

Teachers' newsletter Winter 2011

BRINGING STORYTELLING SCHOOLS TO LIFE

Innovative training and support for teachers

A series of three-day courses are being held for teachers who want to learn how to put storytelling at the heart of children's learning.

The first, Bronze level series starts on November 21 2011, with two further days in 2012, on February 22 and June 13. Teachers will learn to teach children to tell stories, develop their own story ideas and link these to writing.

The course is run by Chris Smith and Adam Guillain at the home of the future Story Museum in Oxford. Silver and gold courses will also be available, as well as training for teachers' assistants.

Storytelling Schools in Oxfordshire

are also invited to join a local support network, which meets six times a year in schools to exchange ideas and discuss best practice,

facilitated by The Story Museum.

Contact sarah@storymuseum.org.uk for details or download information sheets from our website.



Watch this space

We are not officially open until 2014 but we are already starting to host events and activities in our temporary spaces.

Family printing workshops: the Bodleian Library is housing its historic printing presses with us for the next two years and is running a two-hour workshop on Saturday December 3, 2-4 pm for adults and children 8 years+. Cost £8 pp. Booking and info: office@storymuseum.org.uk. Pictured left is tutor Paul Nash.

Christmas Light Night: St Ebbes School choir and Oxford Harmony join storyteller Katy Cawkwell in our courtyard for songs and festive tales around the Christmas tree. Free. 6 - 7.30pm, Friday December 2.

For more information on all events, courses and activities visit our website. Or follow us on Twitter (@thestorymuseum) and Facebook.

Storytelling training between covers

Everything you need to know about learning through story: our comprehensive guide for teachers, *The Storytelling Schools Handbook*, will be published next spring. Cost £30 tbc. More info: office@storymuseum.org.uk

Storytelling in the bag

Building stories round unusual objects was the focus of a storytelling masterclass for more than 30 parents and children organised by NAPE, the National Association for Primary Education, at St. Andrews School, Oxford, with Adam Guillain, below.

Adam also held a storytelling INSET in September for 65 teachers across 12 Oxfordshire schools. Lesley Williams, chairman of NAPE, said: "It was a very full, happy hall - the response was overwhelmingly positive".



Providing feedback and support for storytelling schools

We're delighted to welcome two experienced educators, both enthusiastic advocates of the Storytelling Schools approach, who are working with us to research how to embed learning through story into schools.

Nanette Stormont is providing training and support for teachers in six Oxfordshire schools and working with us to develop resources. Nanette, who is story coordinator at Pegasus Primary School, says that storytelling and talk for writing have had a massive impact on the language

skills and writing of children in the school over the past three years.

Deborah Cooper is visiting storytelling schools to talk informally to

teachers and head teachers about the programme and gather together information on successes, and challenges. We want to evaluate the impact of the storytelling schools model and use this feedback to promote and develop best practice.

Deborah has been a teacher, trainer and researcher for many years - including lecturing in education at the Open University - and is working with us during a creative sabbatical on storytelling and writing.



Nanette Stormont



Deborah Cooper

A Rosen by any other name

We're delighted to have our first storycatcher in residence. Michael Rosen, Professor of Children's Literature, former Children's Laureate and Story Museum patron, is installed in his writer's garret and helping us draw together the Museum's content. He'll also be holding workshops and sessions for schools and families during the coming year.



Now all we need are 20 mattresses...

Curiouser and curiouser... A new window display has mysteriously appeared at the home of the future Story Museum, in Pembroke Street, Oxford. Our latest acquisition is a very important small green vegetable, found in the late Queen Mother's third best handbag and vital for the selection of Royal Brides-to-be.

Awardwinning author and illustrator Mini Grey, who helped bring the VIPEa to Rochester House, shows off her discovery.



Online resources

Did you know that The Story Museum website has a searchable database of short, two-minute audio stories which children and families can listen to, and then retell, with the help of simple texts or pictures to prompt them. Check them out at *1001 stories* - that's the number of stories we eventually hope to have on the site.

We also have an online information bank, which lists a wide range of resources that engage children with reading and stories. Search *Organisations and Projects Directory* at www.storymuseum.org.uk

New funding helps us reach more schools

More than 250 students from Oxford Academy and Cheney Schools will be visiting The Story Museum to enjoy top quality storytelling and to contribute their own ideas for the Story Museum. The project - to involve secondary school children who would not normally go to a museum or art gallery - has won support from the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts.

London schools outreach

Teachers in Tower Hamlets and Lambeth are learning more about Storytelling Schools, thanks to funding from SHINE. A series of seminars, run by The Story

Museum's Chris Smith is demonstrating the whole school approach to storytelling. We hope to extend our programme to help train more teachers in London.

We're happy - it's official!

The Story Museum is officially a Happy Museum in the making! We're one of six museums to receive an award from The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, recognising our aim to embed well-being and sustainability in the design and content of our future museum.

