

MAIDENHEAD'S BIG READ

**PATRON
DAME KATHERINE GRAINGER**

Inspiring, enthusing and entertaining
through literature and the arts

Festival programme

Tuesday 1st March - Thursday 10th March, 2022



Maidenhead's Big Read Festival 2022



Photo by Tessa Allanson, MBR

Presenter's books are available
to order at The Little Bookshop in
Cookham.

Tel:
01628 520434
Email:
read@thelittlebookshop.info

A very warm welcome to Maidenhead's Big Read festival 2022 which will be taking place from Tuesday 1st March to Thursday 10th March. Of course, the big day is World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March!

We have organised a fantastic group of presenters for our 2022 festival who you can read about below. Sessions are either in-class or virtual. Virtual sessions can be arranged through your school's platform or via the MBR's Zoom account. Timings can be adjusted to fit with school timetables and preferences. If circumstances mean we cannot hold sessions in person, we will plan to hold them virtually instead.

It would be great if your students could dress up for the sessions you decide to subscribe to, particularly on World Book Day.

If you have any questions, please contact us at
hello@maidenheads-big-read.org.uk.



Tues 1st March - Dame Katherine Grainger

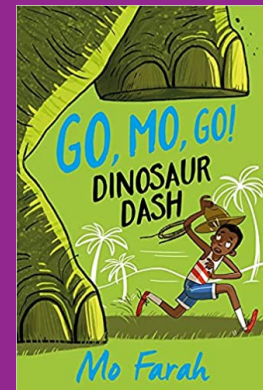
VIRTUAL

Dame Katherine Grainger, DBE, PhD, Athlete, Olympian, Author
Reading extracts from Go, Mo, Go! Dinosaur Dash.
Reception, Years 1 & 2, 09:30 and 10:30, 30 minute sessions

Follow Mo on his madcap adventures with Dame Katherine Grainger as his running skills go from strength to strength. The nation watched with bated breath as Mo Farah seized Olympic gold in the 10,000m and 5,000m - he's been a national treasure ever since. In this adventurous picture book father of three, Mo Farah, combines two lifelong passions - literacy and exercise.

6 classes of Reception, Years 1 & 2, and the duration will include Q&A

<https://www.katherinegrainger.com>



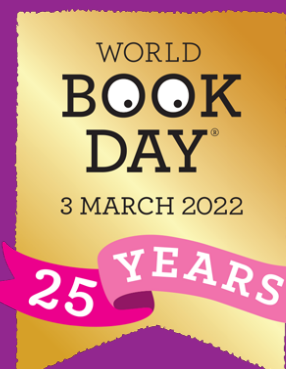
Tues 1st March - Arti Sharma-Grey & Jane Deane

IN-PERSON

Arti Sharma-Grey & Jane Deane, storytellers
Once Upon a Bus
Reception, 09:15, 50 minutes: Choice of The Gruffalo, Stick Man or Room on the Broom
Year 1, 10:15, 50 minutes: As above or Neverland
Year 2, 11:15, 50 minutes: Alice in Wonderland, Dear Greenpeace or Neverland
One school per session

Arti of Once Upon a Bus, with the support of Jane Deane who featured on the BAFTA award winning show 'Justin's House' on CBeebies, will create fabulous and magical storytelling experiences combining the traditional social function of storytelling with progressive learning techniques. They deliver inspiring, interactive and truly immersive experiences that delight and enlighten, and encourage children to listen to and love reading.

<http://www.onceuponabus.com>



Wed 2nd March - Clare Luther

IN PERSON

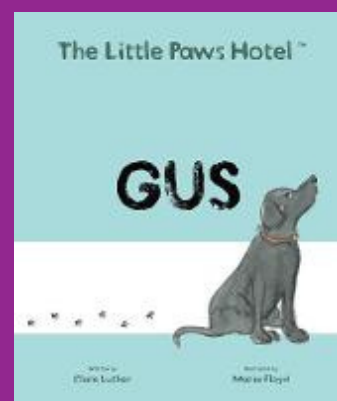
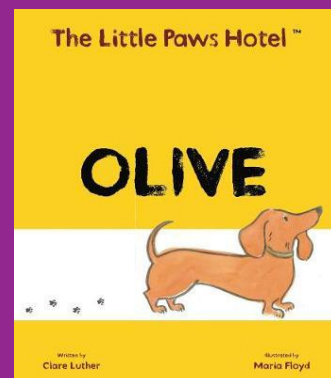
Clare Luther, author of 'The Little Paws Hotel' series
Reception - Year 3, 10:00, 11:00, 13:15 & 14:15, 45 minute sessions.

