



Author's On Tour

June 2023

Doing 'whatever it takes' to get every child in Leicester Reading!



Author's On Tour

12th June - 23rd June 2023

We are excited to announce that Author's On Tour is back! A number of highly inspirational children's authors will be working, face to face, with pupils in your schools. Author's On Tour will be taking place between **Monday 12th and Friday 23rd June 2023**.



No more quandaries about which pupils to bring

Every maintained school will have the opportunity to select an author for their school. There will be no limit for the number of classes or pupils joining in with the author talk but please consider the age appropriateness of the author/book. Schools will be responsible for ensuring that a maximum of 30 pupils join the author masterclass.



AM or PM author session at your school

Each session comprises of an author talk based around their work and books, followed by a creative writing masterclass designed and led by the author for pupils.

You will be able to book your place from Thursday 2nd March at 3.30pm using this link [AuthorsonTour-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/authorson-tour-2023)



Books

Schools will be provided with a classroom set of 15 books. An advanced copy of your chosen authors book will be sent out in April 2023. After May half-term, an additional 15 copies will be sent to use as a classroom set, directly from Peter's. It is then the school's individual decision if they wish to gift any of the books to

For any queries about Author's On Tour, please contact Eili Kallu

elili.kallu@sdsa.net

June 2023

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Dates available

- Mon 12th June AM or PM



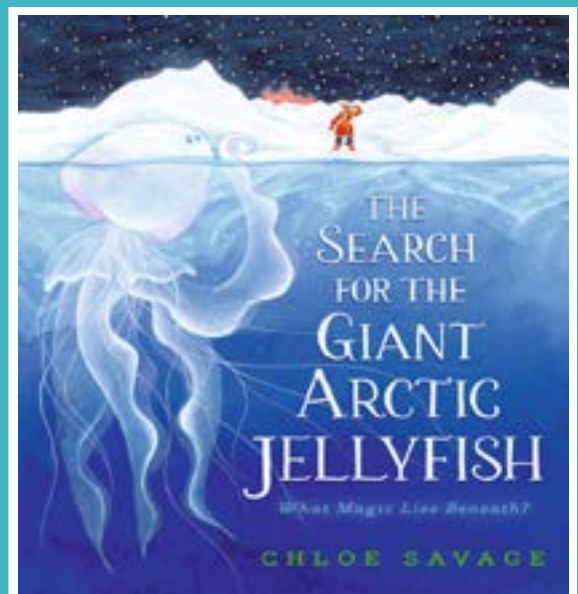
Chloe Savage

Reception and KS1

Chloe Savage was born and raised in Stevenage. She has a First Class BA Honours in TV and Film Set Design from Cardiff and an MA in Children's Book Illustration from The Cambridge School of Art. She has worked for a number of years in opera, film and television. While doodling on call sheets Chloe found her way to her great love of illustration and storytelling. Chloe is a great lover of food and the seaside, she currently lives in Hitchin with her husband and has never been happier. Find her on Instagram as [@chloe.the.savage.Publication](https://www.instagram.com/chloe.the.savage.Publication)

The search for the giant jellyfish

A moving tale of grit, endurance and self-belief to inspire young explorers and dreamers from a stunningly talented debut. Dr Morley is about to embark on a quest to the northern most tip of the world, to discover a creature that everyone talks about but nobody has ever seen: The Giant Arctic Jellyfish. After years of research and hard graft, she gathers together a highly trained crew and a boat full of specialist equipment, and sets sail for the vast icy scapes of the Arctic. Will she find what she is searching for? Or will it find her?





Dates available

- Mon 12th June AM or PM
- Tues 13th June AM or PM



Andrew Sanders

Reception and KS1

Andrew is an internationally published, award-winning author and illustrator with over a decade's experience of delivering writing and animation workshops to young people in schools and colleges across the North of England. Andrew's creative process involves a mixture of doodling, writing, typing, and humming, plus a moderate bit of staring at a lava lamps or pigeons when he gets particularly stuck. He is a big believer in helping children develop their creativity and follow their dreams and likes to share with young people the tips and tricks needed to develop resilience and follow their own creative journey.

Where has all the cake gone?

Where Has All the Cake Gone? follows the exploits of a bright eyed, scruffy scamp named Albert, who is insistent he has no idea where a delicious home-made cake has gone. His dad's questioning proves futile; after all, Albert couldn't have eaten it – not when he was busy being kidnapped by penguins, put in a jar of marmalade and taken to France. Albert's excuses grow increasingly elaborate and young and old readers alike will delight in trying to work out whether Albert is telling the truth or in fact relaying a bunch of porkies.





