

**BordersBook
Festival** where words
come alive!

**Free
Books**

Baillie Gifford™

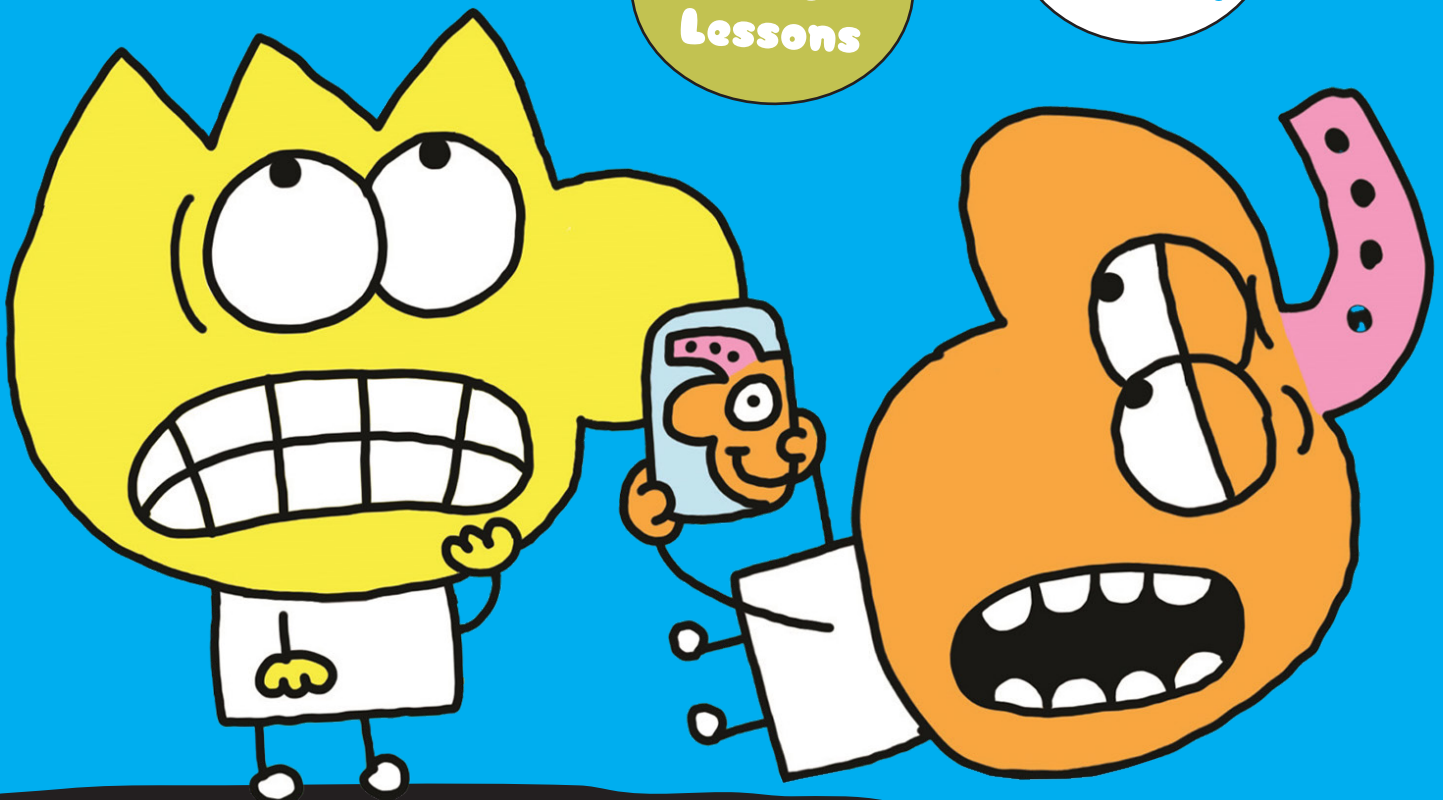
Schools

Programme

In-Person

**Online
Live
Lessons**

**Help
with
Travel**



Wed 24 September 2025
Jedburgh Grammar Campus

WWW.BORDERSBOOKFESTIVAL.ORG



Welcome to our exciting 2025 Schools Programme!

