

A message from Carol and Helen, Directors of Freshwater Theatre Company

As many of you will know, Freshwater Theatre Company has been supporting schools, and the wider education sector, for nearly 25 years through delivering drama workshops and shows of the highest quality. We now find ourselves in an unprecedented situation facing challenging and uncertain times.

We are a small company, employing a core team of just six people. The company's income is almost solely reliant on bookings from schools. With countrywide closures now coming into effect, we are facing a time of huge insecurity ahead. We therefore wanted to take the opportunity to reach out to our teacher colleagues, school administrative staff and all those amazing education providers we work with to sincerely ask for your support and help.

We want to ensure that Freshwater has a future and can continue to work alongside you and your children to provide enriching learning experiences that enhance the curriculum. We want to support our extraordinary team of freelance drama facilitators who work tirelessly to engage and inspire thousands of children every year. We want to enable our incredible office team to stay afloat and be ready to take your call and answer your email as soon as schools re-open.

To this end, we are asking all those schools who had bookings in our diary, either for the end of this spring term or the summer term to honour your booking with us and simply postpone it until later in the year. As outlined in our updated booking information, we will approach this with the utmost flexibility and work with you to find suitable dates and topics as and when those decisions are able to be made. For any rescheduled sessions we will completely waive any administrative costs or postponement fee.

Whilst we hope that you are able to take the above option, given the huge losses we are facing, we have had to make the difficult decision to charge a small cancellation fee of 25% on any bookings that are not rescheduled within the 2020/21 academic year. This fee has been calculated based on trying to cover our most essential running costs and we ask for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Finally, our thoughts are with all members of the education community as you step into the unknown world of home and distance learning. We know that the weeks and months ahead are uncertain, but we stand with you in solidarity, creativity and encouragement. We are hopeful that together we will emerge from this crisis and continue to support you in bringing your children's learning to life through drama for many year to come.

With all good wishes,

Carol Tagg and Helen Wood