

# MY SCHOOL IS ALIVE!

TALES OF  
RUSHMORE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
BY ACACIA AND  
ROWAN CLASS



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# My School is Alive!



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## Introductions

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rushmore Primary School we have been focusing on community, connections and creativity. We have been very fortunate to work with Ministry of Stories to support the children on the theme of creativity. The children's learning has been brought alive by the partnership we have developed and this book and the writing it contains will be a great memory and legacy of this once in a lifetime celebration.

— *Mr J. O'Shea, Headteacher*

A huge thank you to Ministry of Stories, and especially to Jenny and Cath, for all their hard work and dedication.

As part of our exploration of the 150 years of Rushmore Primary School, Year 3 loved going back in time to imagine what school life may have been like in the past, as well as looking 150 years into the future.

The creative elements of the workshops sparked so much imagination and enthusiasm, and the joy on the children's faces each week - especially when they saw Jenny - said it all. We're so grateful for such an inspiring and memorable experience.

— *Ms C. Lewin and Ms S. Taylor*

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I had never been to a 150th birthday party. As the Year 3's pointed out, 150 is VERY OLD!

But it has been a very great honour to celebrate their school's anniversary with the Rocking Rushmore Writers.

Our focus was to write through talk and talk we did! Acacia and Rowan classes blazed with chat and brilliant ideas. I hope every young person felt heard on this project as they whizzed back into the past, into the future, met some animal VIPs, reimagined their own school design and even welcomed aliens to Year 3.

I was blessed to be at Rushmore at the peak of 'six-sevvvven' so you will spot some 6s and 7s in this anthology. I learnt a lot on this project, including what it means to be 'king of the brainrot'. And even the title very almost ended up being '67 mysterious time travellers'.

But as Zumra wrote: 'Rushmore reminds me: always be yourself'. Well done everyone, you should be super duper proud of yourselves, you truly are Sixty Rocking Writers!

— *Jennifer Claessen, Writing Facilitator*

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*My School  
is  
Alive!*

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## **My school is alive!**

My school is alive and it speaks French!

*Bonjour l'école!*

My school is alive and it is dressed in  
display boards covered in work.

My school is alive and it is wearing school uniform,  
polka-dotted with our house team colours.  
It wears a dress made of Creativity and Kindness, our values!

My school has been alive since the Victorian times.  
It tells us: "you are great students and teachers".  
My school is alive and it says, "Welcome!  
Are you ready to learn?"

My school is alive and looks like a queen.  
It says "I'm so hungry for big bellyfuls of people!"  
Our classroom is its stomach!

My school is alive and it says, "Hello, would you like some help?".  
There are two bits of it, Mrs Mary is the Lower Phase  
and Mr Tom is the Upper Phase, and the children are  
Little Mitty. Our school keeps growing!



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Welcome  
Aliens  
from the  
Gloggloglia!

---

## Welcome aliens from the Gloggloglia!

Hello hello!

It's nice to meet you Gloggloglians!

This is Planet Earth.

And *this* is Rushmore Primary School!

In L O N D O N.

Welcome aliens, you have landed in the right place, Rushmore is the best school on the planet.

We know you might need some time to adapt. We know the flight was really long but it is worth it because this is the school where we learn!

I hope you like it here! Step through this door and you will find all you can imagine. Step through this door and you will see what you will see!

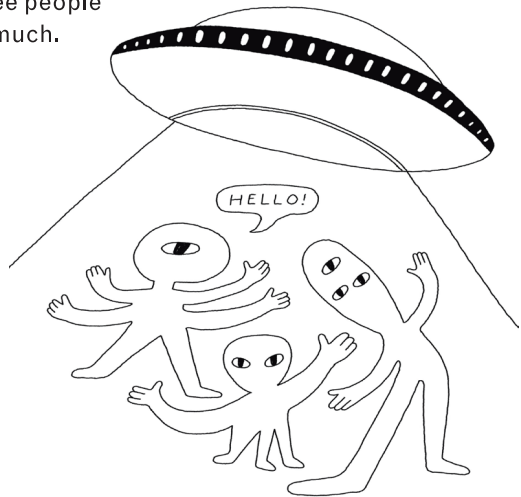


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School can be a bit scary at first but when you know everyone, it will be fun. We will be friends with you. What are your names? We are going to plan a surprise party for you!

We write with pencils here, not slime. And we walk, not slide. We also like to skip, hop, run and jump!

