupils.

Option three: Building Better Worlds (50 – 60 minutes)

All of Peter's books involve strange and magical worlds, and this interactive workshop shows children how to create their very own. Together, pupils' and Peter will explore the importance of setting in storytelling — from the Impossible Places, to Hogwarts, Tatooine and beyond. The session includes an arts and crafts element, as pupils create illustrated postcards of their newly created worlds, to exchange with friends or keep for themselves. Children will require a notebook/paper and pen and coloured pencils or felt tips. The maximum group size is 30 pupils.

Option four: Making Good Stories Better (50 – 60 minutes)

This workshop demystifies the editing process, and gives children the confidence to make their stories clearer and more effective. Peter takes the children through his own editing process, with visual examples of annotated manuscripts and editors' notes, so they can see just how much he gets wrong the first time around, and how he goes about improving it. Peter will discuss what pupils think good and bad feedback looks like, before giving them some specific things to look for in their own work. (Older groups may exchange work and examine each other's writing.) The maximum group size is 30 pupils.

Virtual events

Option one: Telling Impossible Tales – Virtual author talk (45 - 60 minutes)

This virtual session is based on Peter's in-person author talk "Telling Impossible Tales". For the event, the author talks a bit about himself and explains how he came to write his books as well as talking about the main characters. He then gives a brief reading with on-screen illustrations and hosts a group exercise designed to prompt creative writing that the pupils can do in class or at home. The event ends with a Q&A session in which pupils can ask Peter anything they like. The session can be tailored to smaller or larger groups.



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Option two: Quiz the Author (20 - 30 minutes)

A shorter online event, consisting of a brief introduction, a reading or two, and a Q&A session.

Technical requirements:

- Can use Zoom, Skype, MS Teams or Google Meet for virtual events.
- Ability to share presentation slides on PowerPoint
- Children will need writing/drawing materials for workshops (e.g., pens, pencils, paper)
- It's helpful if pupils have at least started to read one of Peter's books before the event takes place, and have some questions prepared in advance.

Fees / travel

In-person events: Half day- (Any three 1-hour sessions (max) + signing): -£300 + £60 VAT (+travel expenses) Full day - (Any five 1-hour sessions (max) + signing) - £450 + £90 VAT (+travel expenses)

Virtual events: Option One: Author Talk – £90 + £18 VAT Option Two: Reading and Quiz the Author – £70 + £14 VAT*

Location / Travel: Cardiff, can travel up to 3 hours by public transport.

P.G. Bell is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download from <u>usborne.com</u>: <u>The Train to Impossible Places | Usborne Publishing</u> <u>https://www.pgbellwriter.com/schools-and-events/</u>

Website: www.pgbellwriter.com





Academic Year 23-24



Peter Bunzl The Cogheart Adventures series

Events suitable for: Key Stages 2/3 (Years 4–6 and 7–8) **Key themes:** His life, growing up a reader, writer and a cartoonist, to becoming an animator for children's TV and a children's author

In-person events

perfect for an assembly.

Author talk Assembly (45 — 50 minutes) Peter gives an inspirational, fun and interactive talk for large groups,

Animation workshop — Design your own Mechanimal! (60 minutes)

Peter helps students design, draw and describe their own mechanimal, then they bring them to life using a flip animation or a zoetrope strip. Maximum group size for the session is 30 pupils.

Writing workshop — Exciting Openings & Magical Mcguffins! (60 minutes)

Peter helps students craft an exciting opening for a story featuring a magical object picked out of a hat.

Virtual events

Virtual Author talk and Q&A

Peter gives a 20 minute talk about his writing journey, followed by a 10—15 minute Q&A. He sets the class off on a drawing task and gives a reading from one of his books. Pupils usually have time to share their drawings.

Technical requirements:

- The ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides on a screen and whiteboard and pen, if available
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet and MS Teams for virtual events.
- Children will need writing and drawing material (e.g., pens, pencils, paper)

Fees/travel

In-person events:

Half day — 1 assembly session 45 / 50 mins + 1 x 1 hr creative workshop + 1 x 1 hr signing session: £400 Full day — 1 assembly session 45 / 50 mins + 2 x 1 hr creative workshops + 1 x 1 hr signing session: £500 Single session — 1 assembly session 45 / 50 mins OR 1 x 1 hr creative workshops + 1 x 1 hr signing session: £200

Virtual event: As single session from above - £150 for the session

Location / Travel: Central London

Peter Bunzl is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.







