



From the Headmaster: Mr C. Hyde-Dunn, MA(Oxon), PGCE, MA(Ed.), NPQH

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Ed,

Thank you very much for visiting us here at Abingdon Prep. We all enjoyed your stories immensely. The children were enthralled, with moments of silent suspense followed by raucous laughter! It is a rare talent to be able to captivate such a young audience and leave them wanting more!

You really conveyed the importance and joy of reading, along with some excellent ideas for starting points for creative writing.

Good luck with your future endeavours.

Kind Regards,

Lenka Sowter

(Year 3 teacher and Library Coordinator)

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# Shakespeare Junior School

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*learning for tomorrow*



Shakespeare Junior School

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27.11.15

## Book Author Visit

We had the great pleasure of Ed Wicke visit our school in the autumn term. This certainly promoted, 'Reading for Pleasure' in our school. Prior to the visit, we arranged details through email which was quick and precise. The program he sent over was organised and suited the needs of the children. Ed personally delivered some of his books to the school which we were able to share across year groups for our book week.

Ed was happy to take a lower and an upper school assembly on two separate afternoons with over 160 pupils in each. His delivery of these assemblies was exceptional. All the children were fully engaged and loved his humour when he shared some of his Wicked Tales stories. The children were captivated from start to finish!

Ed also took two separate workshop sessions for around 60 pupils on developing story writing. The children were inspired in creating imaginative stories and were leaving the sessions with such enthusiasm, discussing what they had done and sharing their stories.

There wasn't any cost to all the positives from Ed's visit. He sold his books at the end of the day which benefitted the children even further. They were able to meet him personally with their parents, buy one of his books and get it signed. The books are now being read at school but also at home which is the biggest achievement.

Thank you Ed for your enthusiasm and the imagination you brought to our children. We hope to see you in the future!

Daniel Whitehouse (English co-ordinator)

# BALFOUR JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Dear Ed

What a wonderful start to our book week! The children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed your stories. Enthusiastic, inspiring and funny! All the children wanted to do was read more of your work and write their own stories. Amazing.

Charlotte Constable  
Balfour English Co-ordinator.





## MINET JUNIOR SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: Mr. S. P. Foot (B. Ed)

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### Reference for author Ed Wicke

Completed by Fiona McAlpine - Literacy/Reading Co-ordinator

### Minet Junior School, Hayes

We booked Ed Wicke after reading an article about his work with schools in the Telegraph newspaper. In this article, he came across as committed to inspiring the next generation to become readers and writers.

After some emails, Ed agreed to work with the school at no cost, doing two 80 minute story-telling presentations and four hour long workshops with some of our more reluctant readers. I cannot begin to communicate fully how much of a difference his work made to the children of our school.

Our school benefits from many different cultures and social backgrounds. We have a high percentage of 'English as an additional language' (EAL) pupils, many of whom have limited home support with reading. It is our goal to develop a community of readers at Minet Junior School and we have launched many initiatives, with Ed Wicke's visit being the most inspirational to the children.

Children who disliked reading are now reading during playtimes, lunchtimes and registration time! All adults across the school have remarked on this difference and I have had many parents and carers come to tell me how happy they are that their children are now reading with enthusiasm!

I recommend that every school should experience a visit from this exceptional author. I look forward to another visit next year!

### Quotes

"I bought him a book yesterday and he can't put it down! I've come to buy the rest of the Wicked Tales series today!" (parent)

"She's using her pocket money for this week and next week to buy her favourite book instead of her sweets - it's fantastic!" (parent)

"This visit has been so popular with the children! Isn't it wonderful what a huge difference a visit like this can make!" (year 5 teacher)

"I cannot begin to describe how wonderful this experience has been. For the children, for the parents and for the teachers" (year 3 teacher)

"He tricked us! He tricked us by talking with us about a story and before I knew it I had written the start of a story! I didn't know I could do that! Can I go again tomorrow?" (Year 3 child)

"Can we adopt him? I don't want him to go. If we did, he could work with us always." (year 4 child)

"I don't like reading, it's boring. I really liked the way the fairy tales had been changed. I was laughing so much and I would definitely tell my friends about 'The Thundertroll' story" (year 6 child)

"I felt really sad when I thought we had to give our class copy of Wicked Tales back but I was so excited when we got given the whole set back - and they were all signed!" (year 5 teacher)

"My teacher read Wicked Tales to us and she was laughing at the funny bits so much she cried! Then I was laughing so much my tummy hurt" (year 3 child)



24 March 2014

### **Ed Wicke's visit to Maltman's Green School**

Ed Wicke arrived in torrential rain to visit Maltman's on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014, to bring his unique blend of humour and writing experience to the Senior School through a combination of reading from his series of books and practical story writing workshops.