It will probably surprise you that we have fingers! We have hair and eyes that we see with. You might be surprised to see people because you don't see them that much.



First, we do the register to make sure everyone is here, then lessons like Arts, English and Maths and P.E.

This school is full of learning and lovely books. There's lots of creativity and that makes me happy.

We do lovely maths that makes you smart. We learn times tables which is part of Maths.

Come on, let's go make you a better space ship.

---

We learn, play, make friends and have food!  
And we make friends by talking to people.  
Gloggloglians, do you have any friends at your  
school in space?

Friends are helpful and crafty and when you  
feel sad or embarrassed, they will help you and  
tell you not to be afraid. We don't tolerate  
bullying, you must be kind.

Our school is different from all the other  
schools because we have stuff like our  
Rushmore values and help for people who  
might need it.

If you see someone munching on something, it's called 'eating'. Have you heard  
of 'frosties'? They are really yummy. We have forks, knives and spoons here.

Do you know what 'pizza' is? What do you eat on Planet Gloggloglian? Come  
and have a burger!

Let's go and have some lunch. Hopefully it's pizza and ice cream!

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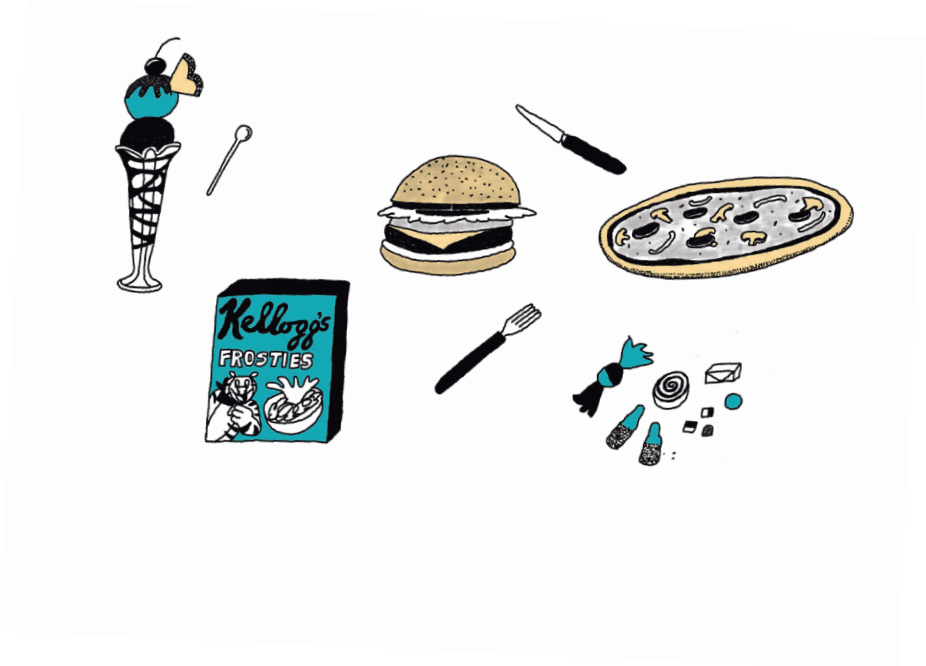
We will teach you some English. We use English when we do writing.

Writing is when we write words on paper so we can tell stories and know what is going on.

And we use a pencil which is something we use to write words with. It's made of wood and lead.

That's what this is: writing.

Let me explain a bit more!



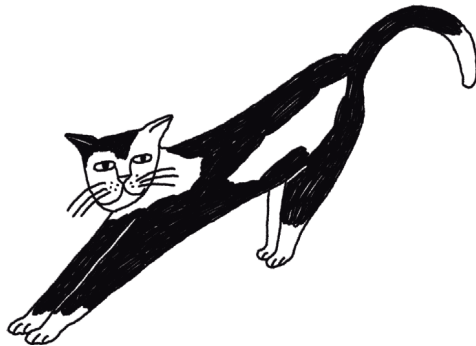
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Writing  
is  
a  
Cat

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## Writing is a cat

Writing is a cat. Sometimes it is hard to calm down, but in the end it is fun  
Books are a tent for telling stories, it makes me feel relaxed.  
Writing is friendship, it makes you happy and not feel lonely.  
Writing is history, you never know what you'll find.  
Writing is a cat because I work hard for both of them.  
Writing is a tortoise, it is slow and steady.  
Writing is a cat, it is soft and cuddly.  
Writing is a friend, it makes me happy



This pencil is a twig, it is sharp, thick and long.  
P.E. is the colour yellow because everyone is excited. Art is the colour green because it is calm.  
The playground is the colour red because everyone is shouting!  
My uniform is green. On my jumper, there is a tree, red and yellow.  
School is green because they teach you all the Rushmore values and happy stuff.  
Our classroom is snow: cold, white walls, fun to play in.