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Related websites and resources

Website: https://www.peterbunzl.com/















Academic Year 23-24



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)

Peter 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.



Peter 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.

Virtual events

Presentation and Q&A (45-60 minutes)

Technical requirements:

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

Fees / travel

In–person events:	Assembly presentation and Q&A – £150
	Class talk – £250 for half day (exact price dependent on number of classes)
Virtual event:	Presentation and Q&A – £100

Location/Travel: Cambridge, can travel up to 90 minutes

P.J. Canning is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.







Out July 2023





Academic Year 2023/24



Jodie Garnish The Spectaculars

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2 **Key themes:** Creative writing, performing, confidence, imagination

In-person events

Author talk, reading and Q&A (35 – 45 minutes)

Jodie will share her real-life experiences as a theatre actress and how they inspired the world of *The Spectaculars*. Following a short reading Jodie will lead a fun interactive exercise with the students on how to create characters from scratch. She will then hold a Q&A.

Creative Writing Workshop (60 minutes)

In this workshop, Jodie will introduce herself and give some backstory on her inspiration for *The Spectaculars*. She will then lead a creative writing exercise encouraging the students to think of a hobby that they like to do – and 'magic–ify' it. Once the students have thought of their magical activity Jodie will lead further exercises on creating a main character, an antagonist, and the beginning of a story based on their concepts. There will be chances to share their work throughout!

Virtual events

Author talk, reading and Q&A (45 –60 minutes) Content is the same as in-person events

Creative Writing Workshop (60 minutes) Content is the same as in-person events

Technical requirements:

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

Fees /travel

In-person events: Assembly — (author talk plus Q&A) – £65 Half day — (author talk/Q&A, plus one workshop) – £120

Virtual events: Author talk, reading and Q&A – £45 Creative Writing Workshop – £65

Location/Travel: London, happy to travel anywhere in England



Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download from <u>usborne.com</u>:

<u>The Spectaculars | Usborne Publishing</u>









Academic Year 2023/24



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 Meet and MS Teams for virtual events.
- Children will need writing and drawing material (e.g., pens, pencils, paper)

Fees / travel

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

Virtual event: Presentation and Author Q&A – €100

Location / Travel: can travel within Ireland

Helena Duggan is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Website: www.helenadugganwrites.com



Out August 2023













Academic Year 2023/24



Cat Gray Spellstoppers

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2 **Key themes:** Imagination, creative writing, world–building, overcoming challenges and courage

In-person events

Option one: Why stories matter (60 minutes)

An exploration of why stories are so important, and why we are drawn to them. Cat will look at what makes a great story and how to develop ideas to come up with stories of our own. This will be a fun and interactive session, with writing activities.



Option two: Building a magical world (60 minutes)

Cat will talk about the inspiration behind *Spellstoppers*, and how she created a magical world. Pupils will look at how to build a world of their own and how to develop ideas and their imagination. This will be a fun and interactive session with writing activities.

Option three: Author talk and reading (60 minutes)

Cat will introduce the world of *Spellstoppers* and talk about her own journey to writing for a living, both as an author and a journalist. There'll be a reading and a Q&A session for the class.

Virtual events

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

Cat will talk about her own jourey 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 her books. Perfect if students are reading or have read *Spellstoppers or The Spirit Snatcher*!

Technical requirements:

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

Fees / travel

In-person events: Half day – £300 Full day – £475

Virtual events: Author talk, reading and Q&A– \pm 100 Author Q&A – \pm 40

Location/Travel: Sussex, able to travel to London and the Southeast





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Cat Gray is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download from <u>usborne.com</u>:

Spellstoppers Creative Writing Activity| Usborne Publishing

Website: http://www.catrionagray.com





Out September 2023





Academic Year 2023/24



David Owen Alex Neptune series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: The boundless possibilities of the world's oceans and the importance of protecting the ocean as part of the wider climate emergency. Also, pirates.