Up to 60 children in each session.

One or two schools.

Clare writes rhyming children's books for head and heart matters. Her stories are relatable and well researched, helping young children to explore their thoughts and feelings, think their emotions through and get meaningful conversations started. Her sessions will include a presentation of photos of her canine guests at her own dachshund hotel, which the children are sure to love!

<https://www.head2heartbooks.com/>



Wed 2nd March - Jenny Pearson

IN-PERSON

Jenny Pearson, author of 'The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates', 'The Incredible Record Smashers' and 'Grandpa Frank's Great Big Bucket List'

Years 5 and 6, 09:30 & 11:00, 1 hour sessions.

One or two schools.

We're delighted to welcome Jenny to Maidenhead! Her books are a treat: laugh out loud funny, heart-warming and beautifully observed. In her fun and interactive sessions there will be a Super Freddie fact quiz, watermelon and socks themed World Record attempts, some chat about amazing oldies AND time for a Q&A! Each session can accommodate up to 60 children.

Jenny's debut children's novel, 'The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates', was shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award and the Branford Boase Award, and was selected as a Waterstones Book of the Month.

<https://www.jennypearsonauthor.com/>



Thurs 3rd March - Simon Mole

IN-PERSON

Simon Mole, poet

Years 1, 2, 3 & 4, from 09:00, 1 hour sessions

I Love My Bike with Simon Mole

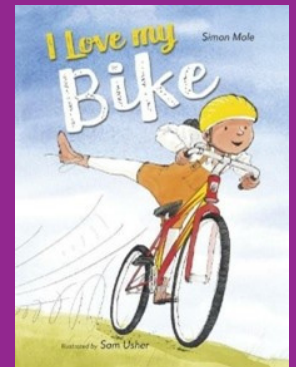
Nobody forgets the thrill of riding a bike for the first time, even if it can feel like an uphill battle to begin with. Join acclaimed children's author Simon Mole to celebrate that excitement, or start the quest towards it.

This workshop for years 1-4 begins with a performance of Simon's brand new picture book, followed by some fun (and quite silly) games to unlock children's creative powers! They will then be guided through a step by step process to write poems in groups or as a class. We promise it'll be wheely good!

Materials: Paper and pens.

I Love My Bike is illustrated by Sam Usher & published by Frances Lincoln (Quarto) 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/simonmole>



Thurs 3rd March - Kate Poels

IN-PERSON

Kate Poels, author

Finding the fun in story writing

Years 3 & 4, 09:00 & 10:15, 1 hour sessions

Years 5 & 6, 12:45 & 14:00, 1 hour sessions

Kate Poels has created a number of funny books for children with very memorable characters. Her latest is called Pie-rats! Learn how to come up with cool characters, super settings and powerful plots to bring your story to life - Interactive creative writing with prompts to get young authors going and plenty of guidance to build fantastic stories.

<http://www.katepoels.co.uk/>



Thurs 3rd March - Drop everything and read

At 12:15 (or at a time to suit you) on World Book Day, Maidenhead's Big Read encourages everyone to 'Drop everything and read.' Children, teachers, parents and work colleagues, join in wherever you are. Let's give it a go! Drop everything and pick up a book for just 5 minutes. Let's get all of Maidenhead reading at the same time!



Fri 4th March - Chitra Soundar

IN-PERSON

Chitra Soundar, author and storyteller

Reception - year 4

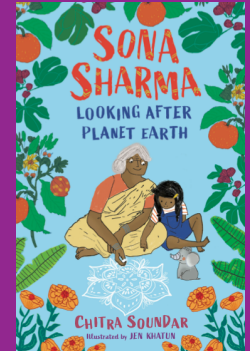
One or two schools (4 sessions if two schools, 5 sessions if one school)

Chitra joins us for some fun storytelling, brainstorming and creative writing workshops. Each session can accommodate up to 60 children. Sessions for Reception and Year 1 will last 30 minutes; sessions for Year 2 - 4 will last 45 minutes. There are four different sessions:

Reception and Year 1 will cover the Nikhil and Jay series, Year 2 will cover 'We All Celebrate!', Year 3 will cover the Sona Sharma series and Year 4 will cover the Prince Veera series.

