

Rosehill School HandMade Theatre: 'Too Many Cooks' Whole School Project Proposal for School Fund



Background: HandMade Theatre

HandMade Theatre is a registered charity and Limited Company, making and touring contemporary theatre for families since 2012.

After 15 years of professional collaboration, artists Suzy Gunn and Amy Nicholson came together to create HandMade Theatre. Amy originally trained as a theatre designer and brought this design flare combined with a love of puppetry to her role as Creative Director. She is also a qualified art teacher and has experience in interactive music therapy. Suzy originally trained as a performer and has extensive experience in arts management, which she combines with her love of storytelling and commitment to contemporary performance in her role as the company's creative producer.

HandMade Theatre has toured their interactive shows for families' across the breadth of the UK performing at a wide range of professional arts festivals and venues. They have also run many creative projects and performances in schools and community settings, including their first major project 'The Flying Machine' in residence at Rosehill School. The company specialise in working with young people with Special Educational Needs and have developed a number of projects with Rosehill over the years including The Horses of WWI, Goose Fair, The train to Glasgow and a number of summer schools.

Too Many Cooks-Proposal – Spring Term 2018

HandMade currently have a new project commission to create a touring production inspired by cooking and the food industry. It will explore characters found in the food scene such as bakers, grocers, butchers.



Alongside the development of this production, they intend to run a number of workshops and projects with young people. HandMade propose working with pupils at Rosehill across all ages and classes to investigate, characters, sounds, puppets and smells in relation to food.

The workshops will focus on bringing a highly interactive and sensory experience to the pupils, working on levels to suit the children and creating activities, which can be adapted to all abilities. We will use music, songs, story telling, props and movement to explore a range of ideas and engage pupils in an exploratory creative experience.

HandMade practitioners work in a highly responsive way reacting to the young people and their interests and abilities.

They will work with the teachers at Rosehill to plan the project and ensure that all children are catered for.

Project Timescale

Lead practitioners Amy and Suzy will deliver 3 days of workshop sessions using music interaction, storytelling and props to explore the food theme. On the fourth day of the project Amy and Suzy along with two performer/musicians will work with some of the older pupils (class numbers tbc) to create a short performance, which can then be shown to the rest of the school. The performance will be between 10-20minutes long and will involve music, puppets and be highly interactive.

Project Aims

- To build pupil and staff confidence in the participation of creative activities
- To support curriculum links and pupil IEP's
- To encourage communication through interactive workshops and performance
- To encourage collaboration, sharing and group participation
- To explore music, props and storytelling
- To explore the theme of food, including food safety
- To build confidence in performance for older pupils
- To explore different characters and characterisation with older pupils
- To encourage independence
- To encourage younger pupils to become active audience members

