

The logo for 'PIERS ToRDAY' is displayed in a light blue, hand-drawn, sans-serif font. The word 'PIERS' is in all caps, while 'ToRDAY' has a lowercase 'o'. The text is set against a solid black rectangular background.

# SCHOOL EVENTS GUIDE 2022-23

**“Piers was a big hit with the children and really inspiring and engaging... thanks again for captivating the children's imaginations.”**

*Fleetville Junior School, St Alban's (Feb 2022)*

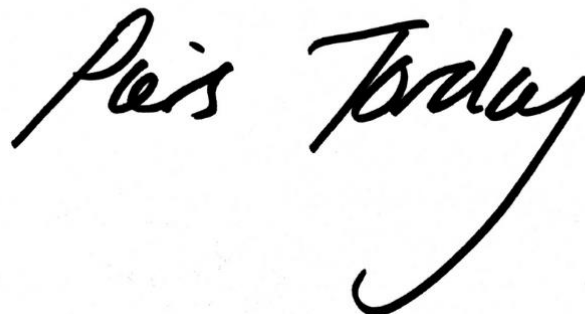
Hello,

Thank you for your interest in having me visit your school in person or virtually! Any chance to speak to children about reading and writing is a privilege that I do not take lightly.

The following pages give details of the type of event(s) I do, format, requirements and what I need to know from you when inviting me to your school or hosting an online visit.

Please give this document a read before getting in touch about dates. I'm very happy to make suggestions and answer any questions you may have, so don't hesitate to drop me an email.

Yours,



#### CONTACT

For all event queries, please email:

[info@pierstoday.co.uk](mailto:info@pierstoday.co.uk)

# THE EVENT

## What does a visit with me involve?

I am happy to visit in person or offer an online event. These can also be pre-recorded. I usually do 1 or 2 sessions per day if visiting in person to combine these visits with my other writing commitments.

I give a highly illustrated, animated and interactive virtual presentation exploring the values of sharing stories and childhood reading and writing for a primary school-age audience. I explain how I became an author and what inspired me. I will also talk about how I learned to write books through *The Last Wild* (and returned to this series for my latest book and prequel, *The Wild Before*).

The talk is for ages 7 – 12 and lasts about 45-60 minutes, after which I am happy to take questions before signing books. The live, in-person talk is best suited to large groups, as venue capacity allows.

For virtual visits, the talk is for groups of any size and can be broadcast into multiple classrooms to suit the school's requirements. I am also happy to pre-record sessions to allow screenings for individual classes within the school's timetable.

I also offer a 30-minute virtual Q&A session.

Book sales are encouraged through a local bookseller or our bookshop partner (Pickled Pepper Books), and for virtual visits, signed bookplates will be provided for any books sold.

## When am I available?

I normally do 1-2 school visits each week and tend to get booked up about 4-6 months in advance (more quickly around busy periods such as World Book Day and the publication of new books). When requesting a visit, it is advisable to give an indication of preferred dates but be prepared to be flexible, so I can do my best to accommodate you.

***My next book will be published in September 2023; details to follow.***

## How much will a visit cost?

I charge a half day (1 session plus signing) or full day (2 sessions plus signings) rate plus expenses (travel, subsistence and accommodation, where applicable) and VAT. All rates are available on request.

I am based in North London and travel to events by public transport. If the school is more than a 10-15 min walk from the nearest mainline station, I respectfully ask for transportation to and from the nearest mainline station to be supplied (or the cost of a taxi covered).

# REQUIREMENTS

## Technical

Talks are accompanied by a presentation designed on Keynote for Apple Mac. A screen or projector will be required to take advantage of their superior graphics and processing power. The presentation is not transferrable to USB and does not play on Windows or Windows PCs. I always travel with my MacBook Air Laptop and all the relevant cables and adapters.

**\*\*NB! As time can often be tight, I would be grateful if the computer (if it is not a Mac) in the hall/classroom etc., is disconnected in advance from the projector. Please establish with your IT department how best to connect an external laptop – this is normally via VGA or sometimes HDMI. This is particularly important if the connection is permanently wired or built-in and cannot easily be swapped.\*\***

The presentation contains music, video or sound effects, so it will also require a connection to a PA system or speakers.