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Karen Owen

Reception and KS1

Karen Owen is the author of junior fiction series Major and Mynah, which follows the exploits of two secret detectives and a cheeky mynah bird called Bo. Published by Firefly Press, it has been acclaimed for its inclusivity and diverse characters. Other books include *As Quiet As A Mouse*, which was a lunchtime read on BBC's CBeebies, and *I Could Be, You Could Be*, which was chosen as a Summer Reading Challenge title in UK libraries. Karen also hosts storytelling and creative writing workshops in schools, libraries, and festivals.

Major and Mynah

Getting your first hearing aids can be nerve-racking; especially when you have to wear them to school. When Callie realises her new hearing aids - 'the Slugs' - give her the unique ability to communicate with Bo the Mynah bird, some of her worries are lifted. In fact, having a pair of eyes in the sky might come in handy... The duo team up with Callie's best friend, Grace, as they set out to catch a local thief who has been causing trouble all over town. Includes high-speed chases, a very peckish bird and purple POO!





Dates available

- Weds 14th June AM or PM



Pip Jones

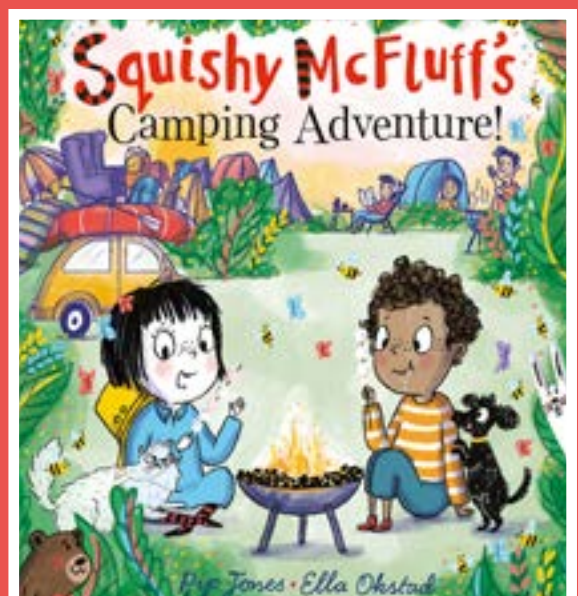
Reception and KS1

Pip Jones is the award-winning author of more than 30 children's books, including the Squishy McFluff series and beloved picture books including Izzy Gizmo and Daddy's Sandwich. Pip lives in the west of England, with her partner and two daughters, and her books have been published around the world.

Squishy McFluffs: camping adventure

Ava – a little girl with a VERY big imagination – is off on her first camping holiday! And of course her invisible cat, Squishy, will come too . . .

But when Ava repacks Dad's bags with important camping accessories, like her teddy, she 'forgets' to include . . . the TENT! Never mind – making a den will be much more fun. Luckily Idris and his puppy Farida are staying at the same campsite and they are expert den builders. But when Idris insists his puppy is the best pet, and he says he can't SEE Squishy, Ava decides to introduce him to a giant invisible . . . BEAR!





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Petr Horacek

Reception and KS1

Petr Horacek was born in Prague and studied at the Academy of Fine Art. After graduating he moved to live in England. His first two picture books were published in 2001 winning the “Books for Children” Newcomer award. Since then he has won a string of other international prizes and distinctions, for books such as *The Mouse Who Reached the Sky*, *Puffin Peter* and *Animal Opposites*.

The Perfect Present

The Perfect Present is a joyful and beautiful picture book that celebrates friendship and sharing. Tom and Mot are best friends who share a birthday. Tom gives Mot a feather and Mot gives Tom a marble – and these small gifts open up worlds of brilliantly colourful imagination. At the end of their birthday, Tom and Mot discover what is the best present of all – the perfect present....





Dates available

- Thurs 15th June AM or PM



Wendy Meddour

Reception and KS1

Dr Wendy Meddour is an internationally successful children's author and the Director of Creative Writing at Exeter University. After gaining her PhD, she spent 8 years teaching English Literature at Oxford University, before publishing her debut children's book, which came second in the Branford Boase Award for Outstanding First Novel in 2012. Wendy has gone on to publish over 25 children's books with leading publishers, many of which have been translated into over 18 languages. Wendy's stories are known for addressing difficult topics in a thoughtful, heart-warming and uplifting manner.

Peggy the always sorry pigeon

Peggy is an apologetic pigeon. She can't stop saying sorry and always thinks she's in the wrong. Even when she's the one that's getting bullied. Until an older female seagull, Joan, helps her learn to stand up for herself, though not in the way you'd expect! If you'd like to listen to this funny book being read by Louis Theroux, you can find it on CBeebies (iPlayer). Illustrations by Carmen Saldana.





