

The Story Continues

Unwrap
for
adventure

September 2022 ~ August 2023





Contents



- 3 About
- 4 Introduction
- 5 School Provision
- 6 In-house Provision
- 7 - 8 Out of School Provision
- 9 - 10 Family Learning Provision
- 11 - 12 Outreach and Engagement
- 13 Volunteers and Celebrating Success
- 14 The Emporium of Stories





The Story Continues

About

Grimm & Co can trace its origin back to 1148, just before lunchtime. Since then, our unique Yorkshire literacy charity has been delivering on its mission to change lives, one story at a time. We provide exciting writing workshops for children and young people, aged 0-18, unleashing imaginations through the joyful discovery of stories – and taking fun VERY seriously. Our workshops for children and young people explore a variety of writing forms and genres, from comedy writing to fictional stories, poems to plays, speeches to soap operas. We are dedicated to supporting children and young people's self-confidence, building their self-belief, and feeling proud in their abilities and efforts. Our participants create meaning and we follow along as they lead the way, even if that's into a bubbling bog, a wispy cloud castle or a far-flung corner of an undiscovered galaxy.

Our work serves children and young people from disadvantaged areas, both in our school workshops and out-of-school activities, and this can have a hugely positive impact on their lives. We aim to build the capacity of children and young people, empowering them to discover and unleash their hidden talents. Our focus has expanded to include those with influence on the child or young person, for example, parents, carers and educators, to explore their role in building a creative environment for the children and young people they come into contact with.

All our workshops are free for children and young people, and we celebrate their writing through showcasing events, publications and other artistic outputs such as maps, animations and even inventing their own sport: Tie-Dye Ball*



“When I was younger, I wasn’t really all that confident. But Grimm has brought up my confidence. It was actually the thing that got me into writing.

Young Leader

*Grimm & Co does not accept any responsibility for fruit-based injuries sustained in Tie-Dye Ball.

Introduction

In the 2022-23 academic year, Grimm & Co delivered sessions both online and in a pop-up space at Linger Longer Lane in central Rotherham. Ahead of the move to our new centre, our pop-up workshop space closed its doors in October 2022, with creative learning delivery moving to alternative spaces. Since then, we have delivered across multiple sites throughout South Yorkshire, ensuring our provision did not dwindle during this transition.



“Thank you to you and all the volunteers that work with and support A, she really enjoys the sessions and looks forward to coming each week.”

Parent
Saturday Club



Big thank you to Tesco Community Space, Rotherham, for being a host for so many of these programmes (this “every little” certainly helped).

As such, we have worked with a wide range of schools, community organisations, families and artists to deliver inquiry-based explorative workshops, projects focused on mental health and wellbeing, and arts-based professional development for teachers.



“Although L is a very confident and sociable child, he has benefited greatly from attending Saturday Club. Meeting other children from varying backgrounds and cultures has given him the confidence to explore and embrace our differences.”

Carer
Saturday Club

School Provision

Grimm Facts

In-school provision:
1609 children and young people
from **26** schools
across **5** writing projects
resulting in **2413** creative learning
experiences

Galaxy Worlds

Galaxy Worlds was a fast paced, eighty-minute creative literacy session. Two intergalactic story-seekers named Astro Flambé and Canyon De Lune crash-landed on Earth, seeking the source of Intergalactic Storytelling.

Using immersive drama and freewriting, the pupils created a new and fantastical planet in a distant galaxy. The teachers also received follow-up activities to deliver in the classroom to consolidate impact ensuring the children completed their adventure story. The project was commissioned by Sheffield South-East Learning Partnership (SSELP). The workshops took place across 13 primary schools in south-east Sheffield from November 2022 to July 2023. We worked with 26 classes in total and 701 children and young people.



The project objectives were:

- 1 Engage children in writing by creating a fun and gripping atmosphere.
- 2 Use drama to generate ideas, and to build confidence and listening skills.
- 3 Develop imaginative freedom and confidence through free-writing.
- 4 Empower children to share their work and feel invested in their learning.

Impact: Teachers were asked to observe one Pupil Premium child:

100% of teachers said their chosen pupil showed "wide eyed excitement."

100% of teachers said their chosen pupil engaged positively with the drama activities.

95% of teachers said their chosen pupil engaged positively with the drama activities.

100% of teachers said their chosen pupil had fun.

68% of teachers said their chosen pupil displayed an increase in confidence.