For virtual visits, I use Zoom and will require you to have a good quality PA system/speakers and a stable and reliable internet connection. However, if you/your school have an alternative, preferred platform (e.g. Microsoft Teams), Piers would be happy to consider using that if it suits the requirements of the session.

If the required facilities are unavailable, please discuss with me at least 30 days ahead of time so that we can discuss an alternative.

## Book Sales

I passionately believe that book sales are a key element of author visits in person or online. So, a sale of all my currently available titles either during, before or immediately after my visit should ideally be agreed a minimum of two weeks before the visit. This can be arranged through a local bookseller of your choice, or I can gladly arrange **discounted** copies via my preferred supplier on a sale or return basis.

For virtual visits, having books on sale is still encouraged and can be arranged as above. (I will gladly supply signed bookplates following the visit.)

Above all else, I write my stories for them to be read so, when visiting schools, I'm keen that the children have the opportunity to buy the books and have them signed if they wish. Sales are strongly encouraged; purchase is optional!

*Please note that I never stock copies of my books, so these must always be arranged through a bookseller or wholesaler.*

# HOW TO REQUEST A VISIT

Please get in touch via [info@pierstorday.co.uk](mailto:info@pierstorday.co.uk).

Please read the following guidelines before making your request.

1. Have a read of this document. If you have any questions, drop Piers an e-mail.
2. Send a rough outline of your proposed event, including as many of the following details as reasonably possible:
  - a. **The event location and name of the school(s) or library service organising the event.**
  - b. **Whether you would like an in-person or virtual visit, and the kind of session you would like (Q&A, full talk and Q&A, if virtual – live or pre-recorded).**
  - c. **A short explanation of why you would like Piers to visit (e.g. “We are studying his books”, “Recommended by another school”).**
  - d. **Type of pupils you’d like Piers to see (age, ability range, etc.).**
  - e. **Number of pupils in each session.**
  - f. **Venue details – capacity, seating type, microphone/tech facilities and, if online, which platform you use.**
  - g. **Number and length of sessions.**
  - h. **An indication of preferred dates/time frame.**
  - i. **Contact name and details. The URL of your school/library website is also useful.**
3. I will confirm that your request has been received, and if I can take it forward, I will ask for any additional information and begin the booking process.

# TESTIMONIALS

**“The whole session was extremely fascinating and we cannot wait to start writing our own narratives.”**

*Year 6, Sacred Heart Primary, Biggleswade (Dec 2021)*

**“I wanted to take the time to say a HUGE thank you for being a part of our first virtual World Book Week celebrations. You definitely started things off on a high note...thank you for being an inspiration to our students and for bringing the wonderful world of creating stories to life.”**

*Upton House School, online (March 2021)*

**“Thank you for your amazing keynote. It was outstanding and so thoughtfully put together. It was also beautiful!”**

*UKLA Writing for Pleasure Conference (Jan 2021)*

**“That was Brilliant!!! Walhampton pupils are huge fans and were delighted to see Piers and have their questions answered...they were so interested that they were quiet for the whole interview!”**

*Walhampton School, Online Q&A (March 2020)*

**“Huge thanks to Piers for such a wonderful talk today at Ashlyns School. The talk was absolutely spell-binding and I've already received lovely feedback from the teachers from the session.”**

*Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted (Oct 2019)*

**“Piers’ enthusiasm and conviction was infectious, and I suspect we all left with a reinforced belief in the importance of creativity as part of our education.”**

*All Hallows School, Somerset (May 2019)*

**“The talk was wonderfully inspirational, and the children were enthralled and hugely entertained by Piers. Enormous thanks to him for his time, we are extremely grateful.”**

*Garden House School, London (May 2019)*

**“A really super day with Piers yesterday. His talks were interactive, stimulating and very thought provoking. He really engaged all the children and kept their attention right to the end.”**

*James Allen Girls Prep School*

**“Your presentation was superb –you had great interaction with the children, and it was so good that you accepted all their answers so graciously. I know staff and children alike had a great time.”**

*Hertfordshire Libraries*

**“A huge thank you for a truly outstanding and inspiring session yesterday. It was absolutely superb, and the teachers thought it was engaging, highly informative and useful.”**

*Guardian Education Centre*