



## Russ the Story Bus!

In 2014, Sydney Writers' Festival transformed an ordinary bus into Russ the Story Bus: a bright and colourful creative space decked out with bookshelves (full of the latest children's books) and spots for kids to read and listen to stories.

Each year, Russ the Story Bus' exterior is adorned in colourful illustrations by one of Australia's best children's book illustrators. This year, Russ is covered in marvelous artwork from the children's book *Love Makes a Family* by Sophie Beer.

Russ the Story Bus is a magical place for children that celebrates storytelling, reading and creativity, and fosters the lifelong connection we have with books that begins in childhood.

## 2018 School Tour 22 October to 14 December

Russ the Story Bus has been visiting schools since 2014, making this his fifth school tour. In 2017, Russ the Story Bus visited 5,000 children at more than 60 schools in NSW, VIC and the ACT.

In 2018, from 22 October to 14 December, Russ the Story Bus is visiting schools in **Greater Sydney, North Coast regional** and **the ACT**.

## A Russ the Story Bus School Visit

All aboard the magical bus with a belly full of books!

On Russ the Story Bus students are encouraged to browse bookshelves full of the latest children's books, listen to stories read by Festival staff and volunteers, chat to the visiting children's book author and choose a book to take home.

Students will also enjoy taking part in an interactive talk run by a children's book author. The author will share their love of books, discuss their craft and inspire children to think creatively about reading, writing and storytelling. There is also an opportunity to ask the author a question (and get a book signed).

Sydney Writers' Festival staff work alongside teachers and librarians to manage the visit (all Sydney Writers' Festival staff and volunteers have A Working With Children Check).

## What Teachers Have Said about Russ the Story Bus

'Each student gained a rich learning experience and created a happy memory'.  
Gillian Maugle, Teacher Librarian, Wiley Park Public School

'The joy of the children's faces when they realised they actually were getting to keep the books was priceless.' Kate Martin, Teacher Librarian, Riverbank Public School

'We try every day to instil in our kids a genuine love of reading ... so to be supported by you in that endeavour is so lovely.' Darren Denmead, Teacher Librarian, Bathurst West Public School

## Booking for your School

A visit from Russ the Story Bus is suitable for primary-aged children. When you make your booking we ask that you specify the year level so that we can ensure that the books on the bus and the author talk are suitable.

Up to 80 children can join the two-hour session and a maximum of 30 students can explore Russ the Story Bus at one time. If your year group has more than 80 students, please contact the Festival via email on [ticketing@swf.org.au](mailto:ticketing@swf.org.au) to discuss whether we can facilitate more students.

**TO BOOK** Russ the Story Bus please use the online booking form at [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au) or contact our team via email on [ticketing@swf.org.au](mailto:ticketing@swf.org.au)

For more information, please visit [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)

If you have any questions, contact: 02) 9256 4200