The Maltby Monkey

The Maltby Monkey was a multi-session writing project in which two magical historians, Barrowdale Scott and Wobblestock Miggs bumbled into the classroom tracking down a valuable Time Tear. The Time Tear allowed the hapless historians to gain an insight into the past... except they were useless at their jobs. The pupils helped them piece together the puzzle, bringing to life the story of The Maltby Monkey.

This project was a collaboration with FLUX, a community arts organisation based in Rotherham. FLUX authored the story of the Maltby Monkey, which was then used as a springboard for the sessions. It was delivered to two schools from April-May 2023 and reached 73 pupils.

The purpose of the project was to build civic pride and reimagine the area of Maltby. The children were able to personalise their learning journey by drawing on geographical places that were familiar to them, whilst adding a sense of intrigue and excitement to a new narrative.

Impact:

"The sessions have been engaging, relevant and my children have been completely enthralled by the story of the Maltby Monkey [...] Thank you so much for your time - you shine so brightly, and it has been a pleasure having Grimm & Co in our school."

H. Howis and L. Davies

Class Teachers at Maltby Manor Academy



"I loved the acting; it didn't feel like normal learning. I loved how they interacted with us."

Pupil

Arbourthorne Community Primary School

School Provision

Grimm Facts

In-house provision:
357 children and young people
from **5** schools/alternative
provisions across South Yorkshire
resulting in **13** writing workshops



We closed our pop-up delivery space in October 2022, which resulted in only 8 weeks of in-house school workshops this year. Despite this, we were invited into schools to deliver our signature Storymaking session and this was a real success. This, along with digital delivery, is something we will continue to offer to ensure all schools, no matter what their situation, can access our provision.

Understandably, schools want to book their learning experiences with us once our new centre, The Emporium of Stories, opens. And we cannot wait to welcome them!

Creative Mentoring

Creative Mentoring is an ongoing programme, now in its fifth year, delivered in partnership with Virtual School Rotherham. A young person with a level of additional needs, notably experience of the care system, is partnered with a mentor for a full academic year. The Creative Mentor is trained in Emotion Coaching and Social Pedagogy, to support the child/young person in exploring their creativity and curiosity. Each session begins with the provocation "what will we do together today?" Grimm & Co has seen a range of positive, creative and wellbeing-focused outcomes from the mentees including greater confidence, independence, and boosted self-esteem.



Impact:

We ended our programme of sessions by making a banner for the class to say goodbye. It was rainbow coloured, included art, and cut outs and sewed bunting. The other children in his class signed it. [The mentee] was proud...they learned to work better with others... became more patient and communicative.

Creative Mentor feedback



"I think [the mentee] has learnt to slow down a bit and to focus on making something, like mark making on paper and our glitter pictures. I also think he is learning how to play collaboratively and to communicate his world."

Creative Mentor Feedback

Teacher Learning and Development

After the success of the Chapter & Verse project (see The Story Unfolds 21-22 report), where we worked with teachers to develop creative courage in the classroom, we began building a suite of learning development opportunities for educators and those with influence on children and young people's lives. This resulted in a series of workshops across the academic year with primary teachers from 13 Sheffield schools exploring creative risk and how this can be embedded into the Literacy National Curriculum.

As a result of this, one of the schools commissioned us to deliver a half-

day event to their teaching staff (70 employees) around our arts-based practice. We plan to expand our teacher development provision over the next year as well as collaborating with other Yorkshire arts organisations to highlight the breadth of knowledge and support we can offer in educational settings.

Impact:

"Thank you for an amazing CPD session! Your energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration! We have gained a lot from your session, which we intend to enrich our lessons with."

Teachers

High Hazels Academy, Sheffield

Out of School Provision

Grimm Facts
149 children and young people aged between 7-18 years across 12 writing projects resulting in 1002 creative learning experiences and 13 professional outputs

Saturday Club: Crafting for Wellbeing project

Saturday Club celebrates differences and what makes us all individuals. It is a safe, inclusive space for all, where children and young people can explore who they are. One of the projects this year was Crafting for Wellbeing, designed to increase resilience and encourage self-reflection through writing and embroidery. The mindful nature of the project meant that many participants opened up to staff about their personal lives and any problems they were experiencing whilst they were completing their artwork.

The output was a framed embroidered positive affirmation, created by the individual. They also produced a piece based on "What Grimm means to me?" which is being turned into a patchwork banner and will be showcased in our new writing centre.



