

Juliet Clare Bell

Background:

I am the author of picture books *Don't Panic Annika!* and *The Kite Princess* and early reader *Pirate Picnic*. Currently writing a non-fiction picture book on the Cadbury chocolate factory in Birmingham. I've got a grant to engage children with reading for pleasure. Although I usually work in primary schools, I've also worked with vulnerable teens (through a PRU) who do not attend school, making books together.

Summary of Sessions:

I typically do 2 assemblies (30-45 minutes) and four 45-minute sessions with individual classes. The assemblies (usually KS1 and KS2 separately) are highly interactive. We create a story together (where the children are in charge of me, their story character), I ask questions and tell embarrassing stories from my past to make points about writing; we blow bubbles (to discuss story ideas)... For KS2, the emphasis is on *why writing is brilliant*. Individual class sessions include various word games. I also use lots of prompts to show the progress of a story. My aim is to get children fired up about reading and writing. After the visit, I can also make books of the children's work where I write a foreword about our day together and their writing, and make it available for parents to buy (usually between £2.80 and £5 per copy, depending on the size of the book/school).

Key Stages catered for: KS1, KS2, KS3

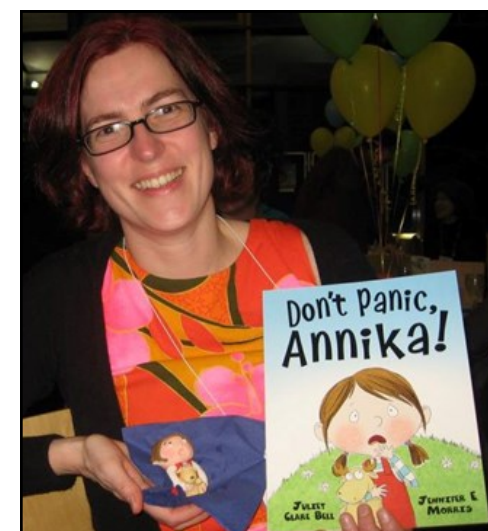
Daily Rate: £300 per day for Warwickshire (discounted rate).

Duration: Whole School day

Travel Expenses: Reimbursement of bus and train fares from Birmingham

Website Link: www.julietclarebell.com and www.picturebookden.blogspot.co.uk for my group picture book blog

Contact Details: Email: j_clarebell@yahoo.co.uk Phone: 07585233715



Jason Beresford

Background:

Jason Beresford is a children's author and qualified primary school teacher who has written three hilarious books about a gang of kids who become superheroes. Jason's debut novel, *The Fabulous Four Fish Fingers* was published in 2013 to acclaim from critics, praise from educators and giggles from 8 year olds who love jokes about pants. In the follow up, *Frozen Fish Fingers*, our superheroes go ski-ing in snowy Transyldovia and in the recently published *Fish Fingers vs Nuggets* the gang battle aliens who look like chicken nuggets but wear very tight trousers. Before Jason became a writer and teacher, he worked in TV for over 20 years. He has been an actor, news reporter, producer and director of both documentaries and drama. He has directed the soaps *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale*.

Summary of Sessions:

Jason's author visits kick off with a whole school assembly where he performs role play with four children who transform into the superheroes and he plays the ukulele. For the rest of the day he puts on interactive writing workshops in classes from Year 2 to Year 6, based around the superhero theme.

Key Stages catered for: Years 2-6

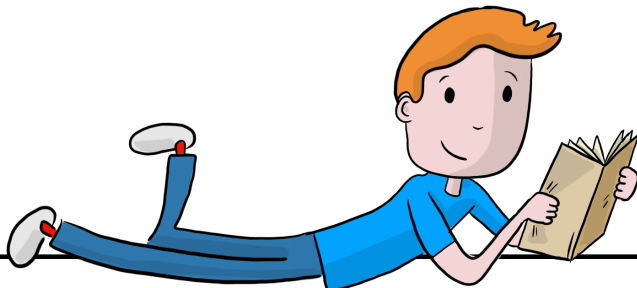
Daily Rate: £295

Duration: Whole School Day

Travel Expenses: 40 p a mile

Website Link: <http://www.thefabulousfourfishfingers.com/>

Contact Details: Phone: 07887 614 566 Email: jasonberesford@btinternet.com



Ian Billings

Background:

24 published books, extensive work in schools delivering workshops, MA from Birmingham University.