In-person events

The Ocean's Infinite Stories (45 - 60 minutes)

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

Create a Pirate workshop (45 minutes)

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 in which children can create their own legendary pirates, including designing a flag that will strike fear into the high seas!

Virtual events

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

Virtual Q&A

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

Technical requirements:

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

Fees / travel

In-person events: Full day (three — four sessions) – £350 (+travel expenses) Half day (two sessions) – £225 (+travel expenses)

Virtual events: Full virtual event – £100 Virtual Q&A – £50

Location / Travel: Willing to travel anywhere within 2 hours of Brighton for a day / half day's visit

David Owen is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.







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Related websites and resources Teacher resources available to download from <u>usborne.com</u>:

Alex Neptune Teacher Resources | Usborne Publishing

Website: www.davidowenbooks.com







Out July 2023





Academic Year 2023/24



Clare Povey *The Unexpected Tale of Bastien Bonlivre* series

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2

Key themes: Storytelling and its influence, the power of imagination, building villains, friendship, bravery, friendship, language learning, facing the unexpected (dealing with change/adapting)

In-person events

Building Your Own Villain talk and collaborative activity (60 minutes)

This session will be interactive and Clare will ask the children lots of questions and provide discussion opportunities. Clare Povey will introduce herself and her book – inspiration, themes etc. – as well as a reading. She will then lead a creative writing activity on 'Building Your Own Villain'. Discussing villains in books and films, why it is important to not lean into stereotypes and use examples from her books to look at the different 'shades' of villainy. Clare will also provide a 'Build Your Own Villain' worksheet, which, with pupil participation, she will fill in.

A follow-up Q&A session (15 minutes)

Pupils will have the opportunity to ask Clare about the Building Your Own Villain session, herself and books.

Both sessions can be adapted to fit an assembly or be done in class.

Virtual events

Option one: Building Your Own Villain (60 minutes)

Content is the same as in-person events

Option two: Q&A (30 minutes)

It would be useful if the children had a few questions planned in advance, but Clare is happy to answer any and all sorts of questions during the event itself – from writing inspiration to her most favourite French food or even her favourite footballer!

Technical requirements:

- The ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides, whiteboard and pen, or flip chart
- Clare will provide worksheets ahead of the sessions
- Children will need writing materials (e.g., pens, pencils, paper)
- Able to use Zoom, Google Meet and MS Teams for virtual events.
- A tech rehearsal is appreciated but not essential as Clare has experience running events

Fees / travel

In-person events: Half day — assembly and workshop - £250 (+travel expenses)

Full day — assembly and multiple workshops (workshop times can be adapted 30 - 60 minutes depending on the number of classes) — £400 (+travel expenses)

Virtual events: Option one: Building Your Own Villain – £100 +VAT Option two: Q&A – £50 +VAT USBORNE

Location/Travel: Leeds, can travel any distance



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Clare is very happy to discuss possible discounts on half/full day fees and encourages schools to get in touch directly to discuss. She is available Thursday–Friday for school events.

Clare Povey is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources Website: <u>www.clarepovey.com</u>









Academic Year 2023/24



Darren Simpson Scavengers The Memory Thieves Futhermoor

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3 (Years 5–8) **Key themes:** Waste and recycling, questions and curiosity, worldbuilding and creative writing, imagination and inspiration, feelings and friendship

In-person events

Darren Simpson offers hour-long presentations and workshops that can be booked in any combination that suits the school.

Presentations include

- a look at the inspiration behind Scavengers, The Memory Thieves or Furthermoor
- a short reading
- humorous interactive games
- a Q&A session.

Workshops

- Scavengers workshops explore character perspective
- The Memory Thieves workshops focus on worldbuilding
- Furthermoor workshops focus on character development and setting.

Virtual events

For virtual events, Darren offers the same content as in-person events

Technical requirements:

- The ability to share PowerPoint presentation slides
- A microphone or other suitable amplification for in-person events.
- Darren is happy to host virtual events through any platform but asks that there is one teacher in class to help facilitate the session.
- To make the most of workshops, Darren recommends that pupils have either seen the related book's presentation (on his website) or read its opening chapter. This isn't essential, though

Fees /availability

In-person events: One hour presentation / workshop - £150 Half day (two 60 minute sessions) - £250 (three 60 minute sessions) - £300 Full day (four 60 minute sessions) - £400

Location/Travel: Nottingham, can travel any distance for an extra fee

Virtual events: One hour presentation/workshop – £110 Half day (two 60 minute sessions) – £190 (three 60 minute sessions) – £225 Full day (four 60 minute sessions) – £300 30 minute reading and Q&A – £55

Discounts are offered on the rates above for multiple bookings.