Wednesday 24 September 2025
JEDBURGH GRAMMAR CAMPUS, JEDBURGH
IN-PERSON & ONLINE LIVE LESSONS

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Join us for an exciting and memorable day packed with spectacular events for curious and creative young minds. We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to all at Jedburgh Grammar Campus for hosting this year's extravaganza - it's an amazing space and we can't wait to see you there!

All events are in-person and a selection of the authors attending will also be participating in free online live lessons via our partners at Inspire Learning Academy.

- Events are suitable for pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 to enjoy.
- All pupils attending in person will receive a FREE book related to the event, which they can get signed by the author after the session.
- All events are 45 minutes in duration.
- All tickets for in-person attendance are still only £2 per pupil, per event, with entry for accompanying adults free of charge.

THANK YOU TO BAILLIE GIFFORD

The Baillie Gifford Schools Programme enables pupils to experience the joy of reading and to interact with some of today's most entertaining and engaging writers for children. With Baillie Gifford's support, every pupil attending in person will also receive a free book, and groups in need of assistance to travel to Schools Day are able to access our special transport grant.

Founded in 1908, Baillie Gifford & Co is an Edinburgh-based independent investment management firm which employs more than 1,700 people. The firm plays an active role in the community and supports projects in education, social inclusion, and the arts.

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD BIG BOOK GIVEAWAY

Free books

Every pupil attending the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme in person will automatically receive a free copy of a book relating to the event they come and see. Children will also have the opportunity to meet the author and get their book signed after each event – plan this into your visit to get the full Schools Day experience!

NEED HELP WITH TRAVEL COSTS?

This year, Jedburgh Grammar Campus is hosting for all Cheviot, Jedburgh and Hawick primary schools. Transport for these locality schools will be provided centrally with details to follow as soon as possible.

If your school is located from outside the above locality group and needs assistance to get to Jedburgh, we may be able to help you out with a travel grant of up to 75%. All travel support is on a first come, first served basis, and more information can be found on page 14.

Baillie Gifford Schools Programme

At a Glance

Wednesday 24 September 2025
JEDBURGH GRAMMAR CAMPUS
IN-PERSON & ONLINE LIVE LESSONS

Start Time	End Time	Event/Activity	Year Group
10.00am	10.45am	Robots and Oranges with Alan Windram	Nursery - P2
10.00am	10.45am	Children of the Throne with Joseph Coelho	P2 - P4
10.00am	10.45am	Simon Chapman: Rivers, An Incredible Journey from Source to Sea	P5 - P7
11.30am	12.15pm	Five and the Forgotten Treasure with Chris Smith	P4 - P7
11.30am	12.15pm	Playful Poetry with Michaela Morgan	P1 - P3
11.30am	12.15pm	Yussef Rafik: Don't Squish a Slug!	P3 - P5
1.00pm	1.45pm	Jim Smith: Genius Kid Goes Viral	P3 - P6
1.00pm	1.45pm	Journey to Happy Hills with Sophy Henn	P1 - P3
1.00pm	1.45pm	Blast to the Past with Maisie Chan	P5 - P7

MAIN SPONSOR

Baillie Gifford™

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



Robots and Oranges with Alan Windram

10.00am – 10.45am | Nursery – P2 | £2 per pupil

IN-PERSON



EVENT DETAILS

What do you get when you put oranges and robots together? A fabulously juicy, effervescent event full of sing-along songs, stories, robot dancing and some flying fluffy oranges, of course! Come along and join award-winning author Alan Windram in this highly interactive, fun-filled children's picture book event with his latest *One Button Benny* picture book, *One Button Benny and the Dinosaur Dilemma* AND his brand new book *Kevin The Orange*. Come along and join in the fun.