Summary of Sessions:

Hands-on giggle-stuffed comedy/ creative writing workshops plus stand-up comedy show about literacy.

Key Stages catered for: KS1 and KS2

Daily Rate: £550 daily rate

Duration: Workshops: 60 minutes / Stand-up: 45 minutes

Travel Expenses: 40p per mile

Website Link: www.ianbillings.com

Contact Details: Email: ianbillings@yahoo.co.uk



"Best thing I've seen in this school in thirty years!"

Iain Blaxall, teacher, Norwich School, England



Kate Coleman



Background:

Kate worked as a children's bookseller, nanny and Montessori teacher.

Using stories within every aspect of my work.

I began storytelling in 2016 and created Kate's Storytree; a space of stories, play

Summary of Sessions:

Creating a 'Storytree' space within school; in the Library/classroom/outside.

Leading a session with storytelling followed with play and craft activity.

Key Stages catered for: Early Years/ Foundation Stage/ KS1 + 2

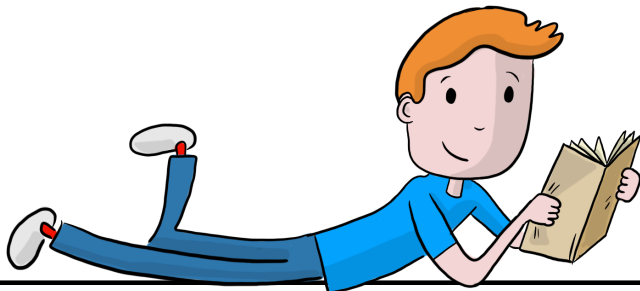
Daily Rate: £20 per hour. £125 for 1/2 day. £160 for a full day.

Duration: N/A

Travel Expenses: 40p per mile

Website Link: www.katesstorytree.co.uk

Contact Details: Email: kate@katesstorytree.co.uk





Paul Dowswell

Background:

I have written over 60 information books and 10 historical fiction novels. Information available on my website

<http://www.pauldowswell.co.uk/>

Summary of Sessions:

I do a wide range of book talks and writing workshops based around my existing books– these can be tailored and created depending on what the school requires. Book talks are fine for any number of pupils. Workshops work best with 25-30 or fewer.

Key Stages catered for: I work with Primary 5/6 for writing workshops and my Powder Monkey talks. All other books are Secondary and usually Yrs7 to 10 but also up to 6th Form.

Daily Rate: For 4 sessions plus an informal lunchtime chat with budding writers I would usually charge £400 plus travel expenses. But this is all negotiable depending on what the school requires.

Duration: I fit sessions in to school periods but can do longer depending on what's required.

Travel Expenses: Car or train, depending

Website Link: <http://www.pauldowswell.co.uk/>

Contact Details:

Phone: 01902 712720

Email: pauldowswell@hotmail.com



Ann Evans



Background:

I've been writing for more than 30 years, it was a hobby that turned into a career and a way of life. I have over 30 books published traditionally which include adventure books for KS2, YA books, reluctant reader books (teenage), plus crime novels and romance novels for adults. I also write magazine articles for a wide variety of different publications and was a Feature Writer on the Coventry Telegraph for 13 years.

Summary of Sessions:

I give author talks and run workshops on anything connected with writing – fiction and non-fiction. I can also do short assemblies to the whole school at the start of my day at a school. Generally then I do sessions for different classes or years that last about 40 minutes to an hour. I can do 4 sessions in a day, but I'm very flexible and try to fit in with the school's requirements.

Key Stages catered for: Preferably KS2; I can also work with KS1; plus I'm happy to work in Secondary Schools

Daily Rate: Full day is £250; Half day is £150; for a one hour only session I'd have to charge £50.

Duration: I can do whole days which might include an assembly and 4 x 1 hour sessions; then a book signing.

I can also do half days. Or if the school is local to me, hour-long sessions.

Travel Expenses: 2nd class rail fair. Or if driving, 40p per mile.