He made an immediate impact upon students and staff alike and laughter echoed throughout the gym, as he retold his personal interpretation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, adopting a range of characters and voices and reworking the classic tale.

Battling against the violent February rain driving against the gym windows, Ed then orchestrated writing and story workshops, engaging fully with students, keen to follow in the steps of a guest speaker with thirteen books currently available in print. He was inspiring in the extreme, with a flurry of eager hands raised every time he asked for a contribution, providing an experienced hand to the many students keen to improve the quality and style of their written work. Interesting adjectives were as common as loud bursts of laughter, as stories were created, read out to the audience and polished in turn.

A good time was had by all, not the least being Ed himself. Although several weeks have now passed since his visit, positive feedback continues to pour in and the girls' enthusiasm has definitely not waned. I would certainly have no hesitation in recommending him for a visit.

Mrs A Wirth  
**Head of English**

Headmistress. Mrs Joanna Pardon MA, BSc, PGCE

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# LUDLOW JUNIOR SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Mr Simon Watkins

## Business and Strategy Team

**Business Manager**  
Mrs Debbie Rooke

**Director of Coaching and Teaching**  
Mrs Gemma French

**PA to Leadership Team**  
Mrs Tressa Byrne



## Standards Team

**Director of Coaching and Teaching**  
Mrs Gemma French

**Assistant Head / Professional Coach**  
Mrs Gillie Hotston

**Aiming High Teacher**  
Miss Jo Bean

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Re. Ed Wicke school visit

Dear Ed,

Thank you ever so much for supporting Ludlow Junior School during our 'Read on week!' Your visit certainly provided the 'wow' factor for our pupils and they loved every minute of working with you.

Following your visit, there is a fantastic buzz surrounding our reading lessons and pupils are thoroughly engaged with page turning! Even some of our most disengaged boys cannot wait to pick up the Wicked Tales! We loved how you tailored the sessions to suit our pupils and the needs of the school- especially engaging our year sixes in the lead up to SATs!

The writing the pupils produced during and post your visit was truly inspired, showing great imagination and flair! They especially enjoyed the writing workshops and I am certain hearing the viewpoint of the author helped our pupils to really consider their audience!

Thank you again for all your time with us. I would thoroughly recommend your visit to any other Primary school!

Kind Regards,

*Miss Sophie Nash*

Reading Leader  
Ludlow Junior School





Y O U R P A T H W A Y T O P R O G R E S S

11 August 2013

Booking Ed Wicke to come to our school during book week was one of the best decisions I have made as English Co-ordinator. From my first contact with the author, Ed proved to be friendly, obliging and professional. He was able to put together a programme for our school, which both suited the children's needs and played to Ed's numerous strengths.

Before the day, Ed sent us some of his books, which we shared around the classes and read to the children. The books were such fun (for teachers and children) that Ed Wicke was a legend before he even set foot in the school.

When the first day of Ed's 3 afternoon visits arrived, the children were hugely excited and he did not disappoint either them or the teachers. Each afternoon, he worked with a large group of children, before working with specifically chosen groups. The quality of the sessions was amazing. Ed kept a group of 270 children lower school children captivated for 75 minutes, a feat which has never before been attempted! He even took an assembly for the whole school, at the end of his last visit.

After school, Ed ran a book sale, signing every book. This was hugely popular and many parents sneaked in without their children and bought a second book for Christmas! The children were often caught with their heads buried in his books and Ed is definitely responsible for many children becoming excited about reading for the first time.

Inviting an author in is usually a costly affair. Not so with Ed Wicke. As we are in Hampshire, he came for free. His only stipulation was that we should buy 1 book per class to put in the library, so that children who couldn't afford to buy one of his books could still access them. We were more than happy to do this and his books never spend any time on the library shelves, as the children are constantly scanning them out!

I am so grateful to Ed for making our book week such an enormous success. I can't wait for him to write another book so that we can invite him in again really soon!

HELENA BORHAM  
English Co-ordinator