Chitra is an internationally published, award-winning author of over 50 books for children. She is also an oral storyteller. Her stories are set in India and often in Indian families, and are inspired by her own growing up in India.

<http://www.chitrasoundar.com/>



Fri 4th March - Will Rainey

VIRTUAL

Will Rainey, author

Grandpa's Fortune Fables

Years 5, 6 & 7, 09:00, 10:15 & 11:30, 1 hour sessions

Will is the founder of Blue Tree Savings, wanting to help children as well as many parents to teach their children about money. He worked previously in corporate life, advising on how they can best look after billions of dollars. He now lives with his family in Vietnam, helping parents to learn and make sure their children look after their pocket money and any savings.

Will believes that for kids to learn about money, it needs to be fun and engaging.

This session shows the informative way to learn about money. It covers all the important topics such as Rich vs. Wealthy; Importance of Saving; Investing; Debt and much more. All using stories and tree analogies.

www.bluetreesavings.com



Mon 7th March - Coral Rumble

IN-PERSON

Coral Rumble, poet

Coral is a popular, award winning poet and performer, winning in 2018 the prestigious Caterpillar Poetry Prize, and has been featured in 'Favourite Poets' published by Hodder Children's Books. She has had three collections published, and contributed to 150+ anthologies.



Things That Should be in a Poem

KS1, 09:30 and 10:30, 45 minute sessions

Hunt poems with Coral - there are poems hiding everywhere.

The Word Fun Olympics

KS2, 12:45 and 14:00, 1 hour sessions

Limber up the muscles of the words in your head - work them hard, let them race!

Three classes per session.

<https://www.coralrumble.co.uk>



Mon 7th March - Simon Mole

IN-PERSON

Simon Mole, poet

Year 4, 5 & 6, from 09:00, 1 hour sessions

Poetry Spells with Simon Mole

Join National Poetry Day Ambassador Simon Mole for a workshop that will enchant young word wizards and more reluctant writers alike. Simon uses fun (and quite silly) games to build skills and confidence before your class are guided through a step by step process to write their very own poetry spells - the outcomes will be both heartfelt and hilarious, as the children pen magic words to bring about the change they want in the world!

Materials: paper and pens.

<https://www.youtube.com/simonmole>



Mon 7th March - A. F. Harrold

IN-PERSON

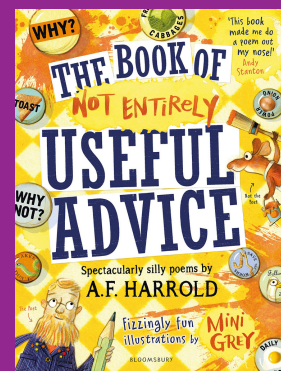
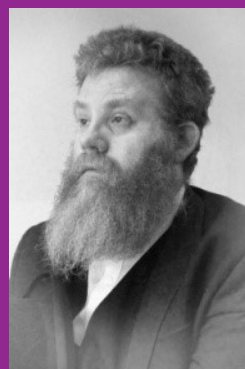
A. F. Harrold, author and poet
The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice

Years 4 & 5, 09:00 & 10:15, 1 hour sessions

Years 5 - 7, 12:45 & 14:00, 1 hour sessions

Author and poet, A.F. Harrold, will share a whole bunch of poems from his latest book, 'The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice', along with probably talking about and waving around some of his other books. He will also wave his beard about, ask and answer questions and point at children and teachers in an interactive manner. Expect a bit of chaos, a bit of anarchy and lots of glorious words and fun.

www.afharroldkids.com



Tues 8th March - Martin Brown

IN-PERSON

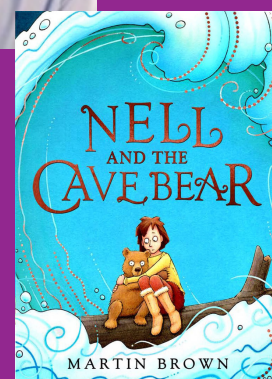
Martin Brown, author and illustrator

Years 2, 3 & 4, 09:30, 11:00, 12:45 & 13:45, 45 minute sessions

Martin Brown is best-known for illustrating the Horrible Histories series, but Nell and the Cave Bear is his first fiction story. Following the adventures of Nell and her pet bear, the book's gentle humour will tickle any reader. With its core message of friendship and bravery, it is also a charming and comforting read.

Martin will share some extracts of the story and then chat about what he does as an illustrator and how he draws - or rather, how we all draw. Then, some drawing! Martin is happy to also offer a modified 1 hour session to Years 5 & 6 pupils if there is a sufficient interest.