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Our classroom is like a park,  
there are so many different things to do.  
The ceiling is as high as the sky!

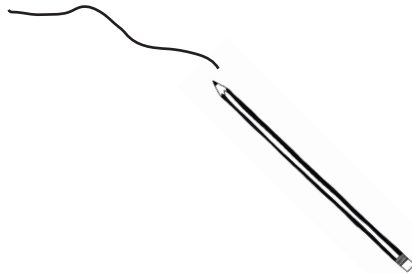
School is a football game,  
we do it with our friends.  
Learning is scoring goals, it feels happy.

School is salty chips, I look forward to Fridays.  
School is playful. Sometimes snow falls and then we can play.  
School is love.  
School is green for go because we're learning all the things.

### **Top tips for school:**

Come to my six seven lesson.  
We are six seven rockstars!

Read six seven books,  
Eat six seven,  
Swim six seven  
Talk six seven,  
Boogie with six seven!



Friendship is like Lego, you build it and it never lets you down.  
Writing is pizza, we have to slice it up and share it.  
School is art because you draw your own path.

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You are a lemon.  
You wait to be cut.  
You get washed.  
Then you get squeezed  
Into lemon juice!  
You get drunk by  
Bob who is thirsty  
For lemonade.  
Then you get washed  
Down the drain.  
You were a lemon.  
And now you've gone.

Happy  
*150<sup>th</sup>*  
Birthday,  
School!

---

## Happy 150<sup>th</sup> birthday school!

You arrive at our school at a great time, aliens! We're celebrating a special birthday!

Happy birthday to Rushmore,  
Be a prankster for  
A million years!  
If you don't,  
You'll regret it!

May glory protect G.O.R!  
(Good old Rushmore)  
May glory protect G.O.R!  
(Good old Rushmore)  
Kind old Rushmore.  
Lie down and have a rest

Happy birthday to Rushmore!  
You are our favourite school.  
Unfortunately, you don't have a pool.  
But you are pretty cool!

Happy birthday to you!  
You're turning 150 years old!  
You were built in 1876!  
Happy birthday to you!

Happy birthday to school!  
You were made before World War One,  
You're one hundred and fifty,  
I know it's fabulous!



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Very  
Important  
Library  
Rules



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## Very Important Library Rules

Our school library is quiet, warm, interesting and bright. There are chairs, pictures, a carpet. It is comfortable and cool and cosy and these are the rules:

- Eat all the books up
- FUN ONLY
- Read peacefully
- Always do art your way
- Don't spill water on the books
- Make sure to tidy up!
- Listen to each other
- Be good and kind
- Don't leave friends behind
- Cartwheel on your way out then all day long

Nine  
Ways

*to*

Time

Travel

---

WOAH, WHAT'S THIS?

I THINK WE'RE GOING

BACK IN TIME!

HOLD ON TIGHT EVERYONE!

**Nine ways to time travel:**

1. Clap your hands five times and kick the sky
2. Flip into your time machine
3. Shrink as tiny as a grain of sand
4. Disguise yourself as a camel
5. Or go tiny as a mouse, it makes **all** the children look ginormous!
6. High-five everyone in the world
7. Kick a football and it **will** turn into a portal and suck you in!
8. Turn into a tiny speck and float like a piece of grass
9. Spin around six times, rub your head ten times and **POOF!** You've time travelled

When you time-travel, you get a bit scared and shaky. If you're brave, you **will** time-travel as quick as a cheetah.

Time  
Travelling  
Good <sup>is</sup> Times

---

## Time travelling is good times

When we time-travelled to the **1870s** we saw horses pulling carriages. The hairy horses did pongy poos **all** over the street because there were no cars.

Girls and boys were separated. Girls had a woman to teach them and boys had a male teacher. The people wore puffy dresses, but **only** girls. The wealthy people liked smart, fancy, silk clothes and the ladies carried umbrellas and wore posh hats. I think their clothes would feel itchy and lumpy.