Dates available

- Thurs 15th June AM or PM
- Fri 16th June AM or PM



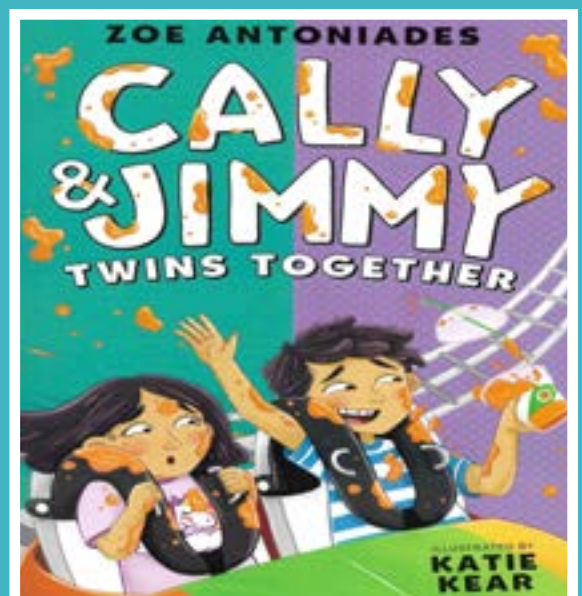
Zoe Antoniades

KS1 - Year 2

Zoe grew up and went to school in Twickenham and Chiswick and currently lives in Isleworth, Hounslow. She graduated from the University of Hull with a degree in English and Drama and later trained as a teacher at the Institute of Education. She often writes collaboratively with young people and has published four anthologies of short stories: *Invincible Voices - Long Shorts*, *Medium Shorts* and *Short Shorts* which were launched at Waterstones, Chiswick in 2017. The fourth book in the series, *Invincible Voices - Winter Shorts*, was published in September 2018. She has also written a memoir, *Tea and Baklavas*, which won the Winchester Writers' Festival Memoir Prize, 2015.

Cally & Jimmy

The first book in the series, *Twins in Trouble*, has been longlisted for the Alligator's Mouth Award 2022, and achieved third prize in the Our Best Book Award initiative run by Leicester Libraries, Schools and Council which promotes books which 'motivate children to read for pleasure' selecting books that 'appeal and are accessible to as many readers as possible.' Jimmy himself is a neurodivergent character as he has ADHD. His challenges and the way in which he rises above them are championed as well as his many strengths and talents.





Dates available

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Rashmi Sirdeshpande

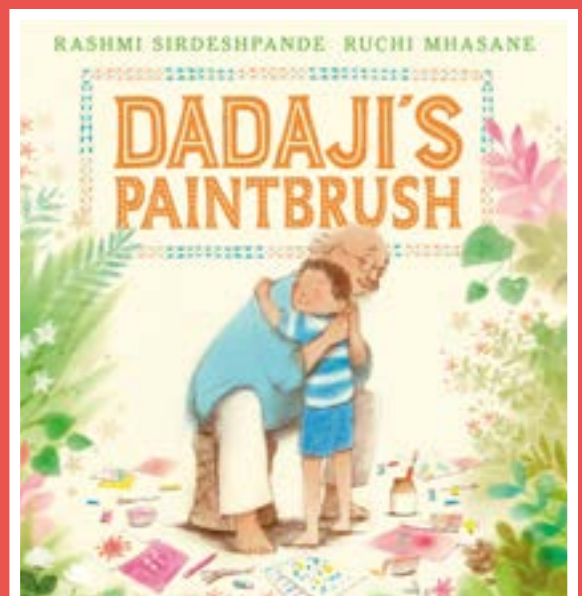
Reception and KS1

Rashmi Sirdeshpande is a lawyer-turned-storyteller, who was part of the Penguin Random House WriteNow mentoring programme in 2018. As a British Indian child, she didn't get to see many children like her in the books she read, so she is now passionate about writing stories that children from all backgrounds can relate to.

Dadaji's paintbrush

Discover that bereavement can be a beginning, not an ending, in this beautiful story of one boy's grief when he loses his beloved grandfather.

Dadaji loves to teach others to paint, especially his grandson. But after Dadaji passes away, the boy can't bear to use the favourite paintbrush his grandfather left for him. When a little girl knocks on the door, the boy discovers how many lives Dadaji touched with his art, and finds a way to continue his legacy.





Dates available

- Mon 19th June AM or PM



Serena Patel

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and 4

Serena Patel is the author of the Anisha, Accidental Detective series which won the Sainsbury's Children's book Award for Fiction. She lives in the West Midlands with her family. Serena believes all children deserve to feel seen in the stories they read and that books are an important tool for empathy. When she's not writing Serena enjoys watching movies, reading and eating cake. Chocolate cake preferred.