BIOGRAPHY

Alan Windram is an award-winning author of the hugely popular *One Button Benny* series of picture books. Over the last year Alan has toured around schools, libraries and major book festivals with his Bookbug Picture Book Prize winning robot picture book and the recent sequel *One Button Benny and the Gigantic Catastrophe*. An accomplished singer-songwriter with four independent albums of original songs under his belt, Alan has toured extensively with some of Scotland's top musical artists and is also the co-founder of award-winning children's publisher Little Door Books. He lives in Argyll and Bute with his wife and two cats, Sparkie and George.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

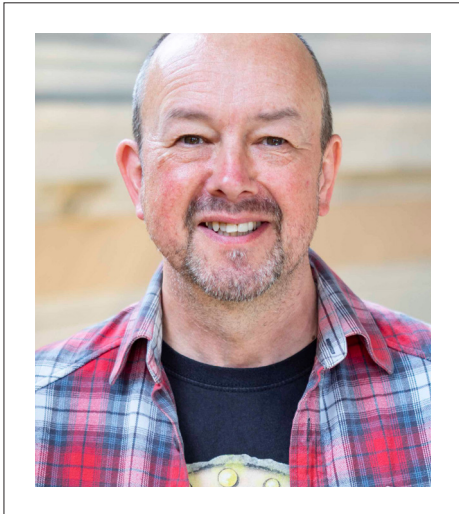
WEBSITES: www.alanwindram.weebly.com / www.littledoorbooks.co.uk

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/akwindram

X (TWITTER): www.x.com/akwindram

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Check out free videos, activity and colouring in sheets as well as some downloadable songs to sing along to - all on the Little Door Books website www.littledoorbooks.co.uk



Children of the Throne with Joseph Coelho

10.00am – 10.45am | P2 – P4 | £2 per child

IN-PERSON



EVENT DETAILS

Join the award-winning Joseph Coelho for an interactive event featuring his newest picture book *Children of the Throne* - a beautiful story about climate change, with a fantastical twist. After a reading, you will dance rain dances, making up your own rain-song poem as an audience to go alongside your dance!

BIOGRAPHY

Joseph Coelho is the Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022-2024. In 2019 he won the Independent Bookshop Week Picture Book Award for *If All the World Were...* which has been translated into over 10 languages. He has been long-listed for The Carnegie Children's Award with his poetry collection *Overheard in a Tower Block* which was also shortlisted for the CLPE CLiPPA Poetry Award and long-listed for the UKLA Book Awards. He won the 2015 CLPE CLiPPA Poetry Award with his debut poetry collection *Werewolf Club Rules*. His debut picture book, *Luna Loves Library Day* was voted one of the nation's favourite picture books by a survey led by World Book Day. His other poetry books include *How to Write Poems* and *A Year of Nature Poems*.

Joseph has been a guest poet on Cbeebies Rhyme Rocket, Radio 4's Poetry Playtime and Front Row. He is the presenter of BBC's Teach Poetry (Oct 2018) and features in DiscoveryEDUK's Poetry Curriculum.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE: www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com

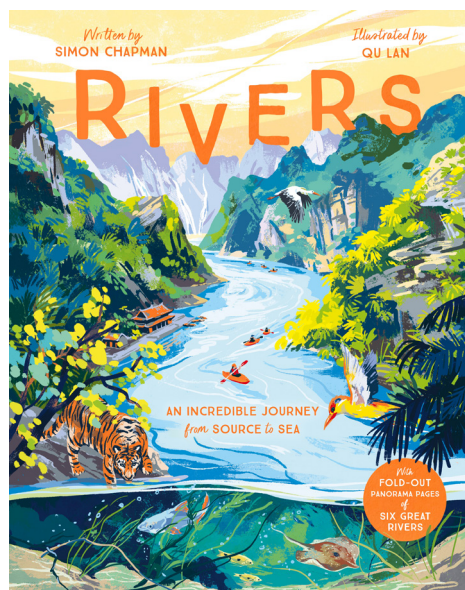
INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/josephcoelhoauthor