<http://martinbrownillustrator.co.uk/>



Tues 8th March - Nick Sharratt

VIRTUAL

Nick Sharratt, author and illustrator

09:15, 10:30, 12:45 & 14:00, 1 hour sessions

A British author and illustrator of children's books, Nick's work is split between illustrating for writers, as well as writing and illustrating his own books.

Funny Fairy Tales.

In this fun-filled interactive drawalong session, Nick will be taking inspiration from his and Stephen Tucker's humorous retellings of six classic fairy tales. With the audience's help, he'll be choosing fun things for everyone to draw from each book. Great pictures guaranteed! Each child will need a pencil or felt-tip pen, 6 sheets of paper (A4 is ideal) and something to rest on if not sitting at a table.

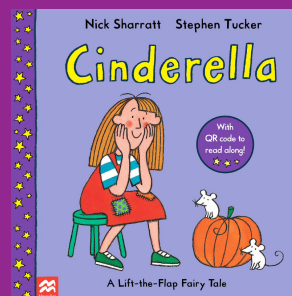
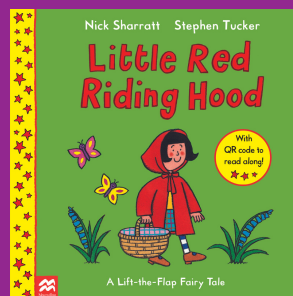
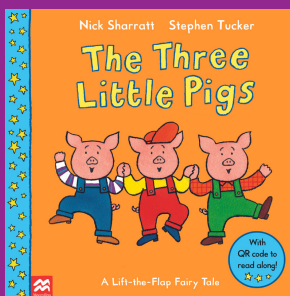
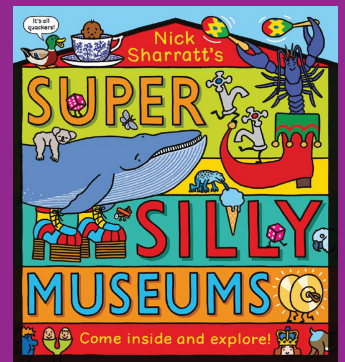
Reception, years 1 & 2

Super Silly Museums

Join Nick on a tour of seven of the silliest museums ever! There's the Blue-seum, the Shoe-seum, the Confuseum ... even the Pooseum! He'll be guiding you round the craziest collections of the oddest objects, with puns and jokes galore. There'll be fun drawing activities too, so each child will need a pencil or felt-tip pen, 6 sheets of paper (A4 is ideal) and something to rest on if not sitting at a table.

Years 2, 3 & 4

<http://www.nicksharratt.com>



Wed 9th March - Serena Patel

IN-PERSON

Serena Patel, author of the 'Anisha, Accidental Detective' series
Years 3 - 6, from 09:30, 1 hour sessions
One school

Serena will start her visit to your school with a 45 minute 'Meet the Author' session for a whole year group or even a whole KS2 assembly. She will talk about how she became an author, her inspirations and her top tips for aspiring authors, as well as how the series came about and what's coming up next. This will then be followed by three one-hour creative writing workshops, which are suitable for one class at a time (i.e. 30 children in each workshop, 90 children in total) and will include a reading and Q&A. There is a choice of workshop theme:

Silly Stories - finding humour in the everyday, and how you can draw from your own life in your creative writing.

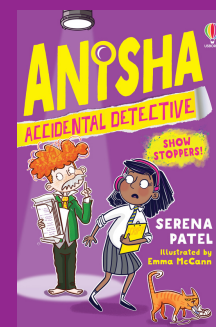
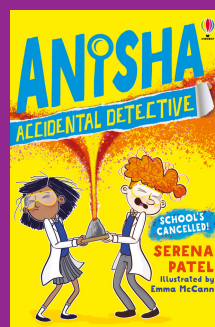
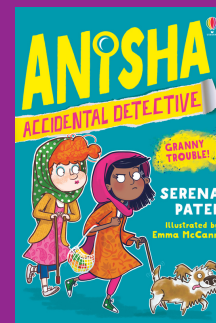
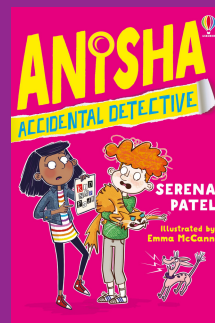
Mysterious Mysteries - discussing what makes a good mystery and the importance of red herrings, motive, settings and suspects.