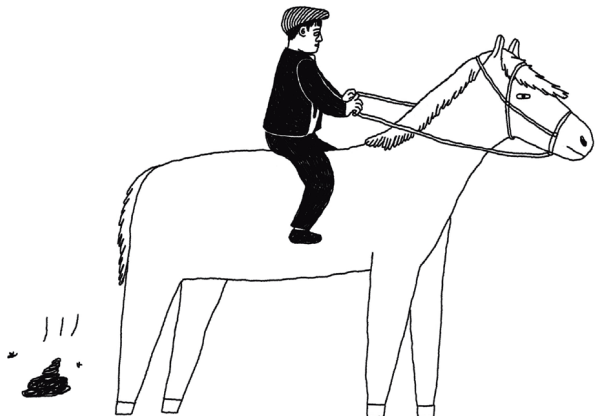
The sky was dark with sooty smoke and there were a lot of builders busy making London. They were even building our school.

Rushmore looked so different then!

A man tried to pull Marnie back through the portal. She got back to 2025 but it was hard because everyone was chasing her.

The portal was about to shut!

She had to jump really high to reach the top of the clock!



---

I saw a man in Victorian times trying ice cream for the first time.

“What is this? It is so cold! But sweet!  
So surprising!  
But appetizing!  
It's making my teeth feel like they might fall out.  
It's melting, it's sooooo sticky!”



I opened the door, the different dimensions sucked my breath away! I stepped into the past and...

In the **1900s**, I smelt cooking, washing powder and perfume at home. On the street I heard hammering, digging, shouting, honking horns. Chatting, clacking high heels. I went to a shop and bought a tuxedo and a top hat! There were a lot of laundries and factories here in Hackney.

In 1907, I saw a boy riding a horse. The horsey poo was very smelly. I ate an iced bun, it was shiny with a cherry on it.

I saw men in pitch black suits. In the busy streets of London, busy pigeons buzzed around delivering messages.

---

In the **1940s**, I saw bombs dropping, kaboom! I want to go back home. I heard people were sleeping down on the train tracks of the tube. It was cramped and uncomfortable, hearing the bombs drop on Hackney. The people are cold because their beds are on the train tracks.

In the **1950s**, I saw *Dennis the Menace* being made for the Beano magazine. I read the first *Dennis the Menace* comic strip and laughed.

I saw holes in the ground after the houses burnt in the war. There had been a lot of fires in Hackney.

In **1991**, I heard a lot of aeroplanes! I tasted some delicious ice-cream and touched the ice-cream truck. When I time travel, I get tiny and land where I want to be.

I was very happy to get back to today! I got back by singing K-pop.



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## On my way to school...

Firstly, I woke up today and ate breakfast.

It was **2025**. Phew!

I had waffles with chocolate syrup.

I karate-chopped my way down the stairs.

I jumped out the window.

There were 15 carts and horses blocking the way to school, I think they were left over from when we time-travelled.

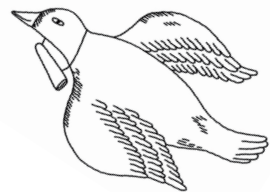
I thought: this is the time to use my mini-jet pack to blast my way to school.

I flew crazily through the air with a cloud of smoke behind me, ducking in surprise as a pair of flying scissors flew past.

I ran for my life to get to school.

It seemed like I'd been travelling for years.

I met a flying horse stuck in a tree.



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Kittentopia

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## Kittentopia

My dream school would have kittens, more kittens, even more kittens, yet more kittens and all the kittens in the world.

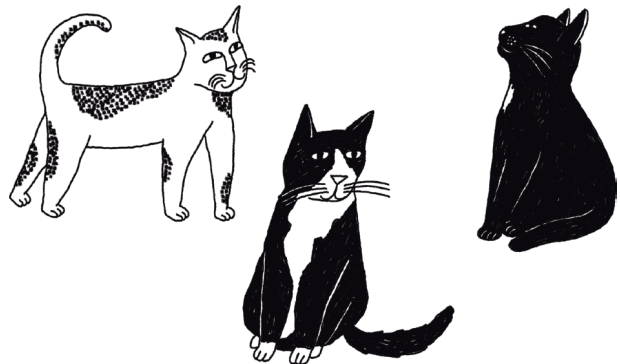
A DJ kitten from Australia would play music.