Simon Chapman: Rivers, An Incredible Journey from Source to Sea

10.00am – 10.45am | P5 – P7 | £2 per child

IN-PERSON



EVENT DETAILS

Join explorer and author Simon Chapman for a thrilling journey down the world's greatest rivers! From kayaking raging rapids to canoeing crocodile-infested creeks, Simon's action-packed talk includes stunning visuals, real expedition gear and interactive demos. Discover how rivers shape our planet and meet the wildlife and people who live along their banks. Expect piranhas, mud, jungle kit and plenty of splash in this unforgettable source-to-sea adventure.

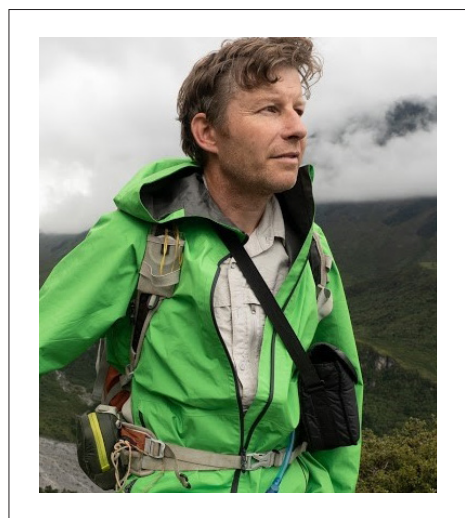
BIOGRAPHY

Self-confessed adventurer Simon Chapman has written 25 children's books, including the BBC Wildlife award-winning *Expedition Diaries* series. When not exploring, Simon heads a Science Faculty in a high school in Lancashire and his pupils' questions often lead onto book ideas. His ten *Explorers Wanted* books for Egmont, which he also illustrated, show young readers how to explore wildernesses all over the world. One of these, *At the North Pole*, was Blue Peter 'Best book with facts' in 2005.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE: www.simonsjungle.co.uk

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/simonsjungle



Five and the Forgotten Treasure with Chris Smith

11.30am – 12.15pm | P4 – P7 | £2 per child

IN-PERSON

ONLINE LIVE LESSON



EVENT DETAILS

Join the adventure! Chris will be talking about outdoor adventures, hidden treasure solving, secret passages and everything else Famous Five. Inspired by Enid Blyton's classic series, *Five and the Forgotten Treasure* sees Fran, Tom, Maddy and Gilbert the dog following up an old Famous Five case with the now grown-up Professor George Kirrin! This brand new story weaves the action, adventure and danger of Blyton's thrilling world into a story perfect for every generation of readers.

BIOGRAPHY

Chris Smith is a best-selling author and the joint recipient of the 2024 Ruth Rendell award for his work promoting literacy and campaigning for school libraries. Chris created the *Kid Normal* series with his friend Greg James and recently the pair published *The Twits Next Door* which became an instant bestseller. Chris lives in London with his wife Jenny, their son Lucas and Mabel the cat.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE: www.chrissmithauthor.co.uk

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/chrissmithstagram

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

See the downloadable [schools resource](#) for teachers to use in class.