Darren Simpson is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download from <u>usborne.com</u>:

- Scavengers resources | Usborne Publishing
- <u>The Memory Thieves resources | Usborne Publishing</u>
- Furthermoor resources | Usborne Publishing

Darren can provide follow-up activities after presentations and workshops.

Website: www.darrensimpsonwrites.co.uk





Academic Year 2023/24



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 presentation focusing on research and inspiration (60 minutes) The talk can focus on one or more of Ann–Marie's books:

- The Garden of Lost Secrets life during WWI on the Home front
- The House of One Hundred Clocks STEM focus on inventions and clocks in Edwardian England
- Mystery of the Night Watchers Using your hometown as story inspiration
- The Secret of the Treasure Keepers life post WWII, archaeology and East Anglian treasure finds
- 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

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

Virtual events

Author Q&A virtual visit (30 minutes)

Technical requirements:

- The ability to share presentation slides using PowerPoint
- Can use all platforms: Zoom, MS Teams or Google Meet
- Five-minute technical rehearsal required the day before or the morning of the event

Fees / travel

In-person events: One hour talk — £200 (+travel expenses) Half Day — (two talks) £350 (+travel expenses)

Location / Travel: Suffolk, can travel through East Anglia and to London

Virtual events: Author Q&A virtual visit -£75

A.M. Howell is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.



Academic Year 2023/24



USBORNE

Related websites and resources Teacher resources available to download:

Discover the resource packs and Quicklinks available for A.M. Howell's books at usborne.com

- <u>The Garden of Lost Secrets Quicklinks</u> Usborne Publishing
- <u>The Garden of Lost Secrets resources | Usborne Publishing</u>
- The House of One Hundred Clocks Quicklinks| Usborne Publishing
- The House of One Hundred Clocks resources | Usborne Publishing
- The Secret of the Treasure Keepers Quicklinks | Usborne Publishing
- <u>The Secret of the Treasure Keepers resources | Usborne Publishing</u>

Website: www.amhowell.co.uk



COMING September



Out August 2023



Academic Year 2023/24



Sarah Hagger–Holt Just Like Everyone Else Proud of Me Nothing Ever Happens Here

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: Years 6-8 (upper KS2 and lower KS3). Ideal for a whole year-group assembly) 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, extraordinary story.

Option two: From Prejudice to Pride (60 minutes)

(Audience: Years 6–8 (upper KS2 and lower KS3). 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

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 flipchart (but can do without)
- Can use all platforms: Zoom, MS Teams or Google Meet

Sarah Hagger–Holt is also able to talk though 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.





Academic Year 2023/24



Fees / travel

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

Location / Travel: Hertfordshire / Northwest London, open to events anywhere as long as travel and accommodation expenses are covered

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 inperson if you also book at least one hour-long session.

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

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download:

- Nothing Ever Happens Here resources | Usborne Publishing
- Video resources and schemes of work for Nothing Ever Happens Here on Authorfy here
- Download discussion notes for all of her books on Sarah's website

Website: www.sarahhaggerholt.com







Out June 2023





Academic Year 2023/24



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)

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. The maximum group size is 300 pupils.

Option two: Fantasy Forest workshop (60 minutes)

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

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

Pupils will create their own story. This interactive workshop will include all of 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

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

Virtual events

Option one: Author talk and reading (45 minutes)

Content is the same as in-person event

Option two: Author talk, reading and Q&A (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







Academic Year 2023/24



Fees / travel

In-person events: Half day (two 1hr sessions max.) – £250 (+travel expenses) Full day (three 1hr sessions max.) – £350 (+travel expenses)

Virtual events: Option One: Author talk and reading – £100 Option Two: Author talk, reading and Q&A – £75 Option Three: Q&A – £50