Spectacular Science - talking about the National Schools Science Fair in book two, 'School's Cancelled'. What kinds of experiments would the children find interesting to see? How wild and weird an experiment could we make?

Granny Trouble - the children can choose an activity: either come up with their own secret society, designing a logo and motto for it too, or alternatively, they can design their very own granny disguise!

'Anisha, Accidental Detective' won the Sainsbury's Children's Book Award 2020. More information here:

Serena Patel - Children's author
<https://www.serenakpatel.com>



Wed 9th March - Jasbinder Bilan

VIRTUAL

Jasbinder Bilan, author of 'Asha & The Spirit Bird', 'Tamarind & the Star of Ishta' and 'Aarti & The Blue Gods'

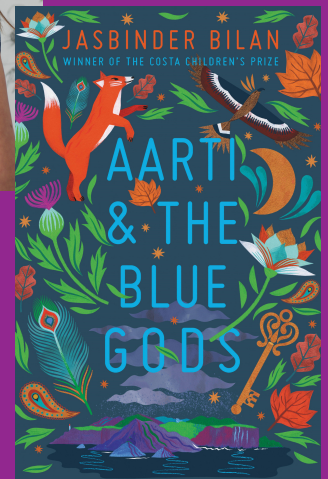
Years 4, 5 & 6, 09:30 & 11:00, 50 minute sessions.

Up to 120 children (4 classes) per session.

In these interactive and visual events, former English teacher Jasbinder will talk about the themes of family, friendship, home, magic, mythology and resilience. She will begin by talking a little bit about herself, her childhood in both India and the UK, and her journey to writing her three books. She will then talk more in depth about her latest book, 'Aarti & The Blue Gods'. Jasbinder will read a short extract from Aarti and will split the session so children have a chance to do 3 Q&A sessions. She will show her map and challenge the children to create their own story map, so children should be prepared with plain A4 paper and a pencil. She aims to leave the children with lots of writing tips, engaged in the stories and inspired to pick up a book!

'Asha & The Spirit Bird' won the Costa Children's Book Award 2019 and 'Tamarind & The Star of Ishta' won the Indie Children's Book Award 2021.

<https://www.jasbinderbilan.co.uk/>



Thurs 10th March - Maz Evans

IN-PERSON

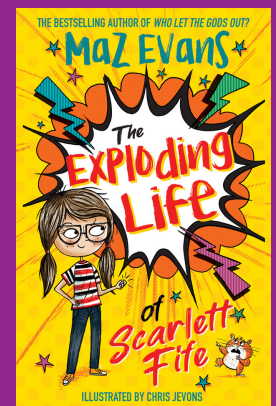
Maz Evans, author of 'Who Let the Gods Out?', 'Vi Spy' and 'Scarlett Fife' series

Years 3 - 6, from 09:30.

One school.

Come and enjoy some Mazness with bestselling author, Maz Evans, creator of the 'Who Let the Gods Out?', 'Vi Spy' and 'The Exploding Life of Scarlett Fife' series. Discover how she writes her books, how she sniffs out supervillains and what she had for breakfast (or anything else you'd like to ask her). For some fun, frantic fiction, look no further ... Maz will do one 30-minute presentation session, followed by one 45-minute Q&A session, for as many children as can be accommodated in your school hall. She will provide unlimited access for the whole school to her digital workshop suite, which can be used at any time to suit you.

<https://maz.world/>



Thurs 10th March - Sue Palmer

IN-PERSON

Could you be an Astronaut?

Years 3 & 4 or 5 & 6, 09:30 & 11:00, 1 hour sessions

Follow Michael May in his dream to become the first child astronaut and learn what it takes to live 240 miles above the earth. Could you be an astronaut?

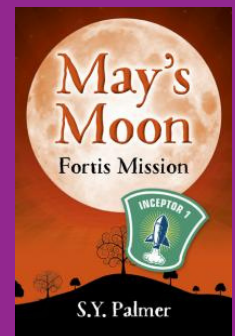
Launch your Story

Years 4, 5 & 6, 12:15 & 13:45, 1 hour sessions

Create your own story in this interactive session as we look at the building blocks of writing : creating character, setting, plot and first lines of your story. Sue will share some of the tools she uses to plan her stories. By the end of the session, the students will have the start of their story ready to go.

These interactive sessions are for classes of 30 children each.

<http://www.sypalmer.com>



Our sponsors