Anisha Accidental Detective - Fright Night

It's Halloween and everyone is excited about the school disco. It's a bit much for me, I'd rather cosy up with a good book, but Milo, Mindy and Manny are all super excited. Or at least, they were excited, until all these strange things started happening - messages appearing on the whiteboard, lights flickering on and off, books flying off the library shelves... Some of the other kids have been whispering that the school is haunted, but Mr Graft says that if the spooky mischief doesn't stop, then the disco will be cancelled.

Looks like a mission for me, Anisha, accidental ghost.





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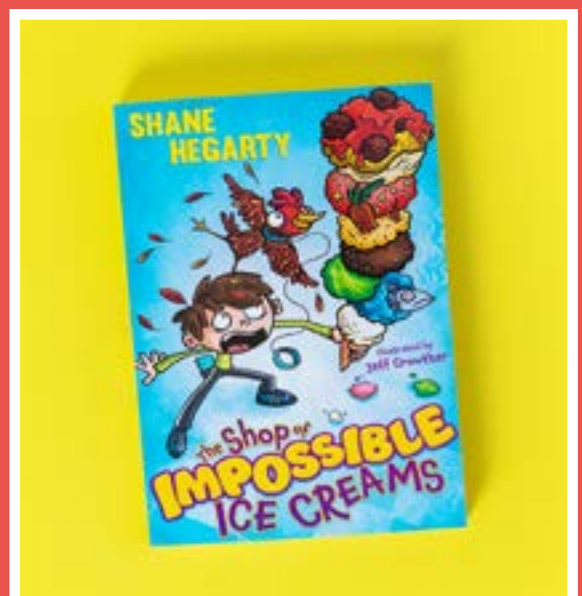
Shane Hegarty

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and 4

Shane Hegarty is the bestselling author of 'Boot' and 'Darkmouth' as well as new series 'The Shop of Impossible Ice Creams'. His books have been nominated for Irish Book of the Year awards, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards. 'Boot' was UNESCO City of Literature Dublin's 2020 Citywide Read and 'Darkmouth' was selected a Waterstones Book of the Month. Shane lives in Dublin with his family and his favourite ice cream is a mind-blowing, tastebud-defying spaghetti ice cream he had during a book tour in Germany.

The shop of impossible ice creams

Limpet's mum is opening an ice-cream shop, full of her favourite new flavours: mushroom and tuna ice cream, anyone? Roast parsnip and gravy? Limpet's not sure about this. He likes a nice, safe life. His favourite ice-cream flavour is vanilla. But when wicked Mr Fluffy arrives with his Mega Emporium of Amazing and Spectacular Ice Creams, Limpet knows he's got to fight back. And there are magic ingredients on his doorstep which can solve all his worries, if only he can get the recipe just right.





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- Tues 20th June AM or PM
- Wed 21st June AM or PM
- Thurs 22nd June AM or PM
- Fri 23rd June AM or PM



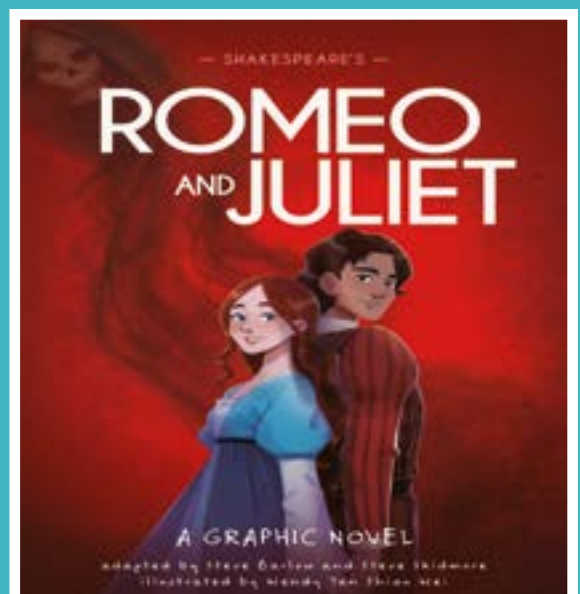
Steve Skidmore

Upper KS2 - Years 5 and 6

Steve is an award winning writer (with Steve Barlow) of over 250 titles for children. His books have been published by several major publishing houses including: Hachette, Oxford University, and translated into over 20 languages with millions of books sales. Steve acted as a series editor and consultant for Ginn, Heinemann and Oxford University Press, working on over 125 books with authors. He was selected as one of the top 100 most influential and creative people working in the UK in 2016 in the Hospital Club top hundred awards in the publishing and writing section for work on the groundbreaking NSS G Story App.

Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet has been adapted into a graphic novel by expert authors, Steve Skidmore and Steve Barlow, with illustrations by Wendy Tan Shiau Wei. The epic, tragic love story reads like your favourite film on the page - as Death stubbornly hovers over the heads of our star-crossed lovers.