Impact:

100% of young people stated that they enjoyed attending Saturday Club.

100% of young people expressed an increase in their self-confidence while attending Saturday Club.

When asked in their evaluations:

"Please write three words to describe your experience (of Saturday Club)" these were the most common responses from young people.



"I liked the activities, the exercises, games, basically everything! Really engaging and helpful."

Child
Flash Fiction



Flash Fiction



This was a 2-day summer project looking at short story writing for 12-16-year-olds.

It was a gentle but focused project encouraging free writing, that gave creative control to young people, to produce works of literary genius. We used various writing prompts that spanned the dimensions including video, photos and music.

In each session we shared a short story which was gazed upon through the group's amazing analytic apparatus to try to uncover the hidden meaning.

Overall, both facilitators noted that the volume of writing produced by all children and young people was significantly higher than usual.

Impact:

100% of attendees stated they had learned skills that improved their writing.

80% of attendees were from the areas of Rotherham deemed highest in terms of multiple deprivation.

30% of young people from Flash Fiction went on to sign up for both our autumn project, The Impossible Quest, and Saturday Club.

Out of School Provision



Young Leaders

Now coming to the end of its third year, this group of rascallions meet fortnightly, with the purpose of upskilling, ready to confidently meddle in the inner workings of Grimm & Co. This includes the ability to govern with their youthful exuberance and ever critical eyes, to awesomely lead in leadership roles and to collaborate in frankly zany design projects. This year they designed their very own Shop Product! From design to production, they worked closely with the Retail Manager to create three items for the Apothecary. We intend to have the shop products on the shelves ready for the inevitable impending retail rush during the opening of the Emporium of Stories.

In the past year we have delivered 21 sessions, totalling 31.5 hours of delivery. These sessions took place across multiple delivery spaces, including online over

Zoom, Tesco Community Space and Hygge, Rotherham. The group has representation across ethnicity, SEND, gender, neurodivergence and LGBTQIA+ identities and has gained three new members this year.

Impact

100% of the young people felt that they are making a difference at Young Leaders/Grimm & Co

7.6 / 10 As a group average, the Young Leaders rated themselves 7.6 / 10 in their confidence to lead.

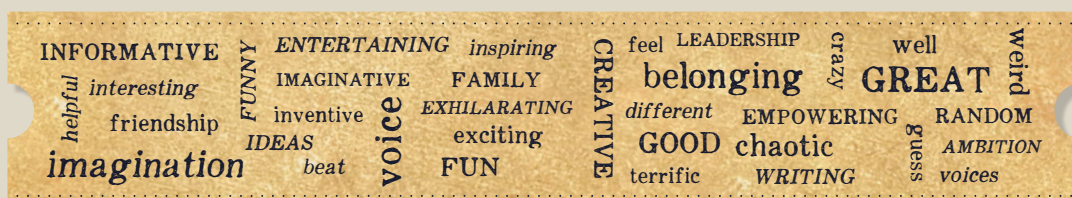
8.0 / 10 As a group average, the Young Leaders rated themselves 8.0 out of 10 in their confidence in writing.

Below is a word cloud of responses to the question 'how would you describe Young Leaders in three words?'



"Coming and chatting and like, talking about Grimm in a different perspective. Young Leaders makes me feel like part of Grimm rather than a member of Grimm if you know what I mean.

Young Leader



Family Learning Provision

Grimm Facts

261 families
across 15 Family
Learning projects
resulting in 920
creative experiences



We have continued to strengthen our Family Learning offer, using this to both develop partnerships with external agencies and establish strong relationships within our immediate community. We have taken our workshops into local schools, parks and community spaces to engage more families than ever before, ensuring the families of Rotherham and beyond are fully immersed in Grimm & Co's unique take on early childhood literacies.

Lego Café

Lego café offered a safe, inclusive space in a calm and welcoming environment where families could engage in open-ended play, using Lego as a means of expression and imagination. Held in the local Rotherham Civic Theatre, all attendees were offered a free breakfast and we engaged families with children from 14 months to 8 years. Following its success, it is something we are looking to offer consistently from The Emporium of Stories.



Impact:

64% of families who attended were new to Grimm & Co.

82% of families were interested in further learning opportunities with Grimm & Co.

100% of families took up the breakfast option of either cereal, pastries or fruit.



