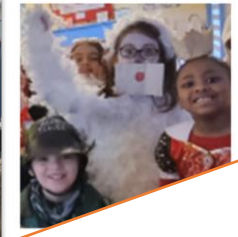
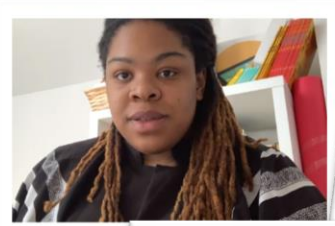




Stockbridge Primary School

BookFest Report

March 2022



Our third annual BookFest in March 2022 embraced our school's diversity, expanded our horizons and sparked excitement by sharing our love of books and celebrating stories...

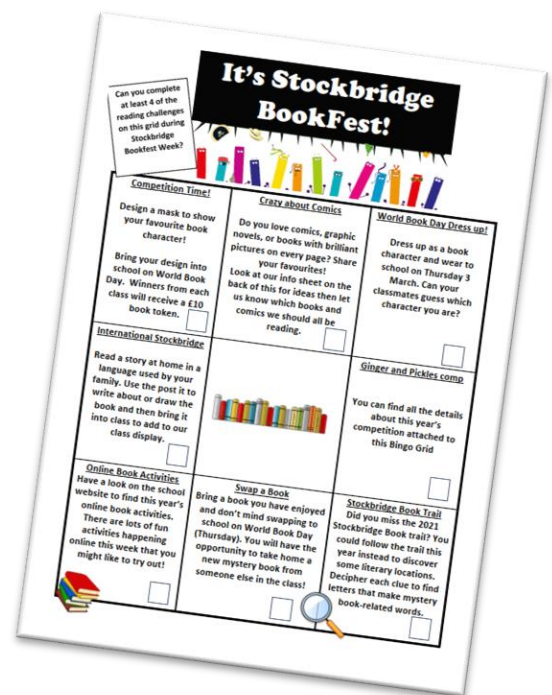


We... Play Book Bingo

Our famous BookFest Bingo was back with a bang this year, featuring eight fun activities for children to participate in and enjoy:

- Book Character Mask Competition
- World Book Day Dress Up
- Crazy About Comics
- Ginger & Pickles competition
- International Stockbridge
- Swap a Book
- Online Resources
- Stockbridge Book Trail

Stockbridge Primary kids threw themselves into these lively literary activities over the week. From swapping books with friends in their classes to revisiting last year's much-loved Stockbridge Book Treasure Trail, there was literary fun for everyone.



"I love BookFest because I love books!"

P2/1



We... Celebrate our Diversity

There are 38 different languages spoken by Stockbridge Primary children and their families! This year's BookFest celebrated our cultural diversity by encouraging children to read a book in the language they speak at home, and to bring in notes about their languages and the books they had read to share in class.

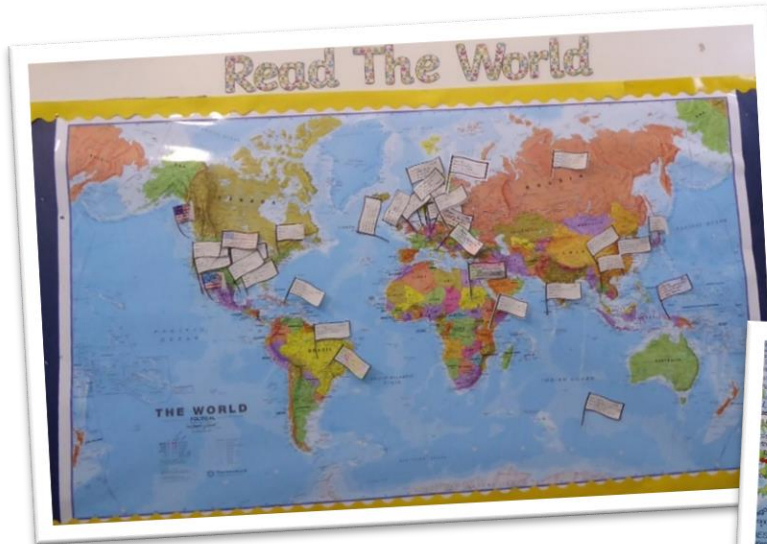
We also celebrated books set in different countries, and written in languages other than English, in school. In P5B, a Pupil Support Assistant read a story in Italian while the children looked at the bilingual text. They even learnt some Italian words!