Dates available

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Helen Rutter

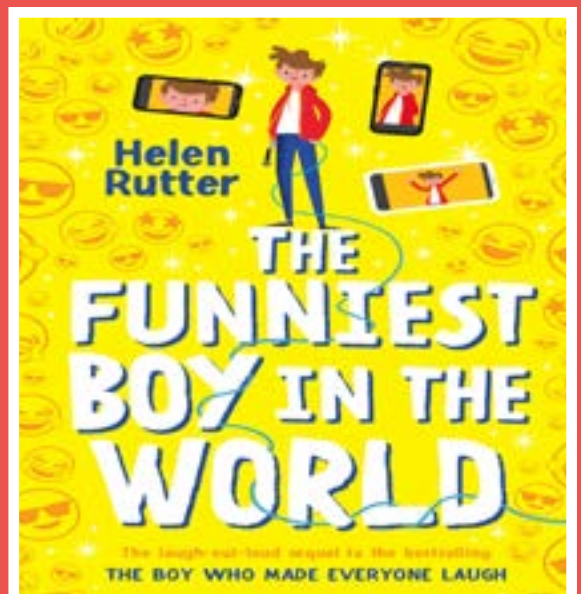
Upper KS2 - Years 5 and 6

Helen Rutter lives in the countryside just outside Sheffield with her comedian husband, two children and two dogs, Ronnie and Billy Whizz. When she is not tapping away in her writing room, she loves walking the dogs, playing board games and reading.

Before writing her first novel, *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, Helen wrote and performed her work on the stage and has even braved some stand up comedy.

The funniest boy in the world

Billy Plimpton took to the stage and captivated the crowd at the triumphant ending to *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh* and in the sequel, he's going to go viral. Celebrity comedian Leo Leggett takes Billy under his wing, as his new sidekick. When Leo tweets a clip of his stand up act, Billy suddenly becomes the most famous boy in the country. At first, this is GREAT all the kids at school think he's cool and he gets to appear on his favourite morning TV show. But Leo's motives turn out to be shady and Billy must turn the tables in a very public way...





Dates available

- Tues 20th June AM or PM



Lisa Thompson

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and up

Lisa Thompson is a children's novelist born in Essex, UK. Lisa has gone on to write more best-selling novels, including *The Light Jar*, *The Day I Was Erased* and *The Boy Who Fooled The World*. Her novella, *Owen and the Soldier*, was shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards. Before becoming a novelist, Lisa worked as a broadcast assistant for BBC Radio 2 and CPL Productions. She lives in Suffolk, UK with her family.

The Treasure Hunters

When lonely Vincent is forced to go on an outdoor activity weekend with three other kids from his class, he's counting the seconds until he can escape home. But one of his classmates is hiding a secret: she's convinced there's pirate treasure buried deep within a nearby mountain. Suddenly, this boring trip becomes an exciting adventure! But a thief is hot on the trail, intent on stealing the loot for themselves... can the Treasure Hunters work together to stop them?





Dates available

- Tues 20th June AM or PM



Camilla Chester

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and 4

Camilla Chester is a dog walker who writes. She's been a finalist in two national children's writing competitions, for the National Literacy Trust and Mslexia, and has previously successfully self-published three novels. Call Me Lion is her first traditionally published novel.

Call me lion

Ten-year-old Leo dreams of performing in the West End. His love of dancing is getting him through the Luton heatwave, but his selective mutism is putting his spot in the end-of-summer dance show on the line.

When chatty Richa moves in next door, Leo finds it easy to bond with her. She talks enough for the both of them ... at least to begin with. But when he learns her secret it's clear that Richa needs Leo's support as much as he needs hers. With Richa's help, will Leo be able to follow his dreams? Or will Leo's inability to talk cost him their friendship?





Dates available

- Tues 20th June AM or PM



Pippa Curnick

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and 4

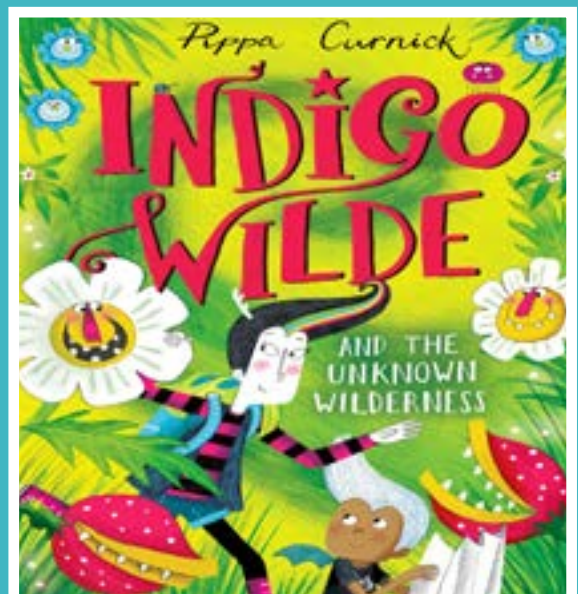
Pippa Curnick grew up in rural Essex and studied at Camberwell College of Art. She graduated from the University of Derby with a First Class degree in illustration. Pippa's picture book *Lucie Goose* was shortlisted for the Evening Standard's Oscar's First Book Prize. Her website is www.pippacurnick.com and you can follow her on Insta @pippa_curnick and on Twitter @PippaCurnick