The teachers would give you pet kittens who walk around the class, snuggle and sleep. You get to name them whatever you want.

They would say, "Meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeow!" If I timetravelled, my body would turn into a pile of kittens because they are the ultimate.

There would be fake cats for the people with allergies too.

Cats can write, cats can type,  
Cats love their kittens,  
Cats are amazing.  
Don't underestimate them.  
Karate cats say,  
Konichiwa!



*Kid*  
Curriculum

---

## Kid curriculum

**Lesson One:** Art with chocolate. Infinite chocolate!

In our school, there will be a party room and a cinema with loads of movies.

**Breaktime:** A water balloon fight with shields!

There will be a football pitch. No, a football field!  
No, a football stadium!

There will be water flumes inside our school. They will play music and have lights that can change colour. They go really fast and take you into your classroom after breaktime. The flume knows where to take you because there is a button and when you get to your lessons, it dries you off and gets you dressed.

**Lunch:** You sit on marshmallow seats.

There is a burger bar and a LOT of pizza.

Cake with rainbow sprinkles and it rains sweets.

Popcorn fizzles in your mouth and pops in your stomach.

Drinks are lemonade, slushies, bubble tea and milkshakes.





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**Lesson Two:** Snorkelling gymnastics.

Gymnastics underwater with an oxygen tank so you can breathe!

I teach you how to do amazing backflips.

We will go jet-skiing in a pool with a really big wave machine which will blast you up into the air. And, best of all, it's not safe!

P.E. is always gymnastics with dogs in jumpsuits. The jumpsuits have ears and help the dogs jump. They lick you whenever you do a flip.

**Lesson Three:** Learn to fly.

Then you can take over the world!

We will bring dogs into school and play with them. If you don't have a dog, you can get one for free at school. They have every breed of dog like Westies and Multipoops. The dogs sit on your lap during lessons and help you with your learning.



I  
Can  
Haiku,  
Can  
You?

---

## **I can haiku, can you?**

You will go on a hoverboard  
To school and clap your hands  
To turn the lights on

Cellotape  
Is very sticky  
Even stickier than blutack

Our school is in space  
Aliens go there too  
We have fun and play with aliens

When we go to play,  
You will go down the steep slide  
And never come back

Stars swish you around  
The students are all learning  
Way out there in space

I went to the toilet  
Accidentally  
Farted and hit the ceiling

School will be made  
Of playdoh and glitter  
With pencils on top!

---

Everything will be electric  
You will have computers in  
Your head. Type with your eyes!

Put ice cream on your head  
Chips in your nose  
Put fish in your ears

Fire is burning hot  
Pumpkins are on Halloween  
Electricity is sizzly

There will be so many  
Futuristic kittens  
In the big fat future

Brushy animal  
Fur on the horizon  
Very hot and fluffy

Toilets are alive  
And swallow your poo then clean  
With a power washer

There are robots and  
They have hatches at the  
Bottom of their legs

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Rushmore  
in the

Future

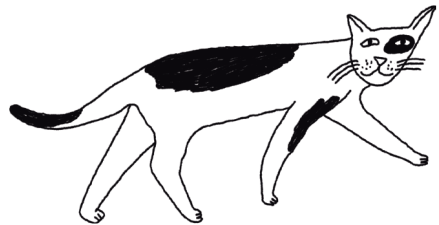
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## Rushmore in the future

In 150 years, the Rushmore School building will have crumbled and been abandoned. Our new lessons will be in holes in the ground.

In 150 years, the school will spin and books will be made of slime.

In 150 years, the school will be in outer space and we will have friends from different galaxies. We will get excited about teacher-aliens.



### CAT TAKEOVER!

Kittens are cuddly and soft and in the future they will roam and we will be friends with them and play with them. Maw, maw, maw!

The cats have invaded, the teachers and children are very happy!

In 150 years, at school we will get excited about learning animal language.

In the future, school will be run by cats. The cats will teach the children at cat school.

The school lessons will teach you how to look after animals.

The school building will be a dog and cat school.

'Ninaramaroo' means kittens are cuddly.

---

## **ROBOT TAKEOVER**

At school in the future, School Robot Bob will drive the bus on magnets, so fast. There will be a bubble around the school.

In 150 years, robots will be taking over the world. And our books will be about how to survive if aliens took over!

