

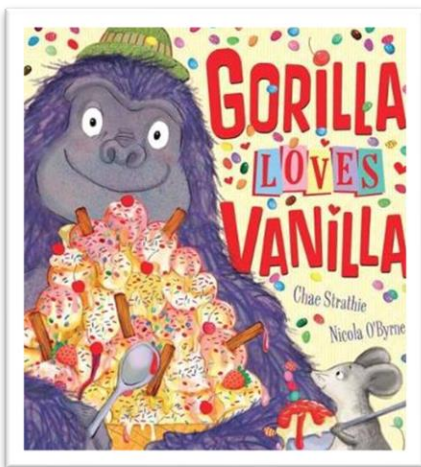


Stockbridge Primary School held our third annual BookFest in March 2022, bringing our school community together to celebrate stories. Our virtual author and illustrator visits were among the highlights of this year's BookFest.

Chae Strathie

We were delighted to welcome author Chae Strathie back to Stockbridge Primary for another barnstorming virtual visit after last year's triumphant BookFest event. This time it was the P1, P2/1 and P2 classes who were in for a riotous treat as Chae joined us live from his home in Dundee for an event which was part pantomime, part Fringe show, part storytime and part raucous rock gig!

We wanted to hear all about the fantastic picture book *Gorilla Loves Vanilla*, which won the BookBug Picture Book Prize. This brilliant book was written by Chae and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne.



"It was really, really, really good!"
P2/1

The infants classes welcomed Chae with a huge Stockbridge hello, cheering and shouting so loudly that it blew Chae off his chair!

He asked children to put their hands up if they love books and stories... then to put two hands up... then gradually increased it until children had to put 100 hands up if they were a centipede, and 273 hands up if they were some kind of strange alien creature! The children were already in stitches and the event hadn't even started, setting the tone for a session jam-packed with our favourite kind of silly nonsense.

"I liked it because it was very funny!"
P2/1





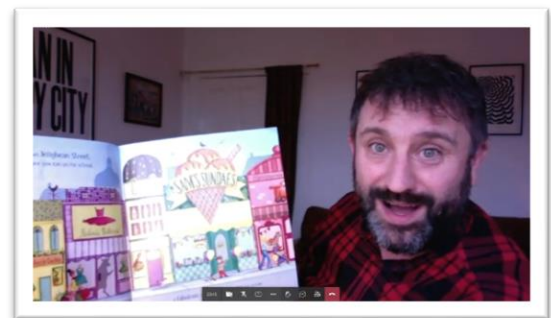
Chae then introduced his friend Cheeky Charlie the monkey. Cheeky Charlie was very naughty and had the children falling about with laughter.

*"I loved it because the monkey was cheeky."
P2/1*

*"I loved it because he shared all of his icecream. I wish that I could have the book and icecream at home!"
P2/1*

Chae reminded the children that if they see a gorilla eating an icecream they can always ask them to share, as gorillas love sharing!

*"I really liked the book and at the end I thought the gorilla was being very kind as he was sharing all of his vanilla."
P2/1*



Eventually Cheeky Charlie behaved himself and helped Chae to read *Gorilla Loves Vanilla* with us. Who likes fish finger icecream? Who would like worm icecream? Chae spotted one child at the front who liked them ALL! Yuck!



As if worm icecream or fish-finger icecream weren't enough, Chae then challenged the children to imagine the weirdest, strangest and grossest icecream flavours and toppings they could. A forest of hands went up – we have so many creative ideas! Chae drew all our ideas into one big, silly icecream.

*"It was really fun when we gave Chae ideas to draw."
P2/1*

Our icecream included a tree, a panda, a cucumber, chocolate, a ladybird, hair, a whale, a car, a hamburger and SLUGS! Thank goodness we didn't have to taste it!



*"He was really good at drawing and made a silly icecream. I liked adding hair and chocolate to it."
P2*





After all this imagining, reading and drawing it was time to get moving. Chae showed us his story book guitar, covered in images from his books – we spotted Gorilla and a worm icecream!

