

AUTHOR VISITS
from

TOMMY DONBAVAND



Get your pupils writing in
2016!

AUTHOR VISITS

Arranging for an author to visit your school is a fantastic way to encourage pupils to delve into books, learn to enjoy reading for pleasure, and give them the confidence to pick up a pencil and start creating stories of their own.

However, these visits can be difficult and confusing to arrange... until now!

For this new year - **2016** - I've created a simple way for you to book award-winning children's author, **Tommy Donbavand** (me!), for a visit you will never forget!

I have prepared **THREE** unique themed days for you to choose from:

- * **Scream Street** (write scary stories certain to make you shake!)
- * **Comic Capers** (create hilarious comic strips and graphic tales!)
- * **Doctor Who Day** (devise time traveling adventures for the Doctor!)

Just pick the theme you want and email Tommy at mail@tommydonbavand.com to agree on a mutually convenient date (don't delay - my calendar fills up fast!)

Then, on the big day, simply set aside your usual school timetable (just for the day, I promise!) and get everyone - pupils and staff alike - involved in the creative fun!

Tommy will work with as many pupils as possible during the day. The writing workshops work best with a maximum of two classes at a time (around 60 pupils). Bigger school? Fear not - grab a laptop, and we'll Skype the session through to everyone else **live!**

Although the examples in this booklet refer to primary school events, my visits can be adapted to work with years 7 and 8 at secondary school level.

You will also receive a special author pack of classroom activities to run on the day while your pupils wait their turn, plus details of how to follow-up on and make the most of Tommy's workshops. You get to keep all this information - crammed with story starters, writing tips, ideas for characters, reading games and more - to use, year after year!

The cost?

£450 for the full day, plus expenses.

Travel expenses are charged at 45p per mile.

If I have to stay over the night before due to distance from home, an additional £100 will be charged to cover accommodation costs.

So, let's turn the page, and learn about my three new author days in more detail...



THEME 1 - SCREAM STREET

A spook-tacular day, based on my best-selling 13 title series of **Scream Street** books - now also a hit TV show on **CBBC!**

8.45 to 9.00 - **Tommy Donbavand** will arrive at your school, fully DBS checked and with his own public liability insurance.

9.10 to 9.40 - **Story mapping with Key Stage One!** Although I don't usually write for younger pupils, I'd hate for them to

miss out on the day's excitement. In this fast-paced, half-hour session, I show them how to create a story map for a **not-too-creepy** tale - then leave the KS1 teachers with ideas on how to follow up!

9.50 to 10.50 - **Nightmare Neighbours with Years 3 and 4!** In this fiendishly frantic workshop, I show pupils how I created the creepy characters in my **Scream Street** books and TV series - then help them to invent their own! After which, we all write stories about the day these newly-designed neighbours moved into their horrible homes...

11.00 to 12.00 - **Script to Scream with Years 5 and 6!** In this weird and wonderful workshop, I show pupils an excerpt from a **REAL Scream Street TV script**, and the exact same scene as it appeared on TV. Then, with a little guidance from me, everyone begins to write their own **Scream Street** adventure - in genuine TV script format!

Lunch - Could this be themed? Human brains in their own juices (cauliflower cheese!)

1.15 to 2.15 - **Giant Crabs Ate My Brain!** My hilarious author talk in which I explain how a disastrous camping holiday started me off on the road to writing spooky books - and how I accidentally injured members of my family along the way. Plus, there's plenty of opportunity for your pupils (and staff!) to ask questions about my work.

2.30 - **Book Signing!** Studies have shown that children keep, read and re-read books that have been signed by the author. Later in this booklet, I'll explain how you can get copies of my books to sell **prior to my visit**.

Afterwards - Follow-up Instructions! I make sure that each of my sessions has plenty of activities you can run in the classroom to follow-up on the day and make the most of what your pupils have learned - including unique spooky story starters!



THEME 2 - COMIC CAPERS

Comics and graphic novels are a superb way to get reluctant readers turning pages. I've written several graphic novels, including **The Colony** and **The Head is Dead** - and I write the scripts for **The Bash Street Kids** in **The Beano**.

8.45 to 9.00 - **Tommy Donbavand** will arrive at your school, fully DBS checked and with his own public liability insurance.

9.10 to 9.40 - Crazy Comics with Key

Stage One! Although I don't usually write for younger pupils, I'd hate for them to miss out on the day's excitement. In this half-hour session, I show them how to tell an exciting story with nothing but pictures.

9.50 to 10.50 - Twisted Tales with Years 3 and 4! In this giggle-a-minute workshop, I will show pupils how to take a well-known classic tale, and re-tell it in comic strip format. We won't be taking the source material too seriously, however - things are about to get very, very silly. Good drawing skills are NOT essential by any means!

11.00 to 12.00 - Panel Beaters with Years 5 and 6! In this session, your pupils will invent a brand new character and learn how to write the script for a comic strip based on their adventures. Taking each panel in turn, we'll soon be filling page after page with laughter galore. As with the previous workshop, you don't need to be able to draw!