Indigo Wilde and the Unknown Wilderness

On Thursday, the doorbell rings at Indigo Wilde's house on Jellybean Crescent. It's a moon bear - an enormous winged bear covered with stars, the rarest of all rare creatures.

The bear tells Indigo that her parents were studying the bear in its habitat in the Unknown Wilderness ... and now they've vanished.

Indigo and her brother Quigley head off to rescue their parents. On their journey they come across many magical and extraordinary new creatures, but their parents are nowhere to be seen. Fortunately, there are other people studying the wildlife in the Unknown Wilderness. But do the people Indigo and Quigley meet really have the best intentions? Or are they capturing the magical creatures for their own gain?





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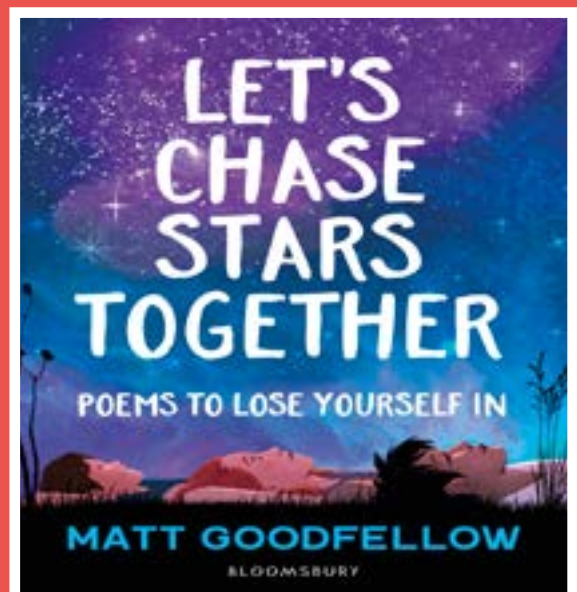
Matt Goodfellow

Upper KS2 - Years 5 and 6

Matt Goodfellow is from Manchester. He spends his time writing and touring the UK and beyond – visiting schools, libraries and festivals to deliver high-energy, inspirational poetry performances and workshops. Before embarking on his poetry career, Matt spent over 10 years as a primary school teacher. He is a National Poetry Day Ambassador, and his book *Bright Bursts of Colour* won the North Somerset Teacher's Book Award and was shortlisted for the CLIPPA. Follow Matt on Twitter @EarlyTrain

Let's chase stars together

Perfectly reflecting the thoughts, feelings and imaginings of young people, these beautifully-crafted poems are poignant, playful, heartfelt and hopeful. From friendship, family and separation to school experiences and fitting in, this moving collection touches on the relatable aspects of growing up. It delicately balances emotion with light relief and humour, and is sure to captivate any young person.





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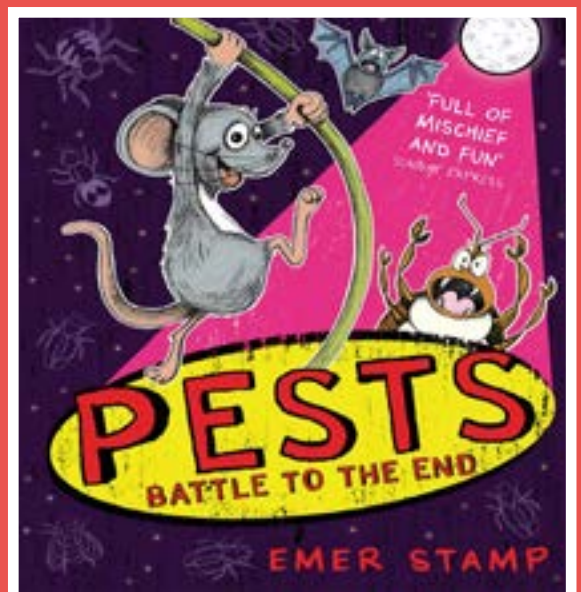
Emer Stamp

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and 4

Award-winning author and illustrator Emer Stamp grew up on a sheep farm in Devon. She dreamt of being a vet but ended up working in the advertising business as she was far better at art than science. After a stellar twenty years she reached the top of her profession and promptly quit to become a full-time author. Since committing this ludicrous act of financial suicide, she has gone on to write and illustrate two Middle Grade series (Diary of Pig and P.E.S.T.S.) and one picture book (Daddy Fartypants).