Chae got the children wriggling and jiggling with a catchy song about worm icecream.

*"Wriggle, wriggle, wriggle!
Jiggle, jiggle, squirm!
I like icecream...
That's made from WORMS!"*

All the children were dancing, wriggling and jiggling and singing along loudly with the chorus.

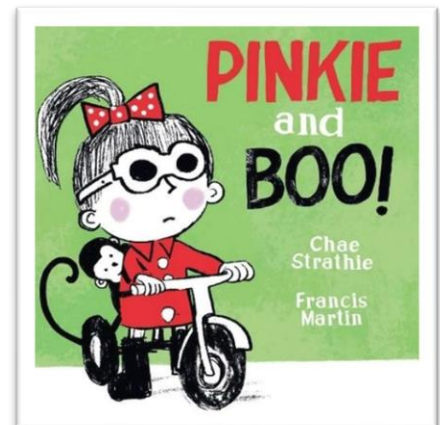


We didn't want to stop there, so asked Chae for one more story. We used the special Monkey Call that Chae taught us (Monkey-Monkey-Monkeeeeeee!) to call back Cheeky Charlie, who brought with him Chae's brand-new picture book, *Pinkie and Boo!* This was the first time that Chae had ever read the story live to an audience, so it was a BookFest treat especially for us!

The children sat spellbound as they listened to the story of Pinkie and her monkey Boo coming to terms with the arrival of a new baby.

Finally it was time for a Q&A, and the children had some great questions to ask Chae, from how old he was when he started to write books, to how did he get into reading, how old he is now, and whether he had ever written a book about a dog. We also asked practical questions, including how Sam could have all the flavours to make the strange icecreams... Luckily Chae had lots of

answers!



*"I really liked asking the author questions."
P2*

One final wriggle and jiggle, and Chae was off.

Thank you for visiting us, Chae! We had so much fun.

Thanks to the Parent Council, *Gorilla Loves Vanilla* has been gifted to the P1 class library.



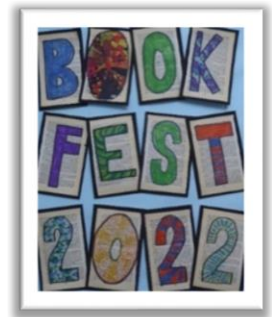
Stockbridge Primary School BookFest

Stockbridge Primary School's annual BookFest 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, BookFest brought brightness in dark times. It added excitement and sparkle, lifted spirits and celebrated our international community. BookFest encouraged children to share experiences, to learn and understand more about other countries and other children's heritage, and to revel in our school's diversity as a source of strength. We aimed once again to bring some literary magic to children living through unprecedented times.

BookFest 2022 was a hybrid festival, but we seized the chance to turn the limitations of pandemic restrictions into opportunities. BookFest reached out to authors and illustrators across the UK, with virtual events enabling connections we could never hope to make in person. And just as this year's BookFest drew to a close came a glimmer of hope for the future, as we were able to invite our first illustrators and authors to the school in person.



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, as always, a focus not just on the written word but on telling stories through images. We're committed to making sure that not only can every child recognise themselves in book characters and in book illustrations, but that they also see themselves in the authors and illustrators we bring to BookFest.



Thank You ...

- ... to Chae Strathie
- ... to Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature fund
- ... to Stockbridge Primary Parent Council
- ... to our local independent children's bookshop, Ginger and Pickles
- ... to Mrs Mitchell, Miss Wyllie, Miss Carey, Miss Howie and Mrs Ashbrook
- ... to our BookFest volunteer organising team: Meredith, Hazel and Jenny

Stockbridge Primary School

Stockbridge Primary School is a City of Edinburgh non-denominational local authority school and nursery, with approximately 270 pupils aged 3 to 12 years. Stockbridge Primary's Parent Council works in partnership with staff both to fundraise for the school and to deliver events and resources that enrich pupils' experience and the school environment. BookFest is organised by members of the Stockbridge Primary teaching staff, parent volunteers and members of the Parent Council.