ONLINE LIVE LESSON

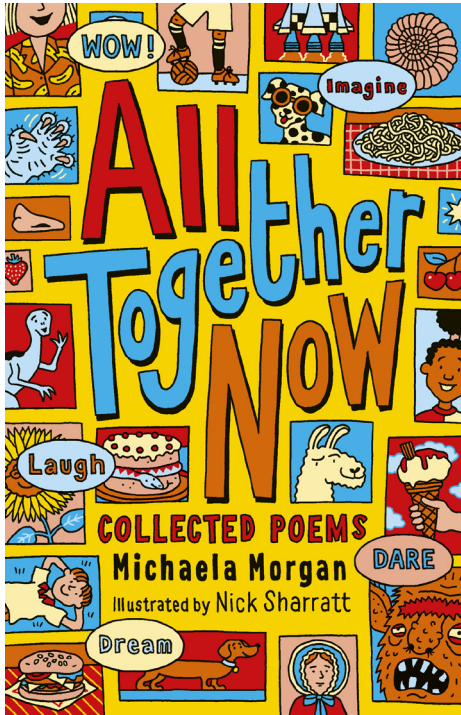
If your class is unable to attend this event in person, you can still take part as Chris Smith will be joining us for an online live lesson on Wednesday 24 September. More details on how to participate will be provided by our partners at Inspire Learning Academy.



Playful Poetry with Michaela Morgan

11.30am – 12.15pm | P1 – P3 | £2 per child

IN-PERSON



EVENT DETAILS

Join one of the UK's leading poets Michaela Morgan as she shares poems from her latest collection *All Together Now*, illustrated by Nick Sharratt.

There will be poems to listen to and poems to join in with.

There will be poems to make you think and poems to make you smile - and even some poems to make you shout **Whooo Hooo!**

There will be hints and tips for writing your own poems too!

BIOGRAPHY

Michaela Morgan is a children's author and poet who lives in Edinburgh and Rutland. She has written more than 250 titles ranging from picture books to junior novels and poetry. She has won or been shortlisted for many awards and is a National Poetry Day Ambassador. Michaela believes reading changes lives, and her aim is to capture and captivate readers - leaving them inspired, enabled - and smiling.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE: www.michaelamorgan.com



Yussef Rafik: Don't Squish a Slug!

11.30am – 12.15pm | P3 – P5 | £2 per pupil

IN-PERSON

ONLINE LIVE SESSION



EVENT DETAILS

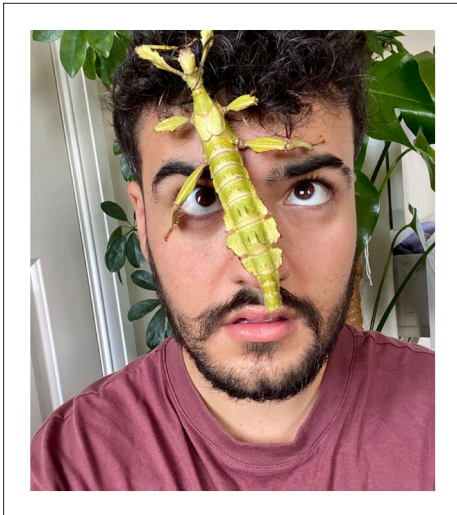
Join Yussef Rafik for an interactive minibeast show as he takes you through the superpowers of all the bugs featured in his brand new children's book *Don't Squish A Slug*. Yussef will teach kids about the different noises bugs can make, getting the kids to do their best buzzy bee impression. They'll learn all about the mighty strength that some creepy-crawlies have, and even how some bugs can light up their bottoms! Yussef will then test your knowledge of bugs in a mini quiz before getting the chance to meet some of his own minibeasts! Are you brave enough to hold a giant hissing cockroach?

BIOGRAPHY

Yussef Rafik is a zoologist and wildlife TV presenter. A self-confessed nature nerd, he loves nothing more than to get outside and immerse himself in the natural world. Yussef is one of the main presenters on BBC Earth Kids where he hosts a show called Bugface.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/yussef.rafik



