

Bookfest

Shropshire



We would like to invite submissions from inspirational children's authors/illustrators to be part of our very popular, effective and exciting creative writing initiative – Readers to Writers 2023 - a seven-month long project that will take place between November 2022 and May 2023 aimed at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin primary schools.

Background:

This project, previously known as Schools' Week, has been run every two years since 2008, originally simply as a programme of author visits into primary schools to coincide with World Book Day in March.

The revised, renamed and impactful **Readers to Writers** is unique in that it creates a legacy for schools and pupils. It focuses on helping teachers support children in the classroom with their creative writing skills, takes pupils through a series of bespoke author workshops in their classrooms to deepen the knowledge of the creative process so that the end result is that every child produces their own book for entry in a county-wide creative writing competition.

Feedback from teachers at the end of the project in 2021 found that:

1. Children were encouraged to write more than usual.
2. The project created a positive impact on attitudes to writing.

As a result of taking part, many schools found the quality of children's writing greatly improved and teachers made use of their writing produced as examples for KS1 and KS2 SATS evidence.

Readers to Writers is made up of four elements, each with clearly defined objectives:



Number of people who will benefit:

Our aim is to reach a total of around 1,500 pupils from Shropshire and Telford primary schools. Supporting these pupils will be teachers from the participating schools and expert volunteers from the Shropshire Bookfest team. The legacy of this project is that pupils write and produce their own book.

The Impact of Covid-19

Covid-19 lurks in the background. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, any project needs to have the ability to pivot at a moment's notice as the circumstances dictate but also maintain the ability to remain on track to deliver the project outcomes without lessening the quality or experience of that delivery. Contingency plans are in place to ensure this.

Brief for Authors/illustrators for in-School Creative Writing Workshops: 30th January – 3rd February 2023:

Whilst schools recognise that a visit from an inspirational author/illustrator provides a valuable learning experience for their pupils, on consultation they have stated that this experience can be further enhanced by the facilitation of an author/illustrator led, classroom-based **WORKSHOP**.

- We are looking for authors/illustrators to deliver mentor-style, **bespoke workshops** for primary school pupils focusing on encouraging the next generation of writers, giving inspirational ideas for pupils to create their own book as part of the Creative Writing Competition. Whilst these authors/illustrators should be leaders in their field, they should be experienced and confident in delivering workshops for pupils that offer a deeper engagement about the writing process from the 'horse's mouth'. We are looking for more than a straightforward 'author visit' to support a publicity campaign for a latest title release.
- The workshops must focus on the author/illustrator giving the pupils a real-life experience of being a writer/creator of stories by sharing where they get their ideas from, how they plan, how they edit, what mistakes they make and how to rectify them. All so as to deepen the knowledge of the creative process so that pupils are inspired by the workshop to write their **own** books as part of the overall project.
- **Group read sets of the workshop the author/illustrator's designated book(s) that will be referred to during the workshop will be supplied to each class.** (The cost for this will be covered by a combination of funding raised by Shropshire Bookfest and fees to schools to take part in the project.)
- Any additional further **book sales** can be arranged by the schools as required and in a way that suits their families best.

Pre-Workshop Preparation by Authors/Illustrators:

- Authors/illustrators will be sent a full set of background information on which to fine tune their workshop for each school/class that we have booked, to include:
 - Class teacher's name and contact details.
 - No. of pupils in each workshop.
 - Class age group.
 - Key areas of focus that the teacher has identified that they would like the workshop leader to focus on as part of the Schools' Week creative writing project.

- Questions from the class based on the book that they are creating and writing for the project.
 - Questions from the class based on the nominated title(s) by the assigned author/illustrator that will have been supplied to the class.
 - Sample of work by the pupils created thus far in the development of their own story/book for the Creative Writing Competition.
- This information will be sent out to the author/illustrator two weeks prior to the workshop.
 - The author/illustrator is encouraged to get in touch with the class teacher(s) ahead of the workshop to run through areas of content.

Workshop Format

30th January – 3rd February 2023:

A maximum of 3 workshops for classes of no more than 30 children, of 1 hour duration plus 10 minute Q&A per day will be scheduled for the author/illustrator for the duration of their two day stay with us (up to 3 days' worth if demand requires).

- Bookfest will look after all the **logistical arrangements** of school bookings, briefing of schools, transport of author/illustrator to and from schools and accommodation.
- Shropshire Bookfest will pay daily fees to the author/illustrator for the in-school workshops **including pre-workshop preparation and any school liaison**, their **travel costs** (up to £90) and **accommodation costs** for the duration of their stay with us.

Should there be further future restrictions posed by Covid-19, these are the two contingency plans we are putting in place to ensure that we will be able to deliver the very best possible provision for schools should author workshops need to take place online into classrooms - live or pre-recorded.

Covid-19 Contingency Workshop Format:

- If a lockdown situation has reoccurred, the author/illustrator will provide 1 hour, pre-recorded workshops bespoke to each school/class based on the pre-workshop preparation and liaison with school. To cover all topics (that would have been covered during a live, in-school visit). Written writing challenges/ideas will also be provided.
- Shropshire Bookfest will support the agreed author/illustrator the same daily fee as would have been paid to them for the in-school workshops.

March to April 2023: The Creative Writing Competition:

The purpose of the author/illustrator workshops is so that the pupils have a mentor to look towards during their creative writing process. Books/materials will be provided for all pupils in which they are to create their own story throughout the spring term 2023. Prizes will be awarded to pupils from each participating school at the end of April 2023. These winning stories will be 'published' as filmed narrated content on the Shropshire Bookfest website and will be available to all schools as a teaching resource.

What to do now?

If you would like to be considered to deliver the bespoke workshops for the week of 30th January – 3rd February 2023, please send through a pitch, with the following data, to joanna.hughes@Shropshirebookfest.co.uk

1. **Links** to any online workshops/presentations that you have delivered already so we can sample the style of your work.
2. Your daily fee for up to 3 X 1hr (+10 min Q&A) workshops (max 30 pupils per class/workshop). Please confirm whether VAT is applicable or not. We will guarantee you at least 2 days' work during week 30th January – 3rd February 2023.
3. Full **author/illustrator bio** and supporting images.
4. Full **details of workshop content** that you have done in the past, its aims and objectives.
5. Suggested **book title** to use as a reference base for your workshop (group read sets will be supplied to each class).
6. Confirm which **age group** you want to work with:

Key Stage 1:	Years 1 - 2 (aged 5 - 7 years old)
Key Stage 2:	Years 3 - 4 (aged 7 - 9 years old)
	Years 5 - 6 (aged 9 - 11 years old)
7. **Confirmation of availability:** State availability for 2 consecutive days during week **30th January – 3rd February 2023** for in-school workshops here in Shropshire. Should we need to implement the Covid-19 Contingency Plan we would hope to give you as much notice as possible in order to have the pre-recorded sessions ready to circulate to schools at the end of February/early March 2021.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st August 2022

We will confirm whether or not you are to be placed on the 2023 author/illustrator visit programme, by the end of September 2022.

We hope you are interested in working with us. If you would like to talk any of this through in further detail, please contact Joanna Hughes - 07719 401365/joanna.hughes@shropshirebookfest.co.uk

At a glance...

