

July 2018

As a strong advocate of arts-based approaches to literacy, Shrewsbury Bookfest has earned an established reputation of having a transformative impact on both reading and teaching practice through its projects for the public and for schools. We are writing to invite the best children’s authors and illustrators to be part of our **2019 Schools’ Week** programme.

Recent feedback from primary schools from across Shropshire prompted us to perform a detailed review of the impact of our existing ‘**Schools’ Week**’ project. After much research and lengthy discussions with teachers, we have re-designed Schools’ Week in order to deepen its impact and create a permanent legacy for schools and pupils.

Many schools state that a visit from a successful author/illustrator provides a valuable learning experience for their pupils but that that this experience can be further enhanced by the facilitation of an author/illustrator led, classroom-based **WORKSHOP**. For example, the workshop can 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.

Based on this research, we have developed Schools’ Week to consist of **four** elements, each with clearly defined objectives:

(This is the element, “Author/Illustrator Workshop in School” that we are asking authors/illustrators for:)



Schools' Week Timescale:

- **November 2018: The Creative Writing Conference:**

The project will begin by way of the one day conference from Shrewsbury Bookfest for teachers to be held at University Centre Shrewsbury on **Wednesday 14th November 2018**. Following on from our very successful reading conference; **'Creating a Buzz About Books'** in 2017:

"Super day, very professionally run and content bespoke. Great keynote speakers. Thank you!"
Teacher – Crowmoor Primary School, Shrewsbury – 2017

We are delighted to announce that our keynote speaker at the conference will be **Julia Eccleshare MBE**. Julia is a writer, broadcaster and lecturer as well as Children's Books Editor at *The Guardian* and Co-director of the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education. She was a publisher from 1978-84 and has been an editorial advisor to many children's publishers including Puffin Modern Classics.

Author and Patron of Shrewsbury Bookfest, **Piers Torday** will feature as a guest speaker. Piers began his career in theatre and television as a producer and writer. His first book for children, *The Last Wild*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Award and nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal. The sequel, *The Dark Wild*, won The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize 2014.

The conference will also feature workshops for teachers focusing on creative writing practice and pedagogy through a day of creative professional development.

- **March 2019: Author/Illustrator Workshops in Schools:**

The workshops for pupils in schools will take place from **11th – 15th March 2019** at primary schools across Shropshire and will be led by established and successful children's authors and illustrators.

Brief for authors/illustrators/publishers:

- We are looking for authors/illustrators to deliver **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, please could you give some thought as to those who are also focused on delivering workshops for pupils that offer a deeper learning engagement about the writing process from the 'horse's mouth'.
- There will be a maximum of **3 workshops per day** per author/illustrator (up to 3 days' worth if demand requires) during the Schools' Week of **11th – 15th March 2019**.
- Authors/illustrators to feature on a **short 3 minute video** that will be uploaded to the Bookfest website post-workshop as a permanent learning resource for teachers and schools to refer back to. This video will be shot by our own professional film maker during the authors'/illustrators' stay in Shrewsbury. Suggested topics to cover during the video would be: planning ideas, how to develop suspense, editing techniques, character creation, setting etc.

- Bookfest will look after all the **logistical arrangements** of school bookings, briefing of schools, transport of author/illustrator to and from schools and accommodation.
 - Shrewsbury Bookfest will support the agreed author/illustrator **fee**, their **travel costs** (up to £65) and **accommodation costs** for the duration of their stay with us.
 - Every school taking part in the Schools' Week project will be given **1 or 2 group reading sets** of up to 2 of the author's/illustrator's books as recommended by the publisher/author/illustrator. (The cost for this will be covered by a combination of funding raised by Shrewsbury Bookfest and fees to schools to take part in the project.)
 - Schools will be given full information on the visiting author/illustrator ahead of the workshop and any further **book sales** will be arranged by the schools as required and in a way that suits their families best.
- **March to April 2019: The Creative Writing Competition:**
Following on from the in-school workshops in March, pupils will be encouraged to enter a creative writing competition hosted by Shrewsbury Bookfest. Blank 'books' will be provided for all pupils in which they are to create their own story. Prizes will be awarded to pupils from each participating school at the end of April 2019. These winning stories will be 'published' as audio books on the Shrewsbury Bookfest website and will be available to all schools as a teaching resource.

What to do now?

We are looking for submissions from publishers, authors and illustrators who would like to be involved in the in-school author visits in March. Please send the following information through to Joanna Hughes by **Friday 17th August 2018**:

- Full author/illustrator bio and supporting images.
- Full day and half day fee for author/illustrator in question. Please advise whether VAT is applicable. A maximum of 3 workshops of 1 hour duration plus 10 minute Q&A per day will be scheduled for the author/illustrator for the duration of their stay with us.
- Full details of the workshop content, its aims and objectives.
- Suggested 2 books to feature on the group reading set(s) to support workshop.
- Which age group the author/illustrator works with – Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2.
- Availability for 2 (or 3 if possible) consecutive days during Schools' Week 11th – 15th March 2019.

Background Notes:

Shrewsbury Bookfest was created in 1999 has always been an independent, not-for-profit organisation, run primarily by a small group of volunteers. In 2007 we obtained charitable status. In 2009 we won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the equivalent of an MBE and the highest award that can be given to a voluntary organisation.

Through a series of regular projects with schools and families, Shrewsbury Bookfest's aim is to bring the world of books alive for children in Shropshire; to inspire, entertain and enthuse them with a life-long love of reading.

Our work has caught the eye of renowned national bodies such as The Guardian newspaper who have featured Shrewsbury Bookfest at their conferences and invited us to speak and to share the success and impact of our reading development projects with delegates from the education sector.

Through a series of annual projects with both schools and families, Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest is the only organisation of its kind working with primary school age children in Shropshire and has four strands of on-going projects:

- 1. Book Award:** *Our child-led reading development project delivered into Shropshire primary schools. The first Book Award project in 2010 for 9-11-year-olds was an overwhelming success. And, in response to a growing demand from schools, we have run it biennially ever since. Book Award 2018 reached over 2,000 pupils across Shropshire.*
- 2. Schools' Week:** *A revamped and wide reaching project with a long-lasting legacy. Schools' Week 2019 will see the project focusing on empowering teachers to see themselves as creative writers and to provide a platform for pupils' creative output.*
- 3. Bookfest Remembers:** *Each November since 2014 Shrewsbury Bookfest has presented events, especially for children, young people and their families, commemorating the centenary of the First World War.*
- 4. The May Festival:** *Our annual children's literary festival in Shrewsbury. Since its inception in 1999, it has become a hugely respected and popular event in the county.*