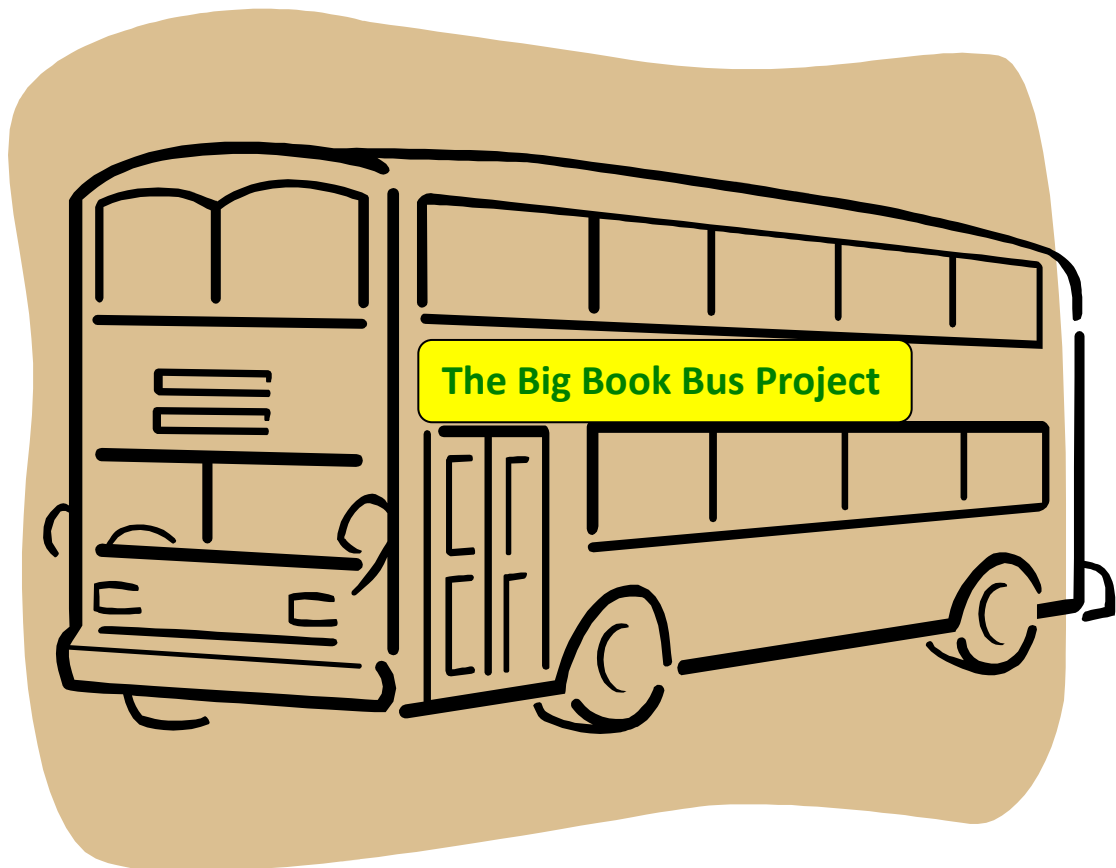


HORSMONDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



The continuing popularity of the school and the way in which we teach the larger classes has brought with it a need for more flexibility in how we use teaching spaces. The current library is a great size for larger groups, but struggles to cope with demand.

What do we need?

We still need a library and we want it to be a stimulating and exciting place. We also need more smaller spaces for 1 – 1 learning, such as listening to children read.

What's the solution? We've bought a bus!

Having had the idea it was really difficult to find a school that had done it before, but this is how Rosendale Primary School in London kitted out their library bus.



So, in pursuing the thought process, groundwork had to be undertaken on where to site a bus and where to get one. Enter Paul Jones, bus mechanic, and his contacts. The whole world of old buses was opened up to an enthusiastic Headgeeker!



This is how she looked in 2009

Do we have a space of 2.5 metres in width that's long enough for a bus?

YES WE DO!



This border is the exact width of a double decker bus allowing for a small gap between wall and bus.

She's now in need of a good clean



WDA 672 T. Let's call her WanDA



It's currently unused space, but could be transformed into a street scene.



The changing room and garage could have a street scene painted on them and the bush replaced by a bus shelter

She's a Daimler Atlantean Fleetline – this is a rare model and has particular value to bus enthusiast, so will not lose value and, indeed, is likely to appreciate over time.

She's got an MOT and is a runner, but the owner has agreed to let us have her for scrap value.

She's got red, (wipe clean!) vinyl seats, a number of which could be used inside the school building as well as those we keep on board.

Paul Jones (bus and coach mechanic) gets a Special Mention for his considerable help in sourcing the bus.

What do we need to do?

- Clean up and paint the exterior of the bus.
- Temporarily remove the 'cheeseboard' planters, turn the potting shed sideways and remove 1 small silver birch tree.
- Prepare the ground with concrete base sections for the wheels.
- Fit new gate between swimming pool and Reception classroom to create a barrier and reduce risk of straying children.



She's currently got some other seats stored in her, but she's in great condition inside.

- Run an electrical supply to the bus
- Purchase and install dehumidifiers and heaters.
- Refit the interior.
- Fit interior blinds (a particular favourite of FoHPS).
- Move all shelving and books to their new home.
- Purchase a bus shelter and other street furniture to create a street scene for imaginative play.
- Paint shop fronts on to the swimming pool changing room and garage.
- Add a rooflight to Reception classroom (the window is rarely used, but natural light is desirable).

What's the budget?

- The cost of the bus is £3,000
- We'd need quotes in to work out full costings for the remaining work following an opportunity for parents to volunteer their services.

We've got an opportunity to create something very special for the children that will have a hugely motivational impact on reading and help to enhance the values and ethos of the school in making learning such an enjoyable activity.