Lunch - Could this be themed? Desperate Dan's Cow (steak) Pie?

1.15 to 2.15 - Giant Crabs Ate My Brain! My hilarious author talk in which I explain how a disastrous camping holiday started me off on the road to writing for **The Beano** and beyond - and how I accidentally injured members of my family along the way. Plus, there's plenty of opportunity for your pupils (and staff!) to ask questions about my work.

2.30 - Book Signing! Studies have shown that children keep, read and re-read books that have been signed by the author. Later in this booklet, I'll explain how you can get copies of my books to sell **prior to my visit**.

Afterwards - Follow-up Instructions! I make sure that each of my sessions has plenty of activities you can run in the classroom to follow-up on the day and make the most of what your pupils have learned - including blank comic strips to complete!



THEME 3 - DOCTOR WHO

The adventures in **Doctor Who** can happen in any time and place! My first **Doctor Who** novel, **Shroud of Sorrow**, was published in 2013, and I regularly write the comic strips in **Doctor Who Adventures** magazine.

8.45 to 9.00 - Tommy Donbavand will arrive at your school, fully DBS checked and with his own public liability insurance.

9.10 to 9.40 - To Infinity with Key Stage One! Although I don't usually write for

younger pupils, I'd hate for them to miss out on the day's excitement. In this half-hour session, we'll write a story set in the far, far future!

9.50 to 10.50 - A Whole New World with Years 3 and 4! The joy of **Doctor Who** is the show's ability to create entire new planets for The Doctor to save. In this fast-paced workshop, your pupils will leave the known laws of physics behind and invent a bizarre world on which to set action-packed stories they can write at a later date.

11.00 to 12.00 - Monster Mash with Years 5 and 6! If there's one thing that sets **Doctor Who** apart from other shows, it's the sheer variety of its monsters. Here, your pupils will design an exciting new villain and set them loose on the Earth. Can The Doctor save the day? Only your pupils will know when they write up their stories back in class.

Lunch - Could this be themed? Spaghetti and Dalek insides (meatballs)?

1.15 to 2.15 - Giant Crabs Ate My Brain! My hilarious author talk in which I explain how a disastrous camping holiday started me off on the road to writing my **Doctor Who** novel - and how I accidentally injured members of my family along the way. Plus, there's plenty of opportunity for your pupils (and staff!) to ask questions about my work.

2.30 - Book Signing! Studies have shown that children keep, read and re-read books that have been signed by the author. Later in this booklet, I'll explain how you can get copies of my books to sell **prior to my visit**.

Afterwards - Follow-up Instructions! I make sure that each of my sessions has plenty of activities you can run in the classroom to follow-up on the day and make the most of what your pupils have learned - including a challenge to create a new Time Lord!

TOMMY DONBAVAND

Tommy is the author of almost 90 books, including the 13-title **Scream Street** series (now on **CBBC** as a stop-motion animated TV show!), **Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow**, and numerous adventures for reluctant and struggling readers, such as **Ward 13**, **My Teacher Ate My Brain** and **Uniform** (winner of the *2011 Hackney Short Novel Award*).

In theatre, Tommy spent eight years playing the *Clearlake MC* in the West End musical, **Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story**. He then went on to write and appear in many plays for children, including **Rumplestiltskin**, **Hey Diddle Diddle** and **Robinson Crusoe**.

A fan of comics and graphic novels, Tommy is thrilled to write the weekly adventures of **The Bash Street Kids** in **The Beano** - the comic that got him interested in reading at a very young age.

Tommy spends much of his time visiting schools, libraries and book festivals to inspire a love of reading for pleasure, and to teach various styles of creative writing. He is very proud to have recently been made writer-in-residence at **Water Primary School**, near Rawtenstall, Lancashire.

“Just wanted to say a big thank you for today! The children and staff had a fantastic time and you created a real buzz around school! I am hoping that today will be a day that the children will remember for years to come. They certainly enjoyed meeting you and listening to your stories!”

Lousie Baker, Holme Slack Primary School

“What can I say? Thank you so much for making the trip over the Pennines and inspiring our Freshers and putting ‘story’ at the heart of reading and writing. They haven’t stopped talking about your visit and your books are flying off the shelves!”

Alison Vanes, David Young Community Academy

“What a fantastic day! We thoroughly enjoyed our first author visit. The children would have quite happily interrogated Tommy for the whole morning as they are loving his books and had lots of questions. But Tommy kept the day moving and the children were enthusiastic and engaged throughout. I would highly recommend a visit from Tommy, the children are still talking about it and have produced some great work as a result.”

Claire Hitchen, Barmby on the Marsh Primary School

ORDERING BOOKS

The best way to get pupils excited about my visit is to offer them the chance to buy copies of my books - all of which I promise to sign on the big day!

In my experience, **selling books in advance of the visit** is by far the best way to do this. Not only are pupils able to start reading before I arrive (and preparing questions about the stories), trying to sell and sign at the same time is difficult at best.

I don't bring copies of my own books into school with me at present - although that is something I plan to do in the future. In the meantime, I recommend you contact your local bookseller and tell them what you'd like to order from the list below.