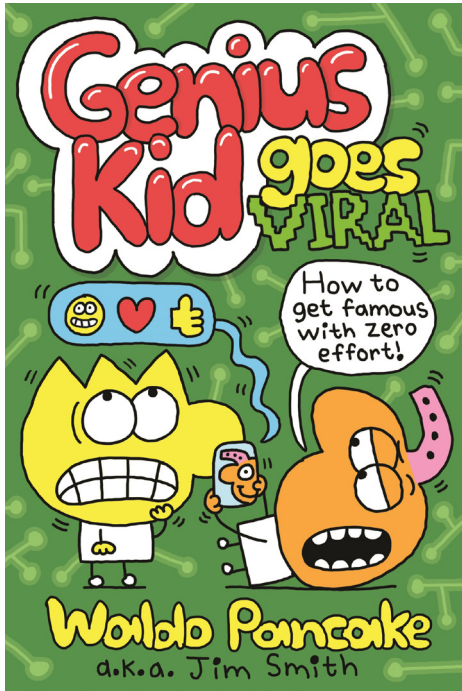
ONLINE LIVE LESSON

If your class is unable to attend this event in person, you can still take part as Yussef Rafik will be joining us for an online live lesson on Wednesday 24 September. More details on how to participate will be provided by our partners at Inspire Learning Academy.

Jim Smith: Genius Kid Goes Viral

1.00pm – 1.45pm | P3 – P6 | £2 per pupil

IN-PERSON



EVENT DETAILS

Get super smart with zero effort thanks to Waldo Pancake, aka Jim Smith, the author behind the brilliant graphic novel series that makes science easy!

This lively, laugh-out-loud event will be packed with top cartooning tips, brain-boosting facts and a fun draw-along!

Please ensure that pupils bring along clipboards, some paper and pencils to participate in this event.

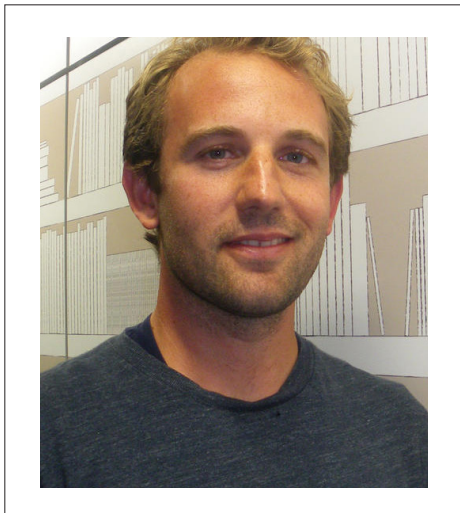
BIOGRAPHY

After graduating with a first-class degree in advertising, graphic design and illustration in 1997, Jim Smith was spotted by the owner of a small coffee shop chain and brought in to fill the walls of their flagship store with his paintings. It was a three-month contract. Now, over twenty years later, Jim is head of design at Puccino's Worldwide Ltd, now an international coffee shop franchise with stores across the world. He has won the Roald Dahl Funny Prize and Lollies Laugh Out Loud Book Awards and is shortlisted for the Lollies Illustrator of the Year Award.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE: www.jimsmithbooks.com

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/jimsmithstuff

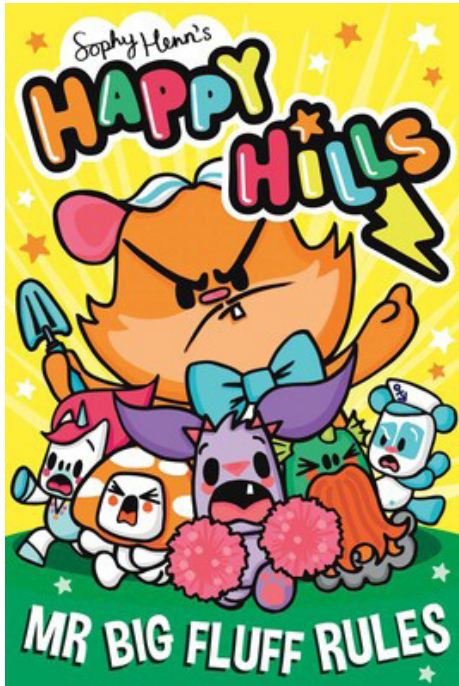


Journey to Happy Hills with Sophy Henn

1.00pm – 1.45pm | P1 – P3 | £2 per child

IN-PERSON

ONLINE LIVE LESSON



EVENT DETAILS

Visit the world of Happy Hills and create your very own brand new comic book resident. Enjoy draw-alongs with award-winning author and illustrator Sophy Henn, as she explains how she creates her characters and then she will help you create your own - ready for its very own comic strip!

