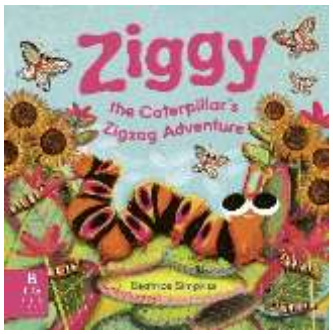
Tuesday 17 November 2026

9.15 am: Reception-Year 1

Beatrice Simpkiss – Ziggy the Caterpillar's Zigzag Adventure!



Get ready to move, wiggle and imagine as *Ziggy the Caterpillar's Zigzag Adventure* comes to life in this vibrant, interactive event! Children will join Ziggy, the little caterpillar with a big personality, on her zigzagging journey of friendship and self-discovery. Through lively read-alouds, wiggle breaks and a creative mindfulness activity with creator Beatrice Simpkiss, young readers are encouraged to celebrate their quirks, explore emotions and discover the beauty of being wonderfully themselves. This joyful session invites every child to embrace their own special way of moving through the world - just like Ziggy.

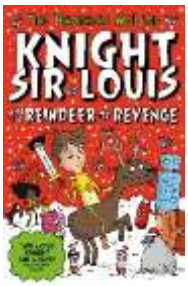


Beatrice Simpkiss is an illustrator based in Hackney, London. She graduated from Arts University Bournemouth with a first-class degree in illustration and was awarded 'One of the Illustration Graduates to Watch' in the D&AD New Blood Festival in 2020.

Beatrice is inspired by creating bold, colourful and energetic illustrations which are full of texture and fun characters.

9.15 am: Years 2-4

The Brothers McLeod: The Adventures of Knight St Louis



Join **The Brothers McLeod** for this not-to-be-missed event featuring the fantastic **Knight Sir Louis**!

You'll create your own knight character before helping The Brothers to write a comedy adventure in six comic panels in this interactive event packed with drawing, comics, reading aloud in silly voices, and lots and lots of laughs.



The Brothers McLeod are author, screenwriter and voice actor Myles McLeod, and illustrator, animator and director Greg McLeod – creators of the hilarious *Knight Sir Louis* series of books. Together, they have worked for clients such as Disney, Aardman, the BBC, ITV, Dreamworks, and the RSC. Their series, *Circle Square*, is out with Milkshake! on Channel 5.

Funded by Milton Keynes City Council

10.45 am: Years 5-6

Dhonielle Clayton: The Conjureverse



Step into a world of magic with **Dhonielle Clayton** as she guides you through her spectacular magic school in the sky, the Arcanum Training Institute, and introduces you to the thrilling final instalment in the **Conjureverse** series, *The Paragon Games*.

As Ella and Jason return to the institute for Year Four, with the world in turmoil, they are selected to participate in the year-long Paragon Games. The prize for the winner: a wish granted. Tugged in a dozen directions, Ella must compete in the games, locate the stolen twilight stars, and help build a bridge between two communities on the precipice of war.

Packed with adventure, mystery and unforgettable magic, this is an unmissable session for fantasy fans!



Dhonielle Clayton loves magic. She loves it more than anything . . . even pizza or warm chocolate chip cookies. So she reads millions of books to find some in the real world, because magic makes everything much more interesting. She grew up in the Washington, DC, suburbs on the Maryland side and is a former secondary teacher and librarian.

She is a *New York Times* bestselling author, the COO of the non-profit We Need Diverse Books, and the owner of Cake Creative Kitchen. *The Marvellers* was shortlisted for the Week Junior Awards for the best children's book of the year older fiction award 2023.

Information for Schools

This is the third **Milton Keynes Schools Lit Fest,** and we're really excited to be bringing it back this year with a day focused on primary-age students with three fantastic events.

A free event, it takes place on **Tuesday 17 November 2026** aimed at year groups from Reception to Year Six. The first two sessions (for Reception to Year 1 and for Years 2-4) begin at 9.15am, and last approximately 45 minutes and the session for Year 5-6 starts at 10.45am and lasts approximately one hour. Signed books by the authors are available to be pre-ordered via Waterstones and received on the day.

The **MK Primary Schools Lit Fest** is hosted by Thornton College, with MK Lit Fest and Waterstones. All Milton Keynes Primary Schools are invited to join the day by contacting admissions@thorntoncollege.com and mklitfest@gmail.com to book your students' places and for full details of the day.

Funded by Milton Keynes City Council