We... Explore the World

BookFest 2022 encouraged children to read outside their own experience by picking up a book set in a country other than Scotland. Our international challenge asked them to 'read' as many countries as they could.



Children completed a flag for each book they read, which they could put on our giant BookFest world map.



Look at all the amazing books we read, and the countries we covered! Children read stories from across six continents, from the jungles of the Amazon to the frozen tundra of Siberia, the prairies of the USA to the continental cities of Europe, the buzz of Hong Kong to the bustling streets of West Africa. We're still adding flags to our map!



"We read Welcome Home Anna Hibiscus in school. I really liked it because Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa and there's a mango tree that she climbs up to make her happy."

P3



We... Meet Authors and Illustrators

BookFest 2022 was bursting with visits from some of our favourite authors and illustrators. Although the remaining pandemic restrictions meant we couldn't invite them into school in person, virtual visits enabled us to connect with authors and illustrators from across the UK: from Dundee to Brighton, London to the West Midlands, and from right here in Edinburgh.

"My favourite part of BookFest was our talk with the author."

P4

These amazing professionals were so generous with their time, making our children laugh, inspiring them in their own work, opening their eyes to big questions, and sharing their expertise. You can learn more about each session in our dedicated BookFest visit reports. Thank you so much to all the amazing authors and illustrators who joined us!



Award-winning author and BookFest favourite Chae Strathie delighted our P1, P2/1 and P2 classes with a riotous event about his picture book *Gorilla Loves Vanilla*. Full of silliness, songs, dancing, stories and a naughty monkey, this event showed that reading is so much fun!

"It was really, really, really good!"

P2/1

Children in P3, P4/3 and P4 polished their detective skills in a 'Mysterious Mysteries' workshop with Serena Patel, author of the *Anisha, Accidental Detective* series. From red herrings to suspects and clues, Serena shared her mystery-writing secrets then encouraged us to create our own detective stories.



"I liked talking to a real live author! It was really fun."

P4



Jonathan Meres had our P5 and P6 children in stitches as he joined us to talk about his award-winning, million-selling *The World of Norm* series. Jonathan shared insights into his writing, showed off his guitar skills and answered our questions. There was even a cameo from his adorable dog, Pablo!

"People were laughing their heads off!"

P6

Award-winning author Elle McNicoll joined P6 and P7 to talk about writing, reading, the importance of neurodiversity representation in books and overcoming prejudice. She answered all our questions in an engaging, powerful and thought-provoking event which sparked some great conversations!



"I really enjoyed it!! I liked the fact that the author told her whole story of how she became a writer."

P6



P7 loved their brilliant workshop with illustrator Onyinye Iwu, whose artwork some of the children had previously studied. Onyinye explained how to work with pattern, shared a fascinating insight into how she works digitally, and encouraged the children to create their own designs.

"I really enjoyed Onyinye's visit because I loved watching her draw, and her style is incredible."

P7

Comic-book artist and illustrator Tanya Roberts has created work for Disney, Dreamworks and Netflix, so we were thrilled to welcome her to P7! This event was particularly special as pandemic restrictions were lifted at the last minute, meaning that Tanya could visit us in person. She shared her portfolio and led a draw-along, demonstrating how she creates characters. Then the children designed and drew their own comic-book creations.



"I love how she effortlessly draws a character in a minute!"

P7



As an extra bonus, P6 and P7A were thrilled to join a Scottish Book Trust schools event with award-winning author M G Leonard and the RSPB. We learnt a huge amount about birds, books, writing and more in this great session.

"I loved M G Leonard's visit. Afterwards I just immediately wanted to go outside and explore."

P7

A planned BookFest event celebrating dyslexia couldn't happen at the last minute, but we will hold an event in the autumn instead – watch this space!



We... Support Our Readers

Jane McCauley from dyslexia-friendly publisher Barrington Stoke held an online presentation for parents about how Barrington Stoke books can engage struggling and reluctant readers, explaining the specialist features of their books. The presentation is available to watch on the Parent Council's YouTube channel.