Pests - Battle to the end

Meet Stix ... a small mouse facing a very big challenge. It's the summer term and that means the annual 'sports night' competition with PESTS local rivals, VERMIN. VERMIN are streetwise and in a league of their own, but it's been years since PESTS have lifted the trophy, but Stix and his friends are determined to do their best. So when VERMIN suddenly lose their edge and PESTS take the lead, it seems like their positive thinking has paid off. But something is amiss - and it has Professor Armageddon written all over it. Can PESTS take down their old enemy and beat their rivals? It's PESTS for the win!





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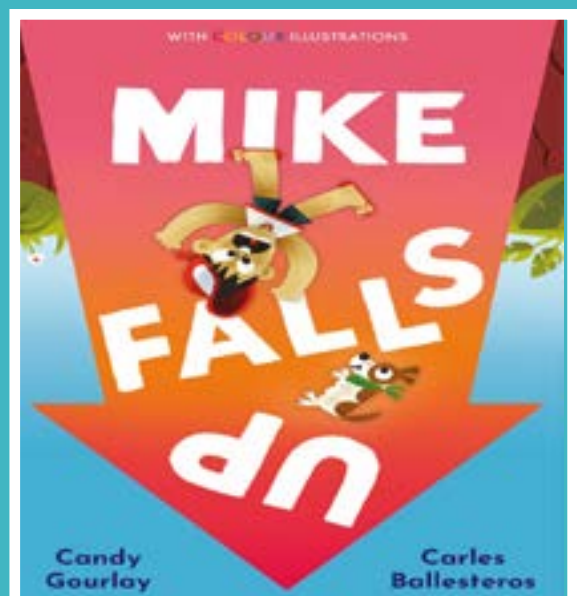
Candy Gourlay

Lower KS2 - Years 3 and 4

Carnegie-shortlisted author Candy Gourlay was born in the Philippines, grew up under a dictatorship and met her husband during a revolution. She has written for a range of ages, from her Greenaway-nominated picture book *IS IT A MERMAID* illustrated by Francesca Chessa to teen novel *BONE TALK*. “Award winning author Candy Gourlay has written a story which reflects the exuberant imaginations of young children and promotes multicultural friendships, it is colourfully illustrated throughout in what I would describe as video-game-style images by Carles Ballesteros.” Veronica Price, *View from the Bookshelves*.

Mike Falls Up

Mike Falls Up is a first chapter book for children beginning to explore beyond picture books. It is a portal fantasy: Mike lives in the tropical Chocolate Hills of the Philippines and jumps into an earthquake crack only to find himself shooting out a fireplace in freezing London.





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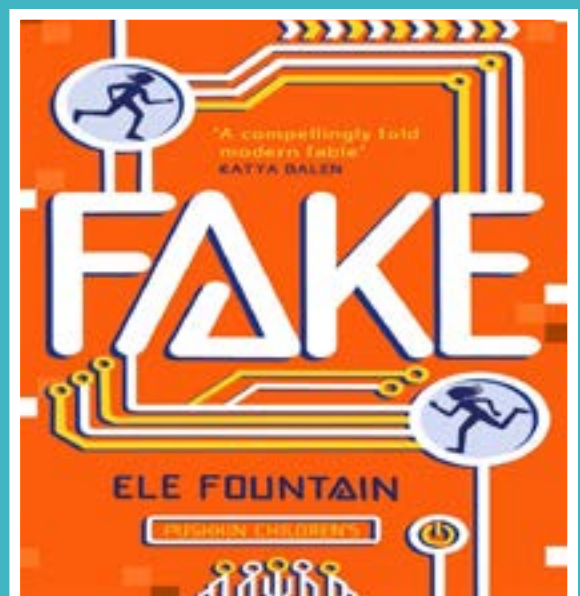
Ele Fountain

Upper KS2 - Years 5 and 6

Ele Fountain worked as an editor in children's publishing where she helped launch and nurture the careers of many prize-winning and bestselling authors. Ele's debut novel, *Boy 87*, won four awards and was nominated for nine more, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and *Lost* won the 2021 Portsmouth Book Award.

Fake

Imagine a world where your only friends are virtual, and big tech companies control access to food, healthcare and leisure. This is Jess's world. But when she turns fourteen, Jess can go to school with other children for the first time. Most of them hate the 'real' world, but Jess begins to question whether the digital world is 'perfect' after all. Back home, her sister Chloe's life-saving medication is getting ever more expensive. Determined to help, Jess risks everything by using skills forbidden in the cyber-world, only to stumble on something explosive. Something that will turn her whole world upside down. It's up to Jess to figure out exactly what is real, and what is fake - Chloe's survival depends on it.





