

Apply to be become a Maggie's School

What is the Maggie's Schools project?

Maggie's Schools is a new series of 3-year schools partnerships between primary schools situated in the Oxfordshire area, and The Story Museum in Oxford. The partnerships consist of 2 projects: Maggie's Day and Extreme Reading Adventures. The projects focus on inspiring curiosity and increasing literacy skills by providing unusual, immersive and emotional connections to stories and literature. The project is supported the Evans family in memory of Maggie Evans.

How will participating students benefit?

As part of **Maggie's Day**, two classes per school have free trips to the Story Museum, to visit the exhibitions and have a story-making workshop. They are given an activity to work on in school, which will then be presented at Maggie's Day.

Extreme Reading Adventures is a club that meets on Sunday afternoons at the Story Museum for six weeks. The aim of the club is to stimulate an interest in reading for pleasure. Every week, the children are gifted a book to read and take part in a hands-on, unusual activity based upon it; previous experiences include bug-handling, circus skills and bush-craft. In the final session, families, siblings and carers are invited to look around the museum and join the staff for a tea and presentation of a book that has been specifically selected for each individual child.

Which students is this suitable for?

Two Key Stage 2 classes gain free trips to the Story Museum, and of these up to 10 students and 2 teachers can attend the Maggie's Day Celebration. The trips will take place in May, and Maggie's Day itself in June.

As well as this, teachers can nominate up to 6 students per school to gain a sponsored place on the Extreme Reading Adventures programme.

Which schools can apply to take part?

We are in search of 4 schools to partner with. Schools should serve a catchment of particular need; for example, a higher than average percentage of the student population are in receipt of free school meals, or the postcode is in an area of socio-economic deprivation.

How long is the partnership for?

The partnership is for 3 years, from academic year 2019/20 to 2021/2022, with the main activity occurring in the Summer Term of each respective year.

How much does it cost?

The projects are supported by the Oxford Community Foundation and Evans family in memory of Maggie Evans, and all aspects of the project activity are sponsored. Schools will need to cover travel expenses for the Story Museum visits as these are not covered by the project. Taxis are provided for free for the individual students attending Extreme Reading Adventures.

Background to the project

Maggie Evans, the daughter of Bob and Kati Evans, was a literary agent who loved Italy and cats. When she passed away at the very young age of 29 her family wanted to share her devotion to stories by enabling opportunities to the new generation of readers.

The partnership with The Story Museum began in 2009.

The Story Museum's vision is to enrich lives, particularly young lives, through story. Our mission is to do this by providing great ways of engaging with great stories - through our most unusual Museum which will reopen following major redevelopment in Spring 2020 and through our outreach work in schools and community settings.

As a charitable organisation with an educational impact strategy we want to ensure that all children, especially those identified as being disadvantaged, have the opportunity to grow up rich in story. We provide opportunities for children to share positive intergenerational interactions with others, encounter new role models within the arts sectors, and stimulate their curiosity and positive perceptions towards stories.

Maggie's Day is a special celebration day, with presentations from participating schools and always featuring a live performance from a children's writer, poet, storyteller or illustrator. The first Maggie's Day was in 2009, featuring Michael Rosen. Since then, we have welcomed such authors as Joseph Coelho, SF Said and Emily Gravett to appear at the celebration day alongside around 500 children per year from over 10 partnering schools.

In 2014, following reflection and enthusiasm, it was decided to augment this project with Extreme Reading Adventures, which focuses on giving a targeted group of around 25 children per year dedicated time to explore story. Extreme Reading Adventures is now in its seventh year. Every year we evaluate the project, and have overwhelmingly positive feedback from children, parents and carers.

How does my school apply?

To apply to be a Maggie's School 2020-2022 please complete an application form and return to Isy Mead, Head of Learning and Participation, isy.mead@storymuseum.org.uk

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 11 February 2020**. Schools will be contacted by Friday 14 February.