There are plenty of titles to choose from...

Scream Street series (suitable for Year 2 and above):

Scream Street 1: Fang of the Vampire, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406320602

Scream Street 2: Blood of the Witch, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406314250

Scream Street 3: Heart of the Mummy, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406314267

Scream Street 4: Flesh of the Zombie, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406314274

Scream Street 5: Skull of the Skeleton, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406314281

Scream Street 6: Claw of the Werewolf, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406314298

Scream Street 7: Invasion of the Normals, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406322392

Scream Street 8: Attack of the Trolls, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406319132

Scream Street 9: Terror of the Nightwatchman, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406319149

Scream Street 10: Rampage of the Goblins, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406319163

Scream Street 11: Hunger of the Yeti, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406319156

Scream Street 12: Secret of the Changeling, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406319170

Scream Street 13: Flame of the Dragon, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406319194

Fangs: Vampire Spy series (suitable for Year 2 and above):

Fangs Vampire Spy 1: Operation: Golden Bum, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406331585

Fangs Vampire Spy 2: Codename: The Tickler, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406331592

Fangs Vampire Spy 3: Assignment: Royal Rescue, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406331608

Fangs Vampire Spy 4: Target: Nobody, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406331615

Fangs Vampire Spy 5: Project: Wolf World, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406331622

Fangs Vampire Spy 6: Mission: Lullaby, Walker Books, ISBN: 978-1406331639

The following books were written and published especially for reluctant and struggling readers, but are just as much fun to read for pupils of any ability...

Snow-Man series (suitable for year 1 and above):

Snow-Man 1: Hot Hot Hot!, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643492

Snow-Man 2: Stone Age!, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643539

Snow-Man 3: What A Drip!, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643577

Snow-Man 4: Windy-Pops!, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643515

Snow-Man 5: It's A Gas!, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643553

Snow-Man 6: Cold Front!, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643591

Space Hoppers series (suitable for Year 2 and above):

Space Hoppers 1: Mudmen from Mars, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393220

Space Hoppers 2: Silence on Saturn, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393237

Space Hoppers 3: Undead of Uranus, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393244

Space Hoppers 4: Nursery on Neptune, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393251

Space Hoppers 5: Victory for Venus, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393268

Space Hoppers 6: Panic on Pluto, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393275

Space Hoppers 7: Jailbreak on Jupiter, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393282

Space Hoppers 8: Monsters on Mercury, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393299

Space Hoppers 9: End-Game on Earth, Rising Stars, ISBN: 978-1783393305

Suitable for Year 2 and above:

Princess Frog-Snogger, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784645205

They Came From Class 6c!, Collins Big Cat, ISBN: 978-0007465460

Our Head Teacher is a Super-Villain, Collins Big Cat, ISBN: 978-0007591220

Cyber Shock, Collins Educational, ISBN: 978-0007464739

The Terrible Tale of Melody Doom, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781474730

Once Upon a Time, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781474747

Suitable for Year 3 and above:

Zombie!, Barrington Stoke, ISBN: 978-1842997086

Uniform, Barrington Stoke, ISBN: 978-1781120408

Wolf, Barrington Stoke, ISBN: 978-1842994832

Virus, Barrington Stoke, ISBN: 978-1781120002

The Sand Witch, ReadZone Books, ISBN: 978-1783225446

Graphic novels for Year 4 and above:

The Head is Dead, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781474945

The Colony, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781474952

Suitable for Year 5 and above:

My Teacher Ate My Brain. Franklin Watts. ISBN: 978-1445114675

Doctor Who (suitable for year 5 and above):

Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow, BBC Books, ISBN: 978-1849905763

WARNING - strictly for Year 7 and above:

Home, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781475690

Kidnap, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781475713

Ward 13, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781477991

Dead Scared, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781478011

Copy Cat, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781479537

Just Bite, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1781479513

Raven, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784643294

These books are for pupils aged 15 or 16 with a low, primary school reading age:

Ringtone, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784640859

The Girl in the Wall, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784640835

MC Cesar, Badger Learning, ISBN: 978-1784644413

HINTS & TIPS!

Some last minute ideas for how to make the most of your author visit...

- * Tell **EVERYONE** that I'm coming! All the staff, pupils, parents, local press, etc.
- * Put posters up to advertise the day - build the anticipation to fever pitch!
- * Start to read my books; perhaps teachers can read a title aloud to their classes?
- * Why not ask the pupils to make a display about my books for the library or hall?
- * Get everyone thinking of cool questions to ask me? Who can come up with the best?
- * Follow me on Twitter - [@tommydonbavand](https://twitter.com/tommydonbavand)
- * Explore my website - www.tommydonbavand.com
- * Why not get everyone to dress up for the day (staff too!):
 - * **Scream Street** - creepy and spooky costumes!
 - * **Comic Capers** - your favourite comic or book characters!
 - * **Doctor Who Day** - The Doctor himself, a monster, or a companion!
- * Any questions? Simply contact me - mail@tommydonbavand.com