In 2175, children will have highly advanced lasers and quantum computers made of graphene. The teachers will be A.I. and teach students one trillion digits of Pi. Even the kittens will be futuristic.

When we go to school in the future, there will be a trampoline that bounces you into lessons where hologram teachers give us the easiest work in the world.

---

## Sharing the school

There are some other very important creatures who we share the school with.

Liv: What is your name Owl?

Owl: TWIT TWOO! I mean, Jessie Bobbet.

Robin: Where do you live?

Owl: I am the owl who lives on top of Rushmore on the roof. TWIT TWOO! I sleep in the day and wake at night so I like it when everyone is quiet. HOO, HOO. I hunt, and Rushmore is the best because I don't know how to fly yet.

Jamin: Are you learning?

Owl: Yes. I practice every day. HOO HOO.

Liv: What's your hobby?

Owl: Flying! HOO! I hope it doesn't rain tonight. I am very important because I am part of the wildlife. TWIT TWOO.



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Nils: Hello Squirrel!

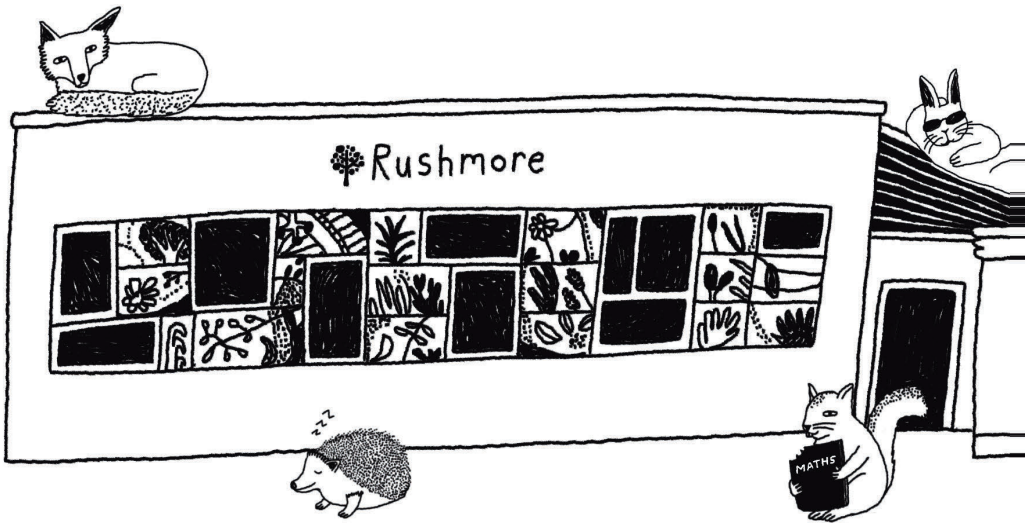
Squirrel: Hello, my name is Gerald.

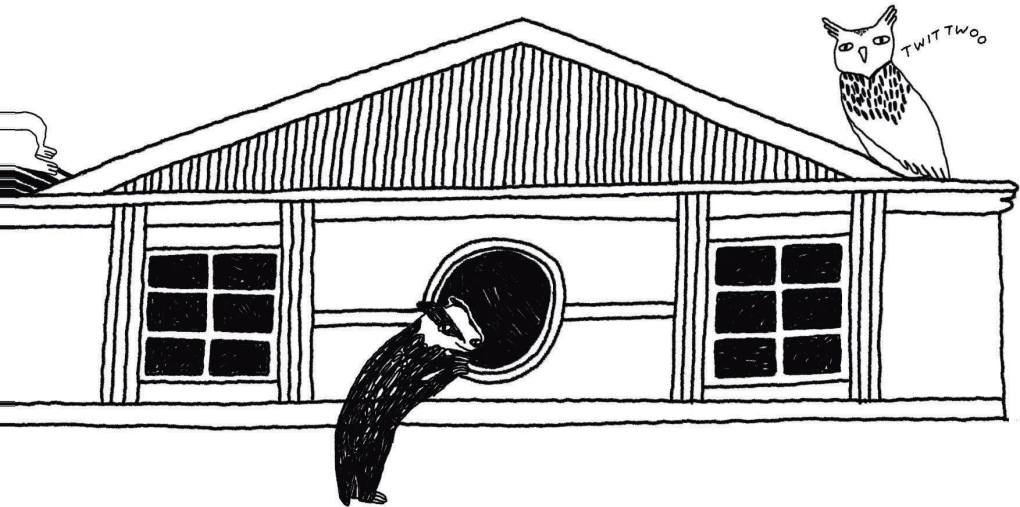
Nils: What did you do today Gerald Squirrel?

