

Educating Zerena Exhibition

9 October – 30 October 2022

Project Space

Free entry

Imagine you are a child at your First School and come in one day to find a spaceship has landed in your school playground. Inside the spaceship is an alien named Zerena. She seems friendly but she is lost and a long way from home. She can't speak but she can imitate, and she relies on you and the other children to teach her how to speak. You make dictionaries for her; you show what she can and can't eat, how to cross the road, how to go shopping, how to behave in your world.

You help her to do this, and you build a replica of her house to make her feel at home. You communicate with her parents on her planet Xadrolyte to tell them Zerena is safe, and you work with a Professor from the Science Museum to help get her safely back home.

For 6 weeks you put your Maths, English, Science, Art and Design skills to full use to educate and care for the alien and one day you have to say goodbye and that is that.

In 1988 the children at Newlyn Place First School in Fishermead did have that experience and more than 30 years later the story of what happened is finally being revealed. This exhibition, along with the accompanying documentary film *Educating Zerena: An Alien Encounter* screening in the Sky Room, invites us to celebrate this strange and inspiring story and ask the question, could Zerena visit a school in 2022?

Wednesday 19 October

Creativity and the Curriculum – An evening for teachers, academics and educators of all kinds.

Educating Zerena: An Alien Encounter will be screened, followed by a talk and Q&A from poet and broadcaster Michael Rosen

Saturday 29 October

Educating Zerena: An Alien Encounter (2022)

Documentary

Sky Room

See mkgallery.org for details

What happens next?

Living Archive will create an online resource "The Zerena Files" so that people can continue to investigate and celebrate this story in years to come.

The film will be seen in Fishermead and in education conferences across the UK and around the world.

Inter-Action MK will embark on a pilot schools programme in partnership with schools to test "Zerena style" projects, aiming to support teachers and artists to work with those from many other disciplines and backgrounds to create rich, memorable learning experiences with children and young people.



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