Website Link: <http://www.anneevansbooks.co.uk>

Contact Details: Email: ann-evans@btconnect.com



Harriet Goodwin

Background:

Read English Literature at Balliol College, Oxford; trained as professional singer at Royal Northern College of Music; first children's novel shortlisted for Blue Peter Book of the Year (*The Boy Who Fell Down Exit 43*). Have since written *Gravenhunger*, *The Hex Factor* and *Dark Tide*. Have also written several short books for Collins' Big Cat series for

Summary of Sessions:

A flexible mixture of presentations/author talks, whole school assemblies, interactive creative writing workshops and reading sessions (see below for more details).

Key Stages catered for: All ages, from Nursery/Reception through to, and including, Sixth Formers. I usually do a presentation to all of KS2 if I'm in Primary school or all of Year 7/8 if I'm in a Secondary school, followed by a series of creative writing workshops, suitable for all ages. I also work with GCSE students on the creative writing component of their English Language exam, and Sixth formers, too. Happy to read to younger children as part of the day if required. Can bring in copies of my titles to be signed on the day.

Daily Rate: £350 full-day or £250 half-day

Duration: Up to four hours a day, to be split as required.

Travel Expenses: Cost of diesel

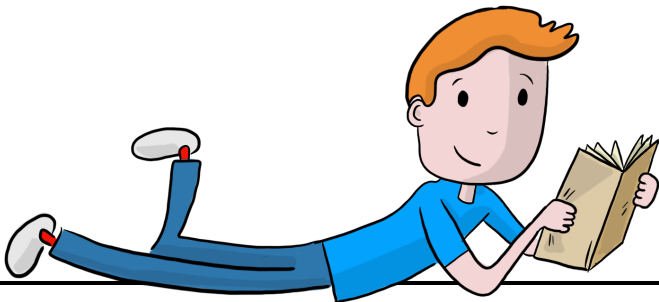
Website Link: www.harrietgoodwinbooks.com

Contact Details: Email: harrietgoodwin8@gmail.com



"Rarely have I come across a writer who has the presence and performance skills to really engage children from all backgrounds and abilities as Harriet Goodwin does so brilliantly: she hits all the creative writing trigger points for children and the result is a huge enthusiasm for writing and, of course, for devouring their own precious copies of her books."

Joy court—Chair of the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals



Meg Harper

Background:

Originally a secondary school teacher, I started writing when I was home-educating my children and was first published in 1997. Over twenty books published, the most recent two for the Oxford Reading Tree. Genres include humorous realism, fantasy, adventure, short stories, non-fiction, early readers, spiritual, plays. Now, I primarily write short stories for telling and performed my storytelling show 'Don't just sit there!' at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2016.

Summary of Sessions:

I prefer to do workshops. I have some 'off the shelf' ones but I am always happy to create something new. I also do storytelling for KS1 and 2. I have carried out residencies resulting in publishing books of children's writing. I am happy to do assemblies, author talks and drama/creative writing workshops too.

Schools have been successful in applying to the King Henry V111 Endowed Trust in Warwick for funding to employ me.

Key Stages catered for: Any key stage though I would tend to do storytelling for nursery and years Reception to 2. My storytelling is only suitable for KS1 and 2 at present.

Daily Rate: £275 per day, £150 per half day, £35 per hour

Duration: Unless very local to me, I prefer a minimum of half a day, but I will do one hour sessions within my immediate area. I prefer not to start before 9.30pm. Fridays are my best days for school visits but I can visit on other days if given plenty of notice.

Travel Expenses: 40p per mile. Second class rail. Taxi fare if necessary.

Contact Details: Phone: 07504 989 033 Email: megrharper@gmail.com



Alan Macdonald

Background:

Author and TV writer with around 100 titles. Dirty Bertie series, Troll Trouble, Ask Oscar, Horrid Henry (TV Writer)

Summary of Sessions:

Whole school assemblies and sessions with class or year groups, Plenty of audience involvement with stories, cartoons and ideas for writing. My books have a wide appeal and are especially popular with reluctant readers.

Key Stages catered for: KS2 esp. Year 3-5, KS1 on request

Daily Rate: £400 daily plus expenses

Duration: Typically 3 one hour sessions in a day with an optional assembly

Travel Expenses: 40 p a mile

Website Link: <http://alanmacdonald-author.co.uk>

Contact Details: Email: alanmacd@yahoo.co.uk



Barbara Mitchelhill

Background:

Originally a teacher. I started writing for BBC TV, then for Educational publishers – Ginn, Oxford, Pearson, Collins, Macmillan etc.