*"The presentation was great – very informative."
Parent, P7*



We... Create Comics

BookFest's 'Crazy About Comics' activity invited children to create their own comic panel or strip to recommend a favourite comic, graphic novel or highly illustrated book. Series such as *Dogman*, *Diary of A Wimpy Kid* and *The 13 Storey Treehouse* are perennial favourites, as are comics like *The Phoenix* and the *Beano*. Seeing the work of Stockbridge's budding comic creators makes us think that one day their own books will be featured on this list!



*"It was fun coming up with ideas for my own comic - it made me laugh!"
P4/3*



We... Bring BookFest Home

BookFest's hand-picked resources to explore and enjoy at home were completely refreshed for 2022. This time the collection of brilliant activities included everything from free audiobooks to quizzes, crafts and den-building, with plenty of listening, watching, making and doing to make sure that every child could find their own way into a wealth of stories.

Children could draw along with fantastic illustrators like Dapo Adeola, develop their comic skills with *The Phoenix*, visit the world of Tom Gates, watch million-selling author Anthony Horowitz talk about his Alex Rider series, or hone their writing craft with top authors like Sharna Jackson.





We... Love the Library

Our lovely neighbour Stockbridge Library is open again! Every class in the school visited the library during BookFest, to browse, read, choose, learn and explore amongst the book-filled shelves. It's great to be back at the library!

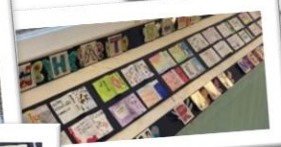


*"I enjoyed getting books out of the library to take back to P2/1."
P2/1*



We... Design Book Covers

Children across the school designed new covers for their favourite books. Their amazing designs were then displayed in school to encourage other children to read them.



We... Create Book Art

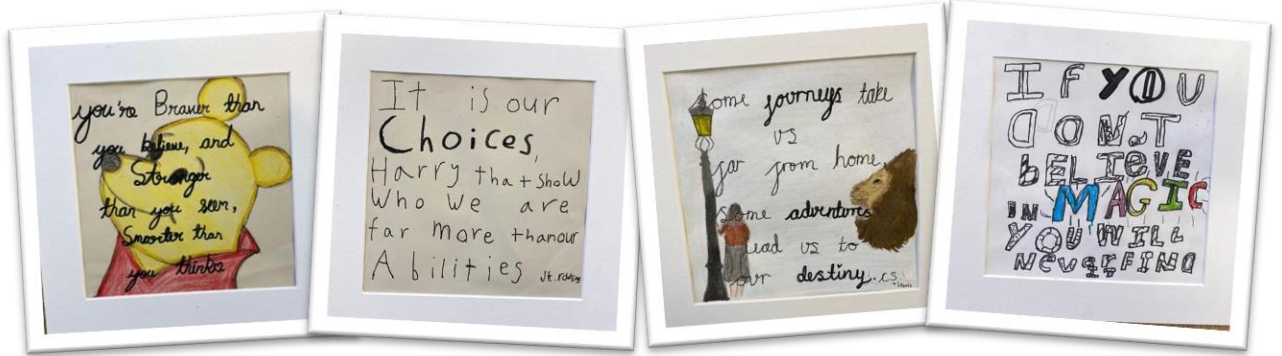
Children used pages from old books that were otherwise headed for the recycling bin as their canvas to create these stunning artworks celebrating the transformative magic of books.





We... Know Written Words Have Power

P7 pupils celebrated the power of the written word by choosing a quotation from a book that was significant to them to turn into a striking piece of wall art. Each child also wrote an explanation of what the quotation means to them.



We... Have Fun Together

Teachers kept children busy with a wealth of reading-related activities in class – too many to include here! Meanwhile our P7 House Captains led a challenging Bookfest quiz during an in-person house afternoon – our first in-person house captain event in two years!



"Tuesday was BookFest MAYHEM!!"

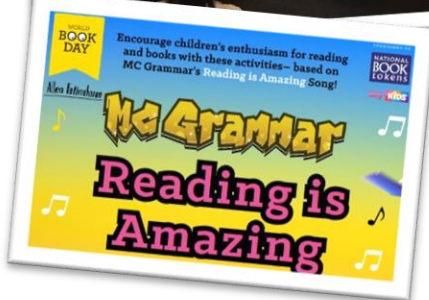
P3



We... Sing and Rap

P5B watched and sang along with the World Book Day rap, *Reading is Amazing*, by M C Grammar.