Squirrel: At playtime, I played with my bouncy walnut. I rushed into the lunch hall to find any remaining crumbs on the floor. Today there were one hundred crumbs. Jelly crumbs are yummy! Munch, munch, munch.

Remy: Do you eat anything else?

Squirrel: I nibble the Maths books sometimes. And leftover school lunches of course. I hide in the classroom and make lots and lots of mischief. I'm awake now, DUN DUN DUNNNN!





---

Blaidd: Hello, Badger! What are you doing?

Badger: I like to run around class when the children are asleep in their beds.

Frida: What's your name, Mr Badger?

Badger: My name is Gruffly and I like cuddles. In assembly, I peek through holes to listen. At clubs, I sneak in and join the activities, it's very fun.

Agnes: Do you have a family?

Badger: Yes, ten brothers and sixteen sisters.

Blaidd: Do you have a home?

Badger: I am very good at burrowing underground. I built myself a secret den. I love building tunnels when the kids aren't around. I like living under the Year 3 classrooms because I learn very interesting facts.

- 
- Beatrice: Hello Fox, my name is Beatrice. What's your favourite food?  
Mine is pizza.
- Fox: First I have breakfast (trash). Then I come out of my tree-trunk and jump around in circles a million times before lunch (more trash). After that, I go to the roof of Rushmore to see my friends and have a snack (more trash). I am very, very, very smelly and scruffy.
- Rio: What time do you wake up?
- Fox: I wake up in the evening when there are less people because I am shy.
- Rio: What do you like to eat?
- Fox: Small animals like mice. I have never caught a bird but I like to chase them which is very, very fun. I go into the woods sometimes to get berries for my lunch. I eat so many berries my tummy almost pops!



---

Julia: What do you do for fun Hedgehog?

Hedgehog: I have a nap. Then another nap. Then another nap. I don't think I have a lot of naps. I am nocturnal. I am a secret, no one knows about me. Apart from you, now.

Lorca: Do you play any instruments, Hedgehog?

Hedgehog: I play the piano. I learnt it at Rushmore.

Benji: What is your name, Hedgehog?

Hedgehog: My name is Spiky. I'm friends with Badger. I like eating acorns and leaves. I love when ants come by because I can eat them, they're so yummy.

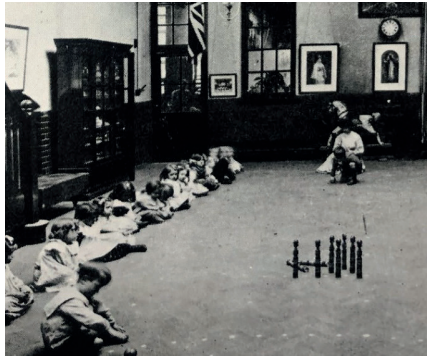
Benji: Oh no, you are so prickly!

Hedgehog: I am quite spiky.



- 
- Zadie: What do you do in school, rabbit?
- Rabbit: I eat leaves and water. Scrumptious! Afterwards, I read and relax while you are learning. Rushmore is fun! Hop, hop, hop!
- Sonny: What do you do next?
- Rabbit: I try not to distract you when I jump around. If I bounce too hard, you do get distracted. I watch the big kids play football but I can never tell which team is which.
- Pearl: Where do you live?
- Rabbit: I have a tree mansion because I nearly got caught once and it was really scary. At nighttime, everyone in the forest goes to a party. I bring the carrot snacks.
- Rafael: I would sleep well if I was you rabbit.





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MINISTRY  
OF STORIES

The Ministry of Stories champions the writer in every child. Co-founded by author Nick Hornby in 2010, we help young people write brighter futures for themselves through the power of their ideas and imagination. We build confidence, self-respect and communication skills through innovative writing programmes and one-to-one mentoring for children, working in schools and at our dedicated writing centre in east London.

Ministry of Stories is hidden behind our fantastical shop, Hoxton Street Monster Supplies, which has been serving monsters – and the occasional human – since 1818. All proceeds from their delectable offerings – including Werewolf Biscuits, Cubed Earwax and Sugar-Dusted Bogies – go back to support our work with young people aged 6–16.



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