I now write historical adventures for 9-12 year olds. 'Run Rabbit Run' (WW2) 'Road to London' (Elizabethan England with Shakespeare)

'A Twist of Fortune' (Victorian England) 'Billy's Blitz' (WW2) For younger children 7 – 9 years I've written two series 'No 1 Boy Detective'

Summary of Sessions:

Author talk linked to one of the historical books with fun activities for the children and always questions and answers at the end.

Author talks on :

How a Book is Made

Developing Your Imagination – creative writing.

Key Stages catered for: Yr. 4-6

Daily Rate: £150 half day or £280 full day

Duration: Approx. 1 hour followed by book signing.

Travel Expenses: 2nd class rail fare or 40p per mile

Website Link: www.barbaramitchelhill.com

Contact Details: Email: barbara.mitchelhill@btinternet.com



Linda Newbery

Background:

Writes for various age-groups. Titles include: for KS1 and 2, *Barney the Boat Dog* (series), *Cat Tales* (series), *Lob*, *The Brockenspectre*; for middle grade, *Polly's March*, *Blitz Boys*, *Nevermore*; for KS3, *The Shell House*, *Set in Stone*, *Sisterland*, *The Damage Done*. Winner of the Costa Children's Book Prize and twice shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, with many other titles nominated. Two teenage titles for dyslexia specialists Barrington Stoke, *Until We Win* and *Tilly's Promise*, look at the Votes for Women campaign and the First World War from a female perspective. Also, with Yvonne Coppard: *Writing Children's Fiction, a Writers' and Artists' Companion*. First adult novel, *Quarter Past Two on a Wednesday Afternoon*, was a Radio 2 Book Club choice.

Summary of Sessions:

Presentations, assemblies, sessions for year groups or individual classes. Series of sessions if required.

Sessions are usually accompanied by PowerPoint. Questions are always welcomed.

Key Stages catered for: Year 1 – 13 and adults.

Daily Rate: £400 plus expenses.

Duration: 3 x 1-hour sessions plus book signing if required.

Travel Expenses: 40 p a mile or second-class rail travel (from north Oxfordshire).

Website Link: www.lindanewbery.co.uk

Contact Details: Please email via the website link



Susan Price



Background:

Winner of the Carnegie medal (*The Ghost Drum*) and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize (*The Sterkarm Handshake*.)

Over 60 books published, including *The Wolf's Footprint*, *Hauntings* and *Odin's Voice*.

My books range from picture-book texts to 'cross-over' novels.

Have been giving talks at festivals, schools, colleges and universities for 40 years.

Summary of Sessions:

All of the above!

I expect to work with the school staff to tailor something for that particular school – though I will also simply come along and simply talk about my career, or one particular book.

Key Stages catered for: I will tell stories to nursery age and Years 1-2.

I'm quite happy to talk or conduct workshops with all ages above that

Daily Rate: Per day: £350 Per half-day: £200 For one hour alone: £80

Duration: To be negotiated.

The standard is four sessions of one hour per day.

Travel Expenses: I travel by car and charge 45p a mile. When asked to visit a school, I usually do a quick calculation of mileage, using the AA Routes site, and quote that as the expenses.

Website Link: <http://www.susanpriceauthor.com/>

Contact Details: Please contact me via my website

<https://www.susanpriceauthor.com/contact-me>



Bali Rai



Background:

My first novel was (UN)ARRANGED MARRIAGE (2001) and I write for teenagers and children. My novel RANI AND SUKH was a GCSE set text. Other titles include THE CREW, THE WHISPER, THE LAST TABOO, CITY OF GHOSTS, THE ANGEL COLLECTOR, KILLING HONOUR, FIRE CITY and WEB OF DARKNESS. Short novels: DREAM ON, GAME ON, THE GUN and THE HARDER THEY FALL. Football Series: SOCCER SQUAD (four titles) Friends/school series: DEVANA HIGH: TROUBLE and

Summary of Sessions:

I offer Author Talks, Creative Writing, whole school assemblies and work in schools regularly. I specialise in promoting Reading for Pleasure to pupils and teachers, concepts of identity within multicultural Britain, and also run Premier League Reading Stars sessions.

Key Stages catered for: KS2, KS3, KS4, Young Adult.

Daily Rate: Daily fee of £500 for a maximum of four sessions (one hour each). Half day £300 for two sessions starting early. Plus any signings. I can also provide books for sale (with notice).