They tried to spot as many book references as they could! Then they made posters, chatting all the time about books that they enjoy.



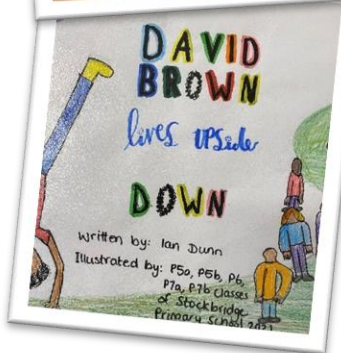


We... are Illustrators

Ian Dunn visited P4/3 to see the illustrations that children have created for his debut picture book, *David Brown Lives Upside Down*. The book features a neurodiverse character whose family are coming to terms with how he's different.

"He talked about how we shouldn't treat people differently just because they think differently."

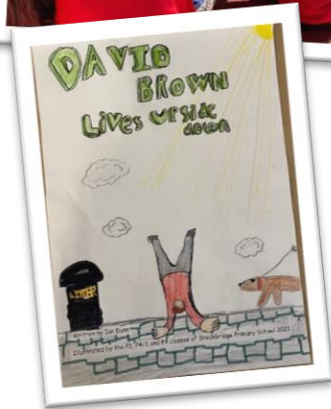
P4/3



Children throughout the school have illustrated pages from the story, some of which will be included in the printed copies produced by the school. There will be three versions; one illustrated by P1–P2 pupils, one by P3–P4 pupils, and one by P5–P7 pupils. We can't wait to see the finished books!

"He said he wasn't a good artist – he was happy we illustrated his book!"

P4/3



We... Write, Illustrate and Design

Children were encouraged to enter the World Book Day 2022

competition run by our local children's bookshop, Ginger and Pickles. Categories included writing an essay, creating a

comic strip, designing a book cover and reviewing a World

Book Day author – so plenty of opportunities for our children to showcase their creativity!

"I enjoyed coming up with the silly things for the cover."

P4/3



"The bit I liked was the Ginger and Pickles challenge!"

P3

Congratulations to all the winners, who received some marvellous book prizes!



We... Make Character Masks

This year our annual BookFest competition asked pupils to create a mask based on a favourite book character, with the winner in each class receiving a £10 book token. Children were encouraged to use recycled materials where possible. The results showed amazing creativity and ingenuity, with characters brought vividly – and sometimes terrifyingly! – to life.



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*"I am proud I entered the mask competition."
P4/3*

It was brilliant to see each other's masks and admire our talented classmates!

*"The mask competition was great fun and awesome!"
P2*



A huge well done to everyone who made a mask, and congrats to our fabulous winners!



*"I loved creating masks for the competition."
P4*





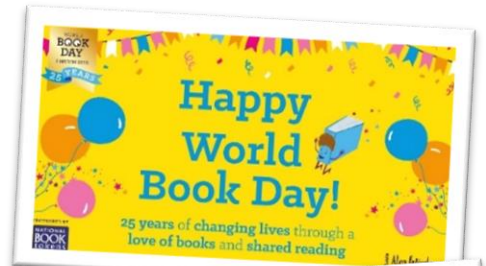
We... Celebrate World Book Day

In 2022 World Book Day celebrated 25 years of changing lives through a love of books and shared reading, so we were delighted to place World Book Day at the heart of Stockbridge Primary BookFest.



We teamed up again with our wonderful local independent

children's bookshop, Ginger and Pickles, to make sure that every child was able to choose their very own World Book Day book. A huge thank you once again to Ginger and Pickles for kindly supplying these great titles!



"I liked getting a free book for World Book Day."

P3



We... Drop Everything and Read

At random times on World Book Day, the school bell sounded – it was time to Drop Everything and Read! Children, teachers and PSAs alike seized the chance to stop work and get stuck into a good book.

"I liked when every time the bell rang we could sit and read our books for fifteen minutes!"

P4/3



We... Find Golden Tickets

Adding to the excitement on World Book Day were the Golden Tickets given out by Willy Wonka, aka Mrs Ashbrook. As each was found, the lucky winners could choose a book for their class library!





