



PRESS RELEASE - Friday 17 March 2017

Following Storm Doris damage The Reader's Storybarn announces new interactive family experience

Last month The Reader was devastated to confirm that the damage Storm Doris inflicted on Michael Rosen's *Bear Hunt*, *Chocolate Cake* & *Bad Things* exhibition at Liverpool ONE was too extensive to allow the experience to continue. Today, the team are thrilled to announce that *The Storyhunters*, a new family adventure is set to launch in time for the Easter School Holidays.

Part interactive theatre show, part literature-based experience, families will become *Storyhunters* as they set off on an indoor / outdoor storytelling adventure in the heart of Liverpool's Calderstones Park. Beginning on Friday, April 7, these sessions are specially developed for children aged two to eight and their families. Sessions, which include a mix of stories, songs and crafting activities, will begin in The Storybarn but will also see families setting out across the park on the hunt for the "story clues".

Jane Davis, The Reader's founder and director said: "We want to say a huge thank you everyone who got in touch following the devastation Doris caused. We received hundreds of messages of support from people across the Liverpool City Region and beyond and a number of generous donations including one from a Reader in New York! We are thrilled to be able to offer an alternative literature-based event at our headquarters in Calderstones – we can't wait to see families become *The Storyhunters*!"

"It's been a busy week for The Reader, we announced our plans to refurbish and transform Calderstones Mansion House into The International Centre for Shared Reading and The Storybarn is key to the project's ambitions. Over the last year we welcomed more than 16,500 people through our big barn doors - kick-starting a life-long love of reading for pleasure for little readers and future leaders."

Tickets for *The Storyhunters* are only £4 per person and are available to pre-book now at www.thestorybarn.org.uk.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR

For further information, please contact: Martin Gallagher-Mitchell, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, martingallagher@thereader.org.uk 07812 238413

The Storybarn presents

The Storyhunters

An Interactive Family Adventure

Tickets £4 per person, Spring Stories start Friday 7 April. Sessions take place weekly on Friday – Sunday (Tuesday – Sunday during school holidays). Session times, details and tickets available at www.thestorybarn.org.uk

About The Reader www.thereader.org.uk @thereaderorg

We believe that reading and talking together about books is the best way to get children into reading for pleasure. Our unique *Shared Reading* model brings people together in small groups, a story or poem is read aloud and a trained Reader Leader facilitates discussion. Reading aloud, lively conversation and an open, interactive atmosphere are cornerstones of our work.

For over a decade, we've been delivering *Shared Reading* with adults and children in a variety of settings across the UK. This simple idea changes lives and builds communities.

Whether delivered by volunteers, parents, teachers or Reader staff, *Shared Reading* supports the development of core skills, helps people to feel more confident about reading, creates a sense of achievement and contributes towards improved well-being.

About The Storybarn www.thestorybarn.org.uk @thestorybarn

The Storybarn is The Reader's interactive story-centre for children to explore, share and discover a love of books and storytelling. Located in the heart of Liverpool's Calderstones Park, The Storybarn creates a thrilling world of imagination where children can embark on a literary adventure with live-reading from our friendly *Storysharers*, lots of exciting crafts and games, and a giant slide!