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

Related websites and resources Website: <u>www.timtilley.com</u>









Academic Year 2023/24



Tamsin Winter Being Miss Nobody Jemima Small Versus the Universe Girl (In Real Life) Bad Influence

Events suitable for: Key Stage 2/3 (Year 6–9) **Key themes:** pursuing your dreams, bullying & cyberbullying, mental health, body image, and the double–edged power of social media



In-person events

Author talk (1 hour 15 minutes)

Tamsin's talks are fun, engaging and interactive, and will inspire your students to pursue their dreams...and read more books! Tamsin discusses the inspiration behind her award-winning books, her journey to becoming an author (which began at age 8!) as well as themes affecting girls and boys today: bullying & cyberbullying, mental health, body image, 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 rejections!) as an aspiring writer and the comments she got from her teachers.

Students will leave feeling inspired, empowered, and best of all – keen to get reading and writing. Tamsin's talk is followed by a Q&A session where students can ask their burning (or random!) questions and can be followed by a book signing. Tamsin is also happy to set a writing challenge with free resource upon request.

Creative writing workshop (2 hours)

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

Virtual events

Option one: Virtual Q&A session (60 minutes)

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 (60 minutes)

Engaging and inspiring virtual author talk about the ideas and creative processes behind Tamsin's books. Students will be given a unique insight into the inspiration behind the stories, characters and key themes, followed by a Q&A.

Option three: Creative writing workshop (60 minutes)

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.





Academic Year 2023/24



Technical requirements:

- The ability to share presentation slides using PowerPoint
- Able to use Zoom, MS Teams or Google Meet for virtual events
- Pupils will need writing materials for workshops
- Tamsin provides resources for in-person workshops

Fees /travel

In-person events: Author talk and Q&A – £295 Creative writing workshop – £375 Full day – £525 Half day – £405

Location / Travel: Leicestershire, can travel around the East Midlands can travel further for a whole day booking

Virtual events: Option one: Virtual Q&A session – £135 Option two: Book talk and Q&A session – £185 Option three: Creative writing workshop – £135

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download:

- Being Miss Nobody resources | Usborne Publishing
- Jemima Small Versus the Universe resources | Usborne Publishing
- Girl (in real life) resources | Usborne Publishing

Website: https://www.tamsinwinter.com/schools



Out June 2023





Academic Year 2023/24



Kathryn Evans Beauty Sleep More of More

Events suitable for: Key Stage 3/4/5

Key themes: Reading, resilience, female empowerment, social media, creative writing, empathy

In-person events (Suitable for Primary, Years 5 and 6)

Magic Spark to Manuscript:

This workshop is designed for the A.I.M High (Achieve, Inspire ,Master) programme organised by Authors Abroad. Students have a really fun day exploring all the elements of writing a novel: ideas, character, setting, plot and structure. With lots of encouragement and fun exercises to help concentration, this is a truly inspiring day. Every student receives a signed souvenir of the event.

Talks

(Suitable for children aged 11+)

Self Esteem and Social Media (25 - 30 minutes)

Tying in with themes from Kathryn's book *Beauty Sleep*, this talk takes a humorous look at beauty standards through the ages and how that affects our minds and bodies. Can be combined with a Q&A and reading for longer sessions.

Resilience and Reading (25 - 30 minutes)

Updated after Covid Lockdown, when even Kathryn, the poster girl for tenacity, had to find new ways to motivate herself. It took Kathryn more than 15 years to get published so she knows a thing or two about picking herself up and trying again. She's also trained hard to earn a place in the British veteran fencing squad (yes, really!) and built a multi-million-pound farming business from a caravan in a field.

What Women Are (25 — 30 minutes)

A motivating talk on the broad and diverse capabilities of women — based on personal experience and some unusual historic figures, this talk is designed to inspire young women and impress young men.

Empathy (25 — 30 minutes)

Empathy is a powerful social tool but also key to academic success and a key skill employers look for and , it's a skill you can learn. This talk looks at empathy on a personal and global level and advises how to develop it through reading for pleasure.

All talks can be followed by a reading and Q&A so can be flexible in terms of time — from 25 minutes to an hour.

Workshops

(50 — 70 minutes)

Ideas, Character & Setting Hands-on practical session looking in detail at how to understand and craft believable characters and how setting is used to enhance story.



