Padmacandra offers events both on her own (virtual or in-person) and with The Tale of the Whale author Karen Swann (virtual only). Events are themed around the magic of the ocean, and the peril of plastic pollution.

In-person or live virtual event with Padmacandra: Reading & Art/Craft workshop

Fee: In person: £150 plus travel expenses. Virtual: £75.
Duration: 1 hour
Participants: Max. 30 children, Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two (ages 5 to 8)
Equipment needed: Toilet rolls (Padmacandra can bring these if it is an in-person event), child friendly scissors, card, staplers, black sharpie or equivalent, something to decorate the fish with – ideally paint, or marker pens, or sticky spots, wool or string.

After a reading of the book, Padmacandra will lead an interactive session bringing out the message that the Whale is trying to communicate to the child in the book: the beauty of the ocean, and the peril of plastic pollution. This is followed by a craft activity where the group can create a shoal of colourful fish! This shoal can be suspended as a mobile from a library or classroom ceiling, or the individual child can suspend their fish in their home.

For older children, there is the possibility of an alternative art activity, learning to draw a whale, and then to create a sea for them to swim in, replicating mark making techniques, as used in the book. Equipment needed for this includes: 2 pieces of A4 paper or card folded in quarters in advance; soft crayons or oil pastels (including at least one black, dark blue or dark green oil pastel or very soft crayon each); a bic pen with lid (not suitable for younger children), a very hard (H) pencil sharpened or ballpoint pen that has run out of ink, child-friendly scissors, glue, black felt tip or sharpie.
Virtual Author/Illustrator Event with both Karen Swann and Padmacandra - ‘The Message of the Whale’

Fee: £150
Duration: 1 hour (can be reduced for younger groups)
Participants: Max 30 Children, Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two (ages 5 to 8)
Covers: Visual and Word Literacy; Mindfulness; Environment, Global Goals, Sustainability, Art, Mark making, Writing (STEAM).

Equipment: Projector + craft supplies for each child including:
- at least 2 pieces of A4 paper/card, folded in quarters;
- crayons (the softer the better) or oil pastels (including at least one black, dark blue or dark green oil pastel or soft crayon each
- something to scratch with such as a bic pen lid (depending on age), a very hard (H) pencil sharpened, or ballpoint pen that has run out of ink (advice can be given)
- child friendly scissors and glue
- black felt tip or sharpie.

Karen and Padmacandra have designed an exciting, integrated and flexible session using The Tale of the Whale, which includes:

a) An introduction to the role of the writer, leading to a reading of the story
b) An introduction to the role of the illustrator leading to...

c) Detective Seagull 1: an interactive deeper look at the visual narrative in “detective mode” – and with the help of the seagull - to find clues to the message the whale might be trying to communicate.
d) Brief Meditation/Visualisation using the senses to imagine being within the ocean. For smaller children this could include seated movement. Cultivating kindness to ourselves and the ocean creatures.
e) Drawing Activities – Drawing the whale, and drawing a sea for the whale.
f) Detective Seagull 2– looking for the most common plastics the Whale encounters.
g) Writing Activity (adapted for age appropriateness) – Drawing out the idea of passing on the whale’s message. Both the Drawing Activity and the Writing Activity will create a card that the group can use In their own way to pass on the message.
h) Questions and Answers at the end if time.

Events for adults also available - talking about the process of creating a picture book or Mindful Drawing Days

Please contact: padmacandra@gmail.com
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Karen Swann & Padmacandra
Praise for *The Tale of the Whale*

‘A rolling, rhyming text that scans and richly textured images celebrate the sea through a child’s lyrical journey on the back of a whale. With a concluding call to arms about clearing the ‘plastic soup’.’

*The Sunday Times Culture Magazine*

‘Not since *The Snowman* has a journey conjured so much sheer joy, connection and imagination… empowering and positive, a book that explores our connection with the natural world, text and images working beautifully together.’

*Books for Keeps*

‘The combination of the melodic text, imagery and emotion make a strong connection so that when the call to action is given at the end of the tale, and the reader is invited to help the girl make a difference, it is fully likely that the audience will be 100% on board.’

*Just Imagine*

Watch Karen Swann and Padmacandra in a virtual event together with Chicken & Frog bookshop:

[The Tale of the Whale - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example_video_id)

Please contact Scallywag Press on publisher@scallywagpress.com for more information.

www.scallywagpress.com