Story Picnic

In early 2023, we connected with two schools in the Rotherham East and Rotherham West wards. We had highlighted these areas as a priority to deliver a 6-week programme with foundation children and their parents/carers. Each week, the families were introduced to a new story, which was brought to life with creative activities and immersive, multi-sensory resources. We offered writing prompts to spark imaginations of the young and the not-so-young and participants created their own stories as a family. These were then illustrated by a volunteer and published into individual books at the end of the programme for attendees to take home.

Impact:

60% of parents/carers stated that they had greater confidence and courage in communicating with their child/ren.

56% of parents/carers stated they had gained greater knowledge, skills and tools necessary to help their child/ren learn and improve their literacies.

37% of parents/carers stated that they had developed positive relationships with other members of their community.

42% of parents/carers noticed a positive impact on their social/emotional mental health and wellbeing.



"Happy to have the opportunity to learn and be with my child. It has made it easier to create stories at home and spend more time together"

Parent
Story Picnic

Family Learning Provision



Family Learning on Tour

We took our Family Learning provision on tour this summer! Grimm & Co delivered 20 taster sessions in 5 parks across the local borough. Several families took part, and many were regular attendees. Their consistent attendance shows the impact of our workshops. In the same instance, many families were accessing the provision for the very first time due to Family Learning expanding out into new communities to those who may not have heard of Grimm & Co. All the parks involved gave feedback on how high the engagement was for them as a result, and all have asked to continue to work with us on future projects.

Impact:

We worked with 98 families, of which:

94% were completely new to Grimm & Co.

36% returned for a further Family Learning Workshop.



“I genuinely cannot recommend these guys enough, they are absolutely brilliant and my son enjoys every minute of our time with them”

Attendee
Family Learning on Tour

Outreach & Engagement

Grimm Facts

529 children and young people across 5 unique Outreach & Engagement projects resulting in 722 creative learning experiences

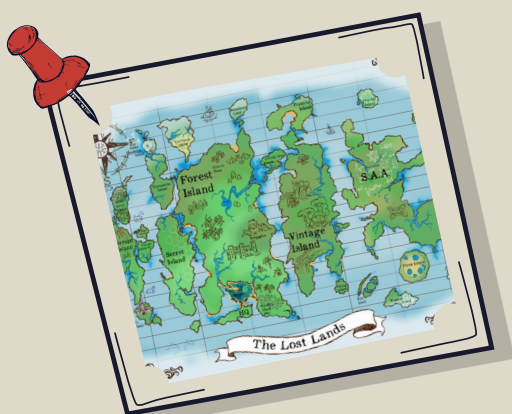


Outreach and Engagement is all about getting out and about into the communities across Rotherham and running Grimm & Co workshops and projects in the places where children and young people meet regularly. There are many opportunities for a crossover with Out of School and Family Learning projects, as well as creating Outreach and Engagement taster sessions. We share below some of the exciting programmes we have rolled out, with much more to come...



The Lost Lands

The Lost Lands was a 4-week project, involving a group of young people who are members of the LAC (Looked After Children) Council. Together, using The Legumes of Lost Lands and various props, they created a wonderfully immersive and imaginative world map, complete with a cast of unusual and never-seen-before creatures and characters/inhabitants. The Lost Lands will also be showcased online.



Impact:

11 young people actively participated and consistently attended.

At the end of the project, the young people were asked to describe the project in three words. The words with the highest number of mentions were: good, magical, exciting and fun.



"They all got something out of it. They all like the fantasy land... Different, yet familiar. Not done something like that before."

Lead
LAC Council

Outreach & Engagement

Paper Portals (with Explore Arts Award)

Paper Portals was created as an after-school project where the children and young people worked towards the recognised qualification of Explore Arts Award, which was supported by Imagine Rotherham (the local cultural education partnership). It was a series of 1-hour sessions over 6 consecutive weeks at Thornhill Primary School.

This project placed a strong emphasis on world building, creative writing, creation of individual origami interdimensional portals (craft element) and exploring the arts, including meeting a local artist. From a suitcase of random paper items, pupils created crystal swans, poisonous frogs, biting oxen and the gates to Atlantis, amongst other things. The paper-based nature of the project also elevated the ordinary object of paper into something fantastical.

Impact:

All 13 participating pupils successfully completed and achieved their Explore Arts Award.

50% of the pupils felt that they had increased in confidence by the end of the project.

25% of the pupils felt an increased confidence in their writing by the end of the project.