Dates available

- Thurs 22nd June AM or PM



Frances Moloney

Upper KS2 - Years 4, 5 and 6

Frances Moloney was born and raised in London, where she now lives having spent brief stints in Cornwall, where she studied English with Creative Writing at Falmouth, and Sweden. She has worked in the world of stories for over ten years and loves reading, running and yoga - though not all at the same time! The Mystery of the Missing Mum is her first novel.

Mystery Missing Mum

One day, Jake wakes up to a different world: his mum seems to have vanished into thin air! Whilst his grandma's snoring in the kitchen and his older sister Rose is spending hours getting ready for school, it's down to Jake to start the search for his mum by making a list of places she might be: Tesco? The EU? Hospital? The Bahamas?

Being a detective turns out to be **QUITE HARD WORK** and everyone Jake turns to for help seems **FRUSTRATINGLY BUSY**. Life at home wasn't perfect, but he can't understand why she would simply **RUN OFF** like this. And why doesn't everyone else seem more concerned?





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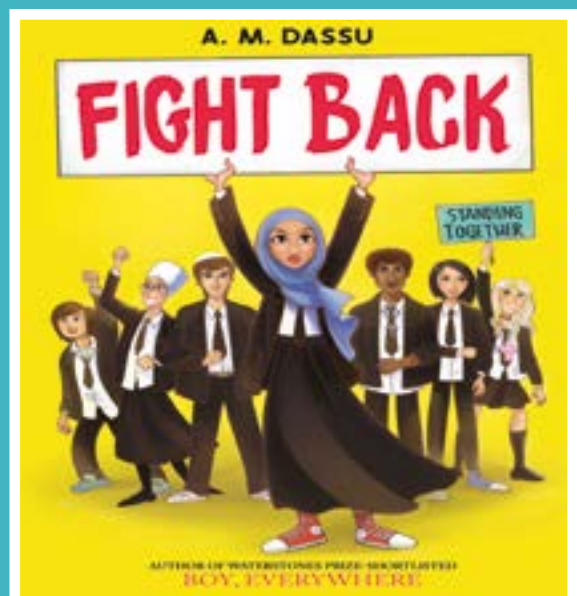
A M Dassu

Upper KS2 - Years 5 and 6

A. M. Dassu is the internationally acclaimed author of *Boy, Everywhere*, which has been listed for 25 awards. She is a director at Inclusive Minds, which is an organisation for people who are passionate about inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility in children's literature, and one of The National Literacy Trust's Connecting Stories campaign authors, aiming to help inspire a love of reading and writing in children and young people. A. M. Dassu grew up in the Midlands dreaming of becoming a writer but studied economics instead and worked in marketing and project management before realising her dream. She writes books that challenge stereotypes, humanise the "other" and are full of empathy, hope and heart.

Fight Back

An empowering story about finding your identity and the courage to fight for it. Aaliyah is an ordinary thirteen-year-old living in the Midlands. She has always felt at home where she lives ... until a terrorist attack at a concert in her area changes everything. As racial tension increases, Aaliyah is bullied, but instead of hiding who she is, she decides to speak up and wear a hijab. She's proud of her identity, and wants to challenge people's misconceptions. But when her right to wear a hijab at school is questioned and she is attacked and intimidated, she feels isolated.





Dates available

- Friday 23rd June AM or PM



Loris Owens

Upper KS2 - Years 5 and 6

Loris wrote her first book to encourage her two stepsons, Charlie and Kai, to fall in love with reading as she had done at their age. Like their father, they were both very scientific thinkers, and didn't get on with many of the fiction books they were given to try. Loris is a huge animal lover and you will always find a cute animal or two in her writing – look out for Pinky the flying squirrel in the Quicksmiths series as well as the mowl.

Loris is a supporter of a number of charities including Schoolreaders, Read for Good, Children in Read, and The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares. She was born in Bolton, raised in Zimbabwe, and now lives in Leicestershire.

The Myriad Mysteries of Eartha Quicksmith

With the Ark of Ideas resisting even Professor Steampunk's attempts to learn its secrets, the trail left by renaissance genius Eartha Quicksmith has gone cold. But then a dream discovery and a freak accident send Kip and Timmi hurtling on a dangerous quest through fantastical hidden worlds.

To survive these strange new realms, they must decipher new riddles, battle monsters and face old enemies. But can they escape the Myriad Pirates to complete Eartha's mission, and can Albert and Leela help them get home safely again?





[AuthorsonTour-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/AuthorsonTour-2023)