Duration: I like to start first lesson and am happy for my sessions to run consecutively.

I am also very flexible, if required.

Travel Expenses: 40p a mile. I will drive from Leicester.

Website Link: www.balirai.co.uk

Contact Details: Please email my agent who holds my diary and organises all school events for me:
penny@luithlenagency.co.uk



Mandy Ross



Background:

Over 60 books published, mainly for children – poetry, stories and information books. Recent books include Dominic Grows Sweetcorn (Frances Lincoln) and Children's History of Birmingham. Two plays professionally performed www.mandyross.co.uk

Children's poetry book Animal Lullabies coming to stage with Birmingham Hippodrome. Lots of creative writing teaching, writing outdoors, environmental stimuli, off-the-page and combined arts projects as part of Secret City Arts www.secretcityarts.com

Summary of Sessions:

Poetry workshops, author talks, creative writing workshops, puppet-making, combined arts projects with Secret City Arts, whole school assemblies.

Happy to discuss other ideas and suggestions. Have you thought of bringing a writer on school trips e.g. to historic buildings or art galleries to stimulate creative writing in response, and within other curriculum areas? I've done this very productively with Ledbury Poetry Festival at Hellens Manor, and Walsall New Art Gallery.

Key Stages catered for: Early Years, KS1, KS2, KS3

Daily Rate: £125 per half day session, plus travel

Duration: Any

Travel Expenses: 2nd class rail fare, or 40p per mile

Website Link:

www.mandyross.co.uk

www.secretcityarts.com

Contact Details: Email: info@mandyross.co.uk



Steve Smallman

Background:

Illustrator of children's books with over 35 years experience. Author of over 70 picture books including the award winning books; 'The Lamb who Came for Dinner', 'Smelly Peter the Great Pea Eater', 'The Monkey with a Bright Blue Bottom' and 'Dragon Stew'

Summary of Sessions:

Author talks, readings, book signings, writing workshops, illustration workshops, experiential writing/drawing projects, mural painting, 3D sculpture/installation artwork, poetry, IPad drawing workshops.

Inset training in drawing skills, IPad painting techniques

NB Most of my school visits include a mixture of reading, drawing, author talk, Q and A and story planning but I'm happy to plan the day to suit your requirements.

Key Stages catered for: Nursery, KS1 and KS2

I'm also happy to work in secondary schools on art/illustration/mural work or in specific project work e.g. writing/illustration for young children

Daily Rate: I charge £330 per day

Duration: I usually spend a whole day in school and fit in up to 5, 45- 60 minute sessions

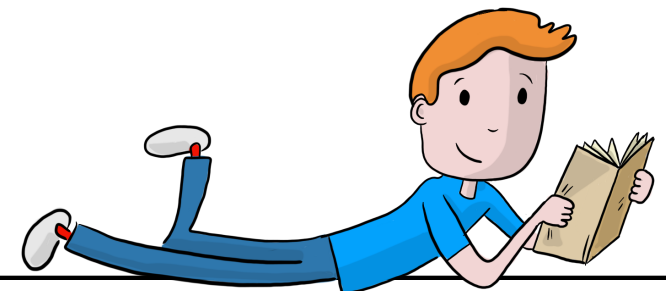
I'm happy to start at 9.00am (With a whole school assembly?)

And finish when the school day finishes. (Unless You want a book signing after school)

Travel Expenses: 45 p a mile

Website Link: www.stevesmallman.co.uk

Contact Details: Email: sbsillustration@aol.com



Sal Tonge

Background:

Storyteller and musician working in schools and community settings for over 20 years. Extensive repertoire of folks tales, songs and 'oral bric a brac' for most themes and occasions. Specialist in early years story- making and sharing. Author of several CDs of stories and songs for young children and education packs supporting programme such as Time to Talk and ECAT programmes. Wrote Shropshire Ghost Stories and contributor of folk tales for anthologies. Popular workshop leader and devises training programmes for library and education authorities.

Summary of Sessions:

What ever is required by the setting and occasion, I will adapt and devise. Every session and setting needs something different, call me to discuss your requirements and challenges, ideas and inspirations!

