



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love



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Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells

30th September 2025

Author visit 4th November and Stroud Book Festival 5th and 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

After the success of the last few years and the enjoyment that the children got from the sessions, I am excited to tell you that we have again booked virtual sessions at the Stroud Book Festival on 5th, 6th and 7th November 2025. These sessions are **incredibly beneficial** for the children and really encourage that love of books and reading, which we all know, is so crucial for all. Children from Reception to Year 6 are going to be watching a variety of digital workshops. Here is a little bit of information about the exciting sessions...

Reception and Year 1 are watching...

THE LION INSIDE

With **RACHEL BRIGHT**

Friday 7th November - 1.30 – 2.30pm (Years 1-3)

For our final event we welcome author illustrator Rachel Bright for a jam-packed session to celebrate the exciting tenth birthday of "The Lion Inside". Illustrated by Jim Field, it's Rachel's bestselling story about confidence, self-esteem, and a shy little mouse who sets out on a journey to find his roar.

You can look forward to a live 'how to draw' and some celebratory readings. Rachel will also be introducing her brand new book with Jim, "The Turtle who Turned the Tide", a heartwarming tale of adventure, bravery and one baby turtle who changes her world for good.



Year 2 are watching...

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON SCHOOL - SOLD OUT

With **CRESSIDA COWELL**

Wednesday 5th November - 11.30 – 12.30pm (Years 2-6)

We're breathing fire with delight to announce that the one and only Cressida Cowell is returning to Stroud Book Festival. She'll be presenting "How to Train Your Dragon School", her first (hilarious) novel in the Dragon world for 10 years, in which Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third and his dragons, Toothless and Windwalker have hilarious, hair-raising adventures at the Isle of Berk's Training School for Vikings and Dragons.

It's an exciting year for Dragon, with a new live action film out in June. Cressida will talk about her inspirations and share writing and drawing tips. Her events are always energetic, inspiring and unmissable!



SOLD OUT

Year 3 and Year 6 are watching...

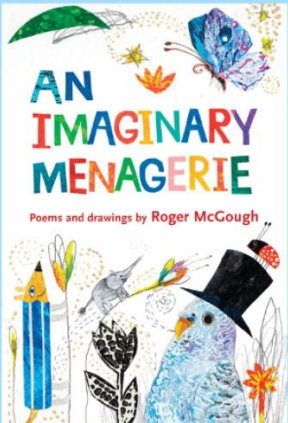
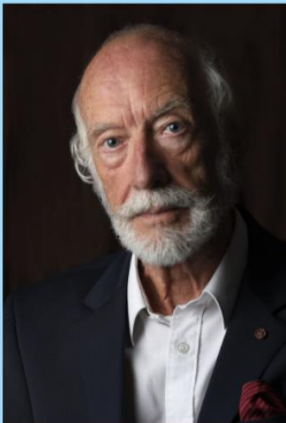


AN IMAGINARY MENAGERIE

With **ROGER MCGOUGH**

Thursday 6th November - 1.30 – 2.30pm (Years 3-6)

We are so excited to announce that the legendary Roger McGough, one of Britain's most famous ever poets ever is coming to Stroud Book Festival! Born in Liverpool, Roger is the author of over 50 bestselling books for both children and adults.

He'll be sharing poems from "An Imaginary Menagerie", his classic collection of animal verse, illustrated by Roger himself. From the Allivator to the Zonk, it contains witty and wonderful poems about animals real and imaginary. And he'll also throw in some equally witty poems from his book "Over to You!" which takes you to places far and wide, and back again ...just in time to finish the poem you first started.



Year 4 are watching...

THE GAME I WILL NEVER FORGET

With **ONJALI Q RAÚF**

Thursday 6th November - 11.30-12.30pm (Years 4-6)

We loved having Onjali Q Raúf, author of "The Boy at the Back of the Class" with us when she last came to Stroud Book Festival. So we're super-excited to welcome her back to talk about her new book, *The Game I Will Never Forget* which delves into board games, chess, and the unique, lifetime bond between grandchildren and their grandparents.

Bringing together her own experiences of love, loss and dementia, and celebrating the often-overlooked universe of women chess champions, Onjali travels through the games of our childhoods, and a celebration of memories created. Even when the one who helped create them, must leave us forever...*

* Please note: this event highlights loss of a grandparent and dementia. *



Year 5 are watching...

LOKI: A BAD GOD'S GUIDE TO CAUSING CHAOS

With **LOUIE STOWELL**

Wednesday 5th November - 1.30 – 2.30pm (Years 4-6)

Calling all mischief makers! Amazing author and Norse myth super fan Louie Stowell is coming to Stroud to tell us all about her bestselling Loki series, including her latest book, "Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Causing Chaos".

In an event packed full of humour, doodles and games you'll also discover fun facts about Norse mythology, help Louie imagine new characters, create your own Norse giants, and maybe even get involved in a Norse tale or two yourself.



In addition, another exciting opportunity this week will be that we are having a local author visiting us – Sian Hughes is coming in to work with the school on storytelling and her journey to becoming an author. It promises to be a very special week full of exciting authors online and in person!



I am excited to say that nearer the time The Yellow Lighted bookshop will be offering books for sale linked to these sessions – I will send a letter out in due course. The digital sessions will be taking place on Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th November 2025.

To help us provide these exciting book-related opportunities for the children, we are asking for a **voluntary donation of £4 per child**. Please note that **if we do not receive sufficient donations, we will unfortunately be unable to go ahead with the events**.

To secure your child's/children's place, we kindly ask that **both consent and the donation be made via ParentPay by Friday, 17th October 2025**. . If you are in a position to pay a little extra we would be very grateful; please do so via the Pay It Forward – Voluntary payment item on Parentpay.

We cannot wait to once again be part of this brilliant local event and have an author in too!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Knight (Writing and Reading lead)

G:Winword/PARENTS/Sept 25/Stroud Book Festival