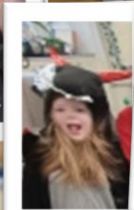
*"I liked that we could dress up as our favourite book character."
P4/3*



We... Dress Up

The buzz in the playground could only mean one thing... it's World Book Day! In sombre times globally, the excitement and magic of dressing up, painting our faces, brandishing a cardboard sword or casting imaginary spells on wayward classmates lifted our children's spirits.

*"My favourite thing about BookFest was dressing up!"
P4/3*



*"It was fun to see all the amazing costumes. The range of characters was so different."
P6*



Harry Potter, the Cat in the Hat, Sherlock Holmes and many other favourite book characters stepped out of the pages and into the playground! A huge well done to all the children and parents for putting together such fantastic costumes in difficult times.





The Bigger Picture

Stockbridge Primary School's annual BookFest, coinciding with World Book Day each March, is packed with diverse and innovative ways to celebrate reading – whatever the circumstances.



After two years of the covid pandemic, and against a distressing global backdrop, our children needed brightness in dark times. BookFest once again added excitement and sparkle, lifting spirits and celebrating our international community at a time when the news was full of the destruction of European bonds. BookFest encouraged children to share experiences, to understand more about other countries and other children's heritage, and to revel in our school's diversity as a source of strength.

"BookFest has made a difference with my child... it has definitely motivated her to read more."

Parent, P4

BookFest 2022 was, by necessity, a hybrid festival. While pandemic restrictions were frustrating, we seized the chance to turn these limitations into opportunities. BookFest reached out to authors and illustrators across the UK, expanding our reach geographically from London to Dundee, Brighton to Walsall. Virtual events enabled connections we could never hope to make in person. And as BookFest drew to a close came a glimmer of hope for the future, as we were able to invite our first guests to the school in person.

"I liked trying lots of different authors because I hadn't seen some of those authors before."

P3



This year's BookFest was underpinned by our longstanding aim of ensuring that every child can see themselves in a book. We drew upon the school's theme for the year of Diversity and Inclusion, with events championing neurodiversity and dyslexia, celebrations of our multitude of languages and cultures, and, as always, a focus not just on the written word but on telling stories through illustrations and comics. We're committed to making sure not only that every child recognises themselves in book characters and in book illustrations, but also that they can see themselves in the authors and illustrators we bring to BookFest. This determination is not just for BookFest 2022, but will continue year-on-year.

"Bookfest was a fantastic event, celebrating diversity and encouraging reading in every class."

Head Teacher



BookFest 2022 showed the strength of working together in a fracturing world. Teachers, parent volunteers, publishers, booksellers and charities built on previous relationships and forged new ones in ways that not only benefited children during BookFest itself, but continue to bring rewards; bolstering the Support for Learning bookshelves, adding 30 books to class libraries for readers now and in the future, and working with authors, illustrators and agents to lay the groundwork for future collaborations. We aim to spark a love of reading which will continue not just through primary but as children look ahead to high school and beyond. BookFest 2022 was in the moment, but with an eye to the future.

“It has been so lovely to work closely with Stockbridge Primary. We are hoping to do more with and for the school and the school’s wider community. The children clearly have a love of reading – long may it continue!!”

Local Bookseller



Thank You...

- ... to Chae Strathie, Serena Patel, Jonathan Meres, Onyinye Iwu, Tanya Roberts and Elle McNicoll
- ... to Stockbridge Primary Parent Council for their amazing funding and solid support
- ... to Scottish Book Trust’s Live Literature fund for supporting our infants event
- ... to Julie Richardson and Ginger and Pickles Children’s Bookshop
- ... to Jane McCauley and Barrington Stoke
- ... to Ian Dunn
- ... to Stockbridge Library
- ... to M G Leonard, Alyssa Parker, the RSPB, Scottish Book Trust and the Scottish Friendly Children’s Book Tour for the *Twitch* event
- ... to all the authors, illustrators, poets, storytellers, comic-makers and publishers who have so generously shared resources online for children to enjoy, particularly World Book Day UK
- ... to all the children, teachers, PSAs, office team and parents who embrace BookFest so enthusiastically
- ... to Ms Fraser, Miss Ferguson and Miss McMillen, to Miss Jones, and to Mrs Ashbrook, Ms Gordon and Mrs Mitchell
- ... to Meredith, Hazel and Jenny, and to Emily Simpson for her original idea

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