Academic Year 2023/24



Ideas, Plot & Structure: Hands-on practical session, looking at generating ideas, different types of plot and how to use structure for impact in your story. 50–70 minutes.

Full Day Workshop

Delivered over a whole day to a single class of up to 30 students, this workshop covers all the basic elements of writing a book from ideas, to plot, character, setting and structure. It's fun but intensive, a hands-on practical day that will leave students inspired and informed.

Technical requirements:

- Ability to share a presentation slides
- Writing materials are needed for workshops

Virtual events

(For Ages 11+)

Virtual Talks - Content is the same as in-person events

Virtual Workshops Content is the same as in-person events

Technical requirements:

- Kathryn can offer pre-recorded videos
- Writing materials are needed for workshops

Fees / travel

In-person events: Full day – £450 plus VAT Half day – £275 plus VAT

Location/Travel: Chichester area, will travel anywhere over two hours away for travel expenses

Virtual event: £100/hour

Kathryn Evans is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download: Kathryn is part of the BBC Teach English Language series Free videos on Kathryn's website: <u>https://kathrynevans.ink/for-author-visits/video-links/</u>

Website: www.kathrynevans.ink







Academic Year 2023/24



Mel Darbon Rosie Loves Jack What the World Doesn't See

Events suitable for: Key Stages 3/4 (Year 9 +) **Key themes:** Empathy, learning disability, grief and creative writing

In-person events

Author talk, reading and Q&A (45–60 minutes)

Mel will talk about her book/s, the inspiration behind them and her writing journey to publication and after. She is happy to answer any questions, no matter how difficult the subject, as her stories have some sensitive topics. This includes talking about anything about her brother who had severe learning disabilities

Author Q&A (30 minutes)

Any questions tackled, as above

Creative Writing workshops (45-60 minutes)

Workshop 1: Bringing Your Characters to Life

Creating memorable characters and understanding their importance in storytelling. A fun, interactive workshop where the students create their own character, building them up through a series of writing exercises.

Workshop 2: The Importance of Empathy

Making a connection with a viewpoint and feelings that are not your own. Through a series of thought provoking exercises the students start to understand why empathy is so important, not just to create a kinder more caring world, but how it will help shape their futures in every area of their lives.

Virtual events

Author talk, reading and Q&A (45–60 minutes)

Adapted from the in-person event above

Author Q&A (30 minutes)

Technical requirements:

- The ability to share presentation slides from a MacBook Air
- Prefers Zoom or Google Meet for virtual events
- Pupils will need pencils and paper and colouring materials for workshops
- Worksheets will be emailed to the school the day before the event and need to be printed in advance

Fees / availability

In-person events: Half day - 1x assembly + author talk, reading + Q&A + 1x workshop: £300 (+travel expenses) Full d 1x assembly plus 2/3 workshops - £450 (+travel expenses)

Assembly only with author talk, reading + Q and A session £200 (+travel expenses)

Location / Travel: Wiltshire, willing to travel anywhere providing expenses are covered

Virtual events: Author talk, reading and Q&A (45–60 minutes): £100 Author Q&A (30 minutes): £50



Cummunum





Mel Darbon is able to adapt events to work for children with English as a second language.

Related websites and resources

Discover discussion questions here:

<u>What the World Doesn't See discussion questions | Usborne Publishing</u>

Website: https://usborne.com/authors/mel-darbon



COMING JUNE





Academic Year 2023/24



Matt Killeen Orphan Monster Spy Devil Darling Spy

Events suitable for: Key Stage 3/4 **Key themes:** War & moral complexity, resistance, Nazi Germany, reading and writing, colonialism

In-person events

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 Option Four: Creative writing workshop on beginnings, The Sitch & The Thing, also analysing great book openings and narrative structures

Virtual events Content is the same as 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/availability

In-person events: Full days - £350 (+travel expenses) Half days - £250 (+ travel expenses)

Location / Travel: Surrey, willing to travel anywhere

Virtual events: Full days – Half days (up to 3 sessions) – £150 Single sessions – £150

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

Related websites and resources

Teacher resources available to download:

Orphan Monster Spy | Discussion questions for book clubs

Website: www.mattkilleen.co.uk











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