Key Stages catered for: All ages

Daily Rate: £300 a day

Duration: As required

Travel Expenses: I guess at fuel costs!!!! We negotiate an acceptable sum

Website Link: www.sallytonge.co.uk

Contact Details: Phone: 01743 792993 Email: saltonge@outlook.com



Helen Watts

Background:

Helen is an award-winning children's fiction author. ***One Day In Oradour*** was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and won the Extraordinary Award in the Southern Schools Book Awards. Aimed at readers age 12 and over, the novel is based on a real Second World War event in which a small French village was wiped in a single afternoon by Nazi SS troops. Helen's second novel, ***No Stone Unturned*** is an historical adventure mystery set locally in Warwickshire. The book was shortlisted for the Warwickshire Junior Book Award 2015 and the Historical Association's Young Quills Award and was runner-up in the 2015 Alcester Schools Book Awards.

Helen also has two collections of ***First World War Folktales*** – one for children and a hardback for adults.

Helen is currently working on a brand new novel for teenagers set on the notorious former prison island of Alcatraz. ***Girl On The Rock*** is currently out on submission. Before becoming an author, Helen worked in educational publishing for 25 years. Her experience spans magazine, book and online publishing for children and teachers and she has written and produced fiction, non-fiction and classroom resources on a vast range of topics – from The Olympic Games and World War I to cyber-bullying and teenage fashion.

Summary of Session: See page 17

Key Stages catered for:

Key stages 2, 3 and 4.

Daily Rate:

Standard Author Talk £180

Half-day workshop: £300

Full-day workshop: £450

Duration: Approx 90 minutes (1 hour presentation plus Q&S and book sales)

Flexible on start/finish time

Travel Expenses: Usually by car @ 45p per mile

Website Link: <http://www.helenwattsauthor.com>



Helen Watts Cont...

Summary of Sessions:

Author Talks:

Helen is happy to tailor her talks and workshops to suit the age and size of the audience and time. All sessions are followed by the opportunity to buy books and have them signed by the author. Popular sessions include: **Historical Fiction for children**, a 90 minute session including an interactive talk complete with slide show and film clips, a Q&A, author reading and book signing. The session explores what we mean by 'historical fiction', what inspires historical fiction authors, and reveals the true stories behind *One Day In Oradour* and *No Stone Unturned*.

Workshops:

Creating historical fiction (half and full day options) – an author presentation, followed by a choice of small group and individual writing activities including using historical events for story writing, identifying themes, characters and plot lines and planning a story.

Writing stories in the style of legends and folktales (half day) – an author presentation, followed by small group and individual writing activities inspired by stories from Helen's collection *The Ghost of the Trenches* and other stories from the First World War. **Key Stages catered for:** Yr. 4-6

Further Information: Every school who makes a booking is provided with one free signed copy of one of Helen's books in advance of the session along with an event pack containing model letters to parents, fact sheets, discussion points and a confirmation booking form.



Cat Weatherill

Background:

Cat is a bestselling Puffin author with books translated into ten languages. She is also one of Europe's leading performance storytellers. She formed her own Cat & Company in 1998 to specialize in educational workshops and performances. Since then, she has worked with thousands of children in hundreds of schools, mostly fueled by tea and biscuits! She has enormous energy, a big smile and is hugely popular with children of all ages. Books: Barkbelly, Snowbone, Wild Magic, Jaco the Leek, By Lantern Light, Jack's Diamond, Breathe. All Cat's Puffin novels have been shortlisted for awards. Her books cover ages 3 - 14

'Cat is one of our great storytellers, vivacious and inventive' Michael Morpurgo.

'I think Cat is the best storyteller in the world' Cameron, age 6, Machynlleth CP School

'Being with Cat is like swallowing sunshine' Charlie Jordan, former Birmingham Poet Laureate

Summary of Sessions:

Cat is very flexible in her approach, and can offer a combination of assemblies and workshops in the same day, across the ages. She can work with large numbers and offers a wide variety of creative writing/story making/storytelling/ poetry/G&T workshops, including specialist workshops for infants.



Key Stages catered for: From Nursery to Year 9

Daily Rate: £350 per day, inc travel

Duration: Usually a full day of 4 x 50 minute sessions but half days are possible

Travel Expenses: Generally included

Website Link: www.catweatherill.co.uk (business site for adults)

www.catweatherillauthor.com (child friendly site about Cat's books)

Contact Details: Email: catw@btconnect.com