BIOGRAPHY

Sophy Henn is an award-winning picture book author and illustrator with a master's in illustration from the University of Brighton. She is the creator of the much-loved Bad Nana series, the Pom Pom series, the Ted board book series, and the non-fiction titles *Lifesize* and *Lifesize Dinosaurs*, among others. Her debut picture book, *Where Bear?*, was nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal and shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Sophy was the World Book Day Illustrator in 2015 and 2016.

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/sophyhenn



ONLINE LIVE LESSON

If your class is unable to attend this event in person, you can still take part as Sophy Henn will be joining us for an online live lesson on Wednesday 24 September. More details on how to participate will be provided by our partners at Inspire Learning Academy.

Blast to the Past with Maisie Chan

1.00pm – 1.45pm | P5 – P7 | £2 per pupil

IN-PERSON



EVENT DETAILS

What do you get when you combine flying roast chickens, Chinese New Year, and...karaoke? Maisie Chan's newest book, *Nate Yu's Blast from the Past*, that's what! When Nate gets hold of an artefact from the First World War, it sparks a friendship he doesn't see coming – because his new friend is a ghost. Come and hear Maisie chat about this period of history and the real-life inspiration behind her writing, followed by an audience Q&A.

BIOGRAPHY

Maisie Chan is a British-born Chinese author. Her debut novel *Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths* won the Branford Boase Award and the Jhalak Book Prize and was also shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards and the Diverse Book Awards. Maisie also writes the young fiction series *Tiger Warrior* and is one of the authors in the best-selling *The Very Merry Murder Club* anthology. She runs the Bubble Tea Writers Network that supports and encourages writers of East and Southeast Asian heritage in the UK. Originally from Birmingham, Maisie now lives with her family in Glasgow. *Nate Yu's Blast from the Past* is Maisie's latest novel (published by Piccadilly Press).

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/maisiechanwrites

X (TWITTER): www.x.com/MaisieWrites



Additional Information

SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORT

There are two ways to receive support for reaching this year's Schools Day

1. Jedburgh Grammar Campus is hosting for all Cheviot, Jedburgh and Hawick primary schools. Transport for these locality schools will be provided centrally with details to follow as soon as possible.
2. However, if your school is located from outside the above locality group and needs financial assistance to get to Jedburgh, you can apply to have up to 75% of your bus hire costs reimbursed. Please contact us at info@bordersbookfestival.org with details of an estimate of the cost. Funding is allocated based on economic need and geographical distance. You will be notified soon after submitting your estimate if your transport grant application has been successful and how much of a subsidy you will receive. You will then book and pay for any necessary transport. Reimbursement of your transport fund allocation will be made after the Schools Day has taken place.



VENUE LOCATION DETAILS

Jedburgh Grammar Campus
Priors Road
Jedburgh TD8 6HH

Drop-off and pick-up information will be provided at the time of booking for events.

BRINGING PUPILS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If your pupils have special needs, you may need more information about author events and what a visit to the Schools Day would involve. We would be delighted to talk in more detail with you if you have any queries.

Please call 07909 333012, or email info@bordersbookfestival.org

EATING PACKED LUNCHES AND SNACKS

School parties are welcome to bring along snacks and packed lunches, to eat at venues between any events they are attending.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Free copies of books relating to the events will be given to all children attending in person. Authors will be signing copies of their books after their events – please factor this into your plans when booking to attend the Schools Day.

Keep in touch with the Borders Book Festival ONLINE



WEBSITE

www.bordersbookfestival.org



FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/bordersbookfestival



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x.com/BordersBookFest



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