"This is the best after school club ever!"

Pupil
Thornhill Primary School

You're Better Than You Think

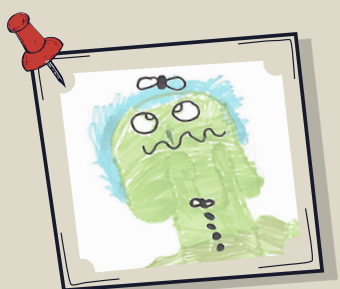
We worked in partnership with a group of young carers at Barnardo's on an animation project, with wellbeing as the theme. The young people generated the title of the project themselves, they created a cast of original characters, some amazing emotional worlds, and a script for the journey of Rory the robo-dog embarking on an adventure. Seventy1 Digital has been commissioned to create a short animation for this project, which will be showcased at our May Story Festival in 2024.

Impact:

13 young people actively participated in the project.

100% of the young people were able to identify what they liked about the project, with over a third saying "everything". Nearly two-thirds of the group said there was nothing they did not like.

66.7% Over two-thirds of the group indicated they had learned something from the project, including "self-reliance," "how to work as a team," and "how to do recordings [for the animation]."



Bob the Blob (Self-Doubt Coach)



Riby Rob the Rhino (Sadness Coach)



Flame (Anger Coach),

Volunteers & Celebrating Success

Grimm Facts
 28 new volunteers recruited
 103 volunteers retained
 71 volunteers have supported us
 across 630 activities
 giving us 3155 hours
 of their time



Volunteers

Grimm & Co has seen huge changes this year with the development of the Emporium of Stories and the closure of the pop-up space on Linger Longer Lane limiting the opportunities for in-person volunteering. Despite these changes, our dedicated volunteers have been stalwarts: helping with cleaning, packing and moving between spaces, administration, research, prop-making and the continued support of our activities with families and children and young people in school, in the community and in a range of found spaces.

Volunteer recruitment and retention has changed since Covid-19 and with the impact of the cost of living crisis ongoing, however Grimm & Co is pleased to have retained 103 volunteers this year and recruited 28 new volunteers. A lot of emphasis has been on valuing our

volunteers and encouraging time for their wellbeing. This has been achieved through our Volunteer Newsletters, Volunteer Book Club, internal training, and our fun volunteer socials. We have also started a Volunteer Voice Group to ensure that volunteers feel represented in influencing volunteer policy and decision-making.

Impact:

100% of the volunteers who responded to our survey reported increased wellbeing because of volunteering at Grimm & Co

5 Volunteers gained employment due to their contribution at Grimm & Co.

47 volunteers took advantage of free training opportunities Grimm & Co provided



“It is good for my sense of wellbeing that I am able to volunteer, and hopefully make a difference”.

Volunteer

Celebrating Success

There have been many successes at Grimm & Co this year, some of which have been highlighted in this report. Here is a snapshot of everything else!



The Near Future...



The Emporium of Stories

In April 2023, Grimm & Co continued along our storied path and moved into The Emporium of Stories, our brand-new writing centre. Due to open its sturdy yet creaking big red doors to the public (magical, ethereal or otherwise) in February 2024, it will be Yorkshire's unique writing destination, boasting our famous Apothecary to the Magical, Feastery dining, immersive meeting rooms and three Writer's Pad classroom spaces enabling us to increase our capacity to work with more children and young people. We have also received additional funding to install a Changing Places facility so that all visitors can visit the Emporium in comfort and with dignity should they need to use the bathroom.

Currently, we are reaching the final phase of this substantial building project: transforming an underused church into a fabled and fantastical writing centre in the heart of Rotherham which will serve the whole community.

The fit-out is taking shape under the watchful eye of globally-award winning designers and creators, Lumsden Design, Codsteaks and Cronin Joinery, with an exceptional track record that includes the Harry Potter Studios (London and Tokyo), Kew Gardens and many other renowned visitor attractions.

When we open, Grimm & Co will welcome children, young people, families, schools, businesses, tourists and curious local residents to the space, which will be an inclusive, accessible hub for the community of Rotherham and beyond.

We cannot wait to welcome you!



"When Grimm & Co opens, I'm going to come in every day!"

Pupil
Thornhill Primary School

Thank you

With thanks to all our funders, from regular givers in the Order of Dreams and Dragons (ODD) and the Benefactors and Fairy Godparents (B.F.G.), to the organisations below.

