

Arranging author/ illustrator school visits



Research by the National Literacy Trust* shows that children who experience an author visit to their school enjoy reading and writing more both in their free time and in person. Here are some tips on arranging author/illustrator visits...

Author/illustrator visits can be an incredible experience for children and young people but may not be a priority when budgets are stretched. Authors/illustrators are self-employed, you are paying for their skills and experience. The Society of Authors suggests the average fee is £400 - £500 per day.

Careful consideration of the type of author/illustrator and type of visit should be made before approaching authors or illustrators.

Remember that authors and illustrators are likely to be booked up well in advance of World Book Day and Children's Book Week.

Join forces with another local school to host an author visit, this splits the cost and makes it time effective for the author.

Register to be a host school for an author tour which is funded by the publisher to promote a new book or upcoming author:
authorsalouduk.co.uk/tours

Scholastic School Live:
shop.scholastic.co.uk/scholastic-schools-live

BookTrust have termly, free virtual author talks for schools with the highest percentage of Pupil Premium pupils:
booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/booktrust-represents/support-for-schools

Contact your local bookshop – they may have recommendations of local authors/illustrators in your area. Some may be able to arrange the visit as part of the author's promotional tour.

Find an author/illustrator to become 'Patron of Reading' for your school to help encourage a culture of reading for pleasure across your school community. Discussion of fees should take place before any commitment is made by either the author or the school.

Read for Good often offer free, virtual author events to schools who take part in Readathon or who are part of the different Reading Communities projects.
readforgood.org/events-archive

Where to find authors and illustrators:

literacytrust.org.uk

sevenstories.org.uk

literaturewales.org

scottishbooktrust.com

Literature Wales and Scottish Book Trust have funding available.

* literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/author-visits-in-schools-in-2023/



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