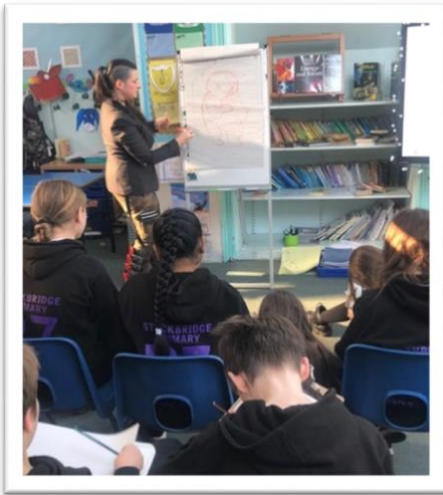




Stockbridge Primary School held our third annual BookFest in March 2022, bringing our school community together to celebrate stories. Our author and illustrator visits, thanks to our Parent Council, were among the highlights of this year's BookFest.

# Tanya Roberts

P7 were lucky enough to have a visit from Edinburgh-based comic-book artist and illustrator Tanya Roberts. Tanya said it was difficult to know whether she or the children were more excited that an in-person event could take place!



After the event, Tanya said she felt the benefit of appearing to the pupils in person was that "I was able to bring them tangible examples of previous work that I had done and was able to curate a more personal experience for them."

*"She is very cool and she has an amazing style. I love how she effortlessly draws a character in a minute."*



*"When I saw how Tanya draws I at first wasn't sure about her design but when she was done it was a masterpiece."*

Tanya has created and drawn characters and layouts for clients including Disney, Dreamworks and Netflix, among many others, and she brought her portfolio with her so that the pupils could have a look at her original work. Tanya's a regular on the comic-convention circuit and loves to share her passion for drawing.

*"Tanya is amazing at drawing, I loved seeing her art in the black books."*

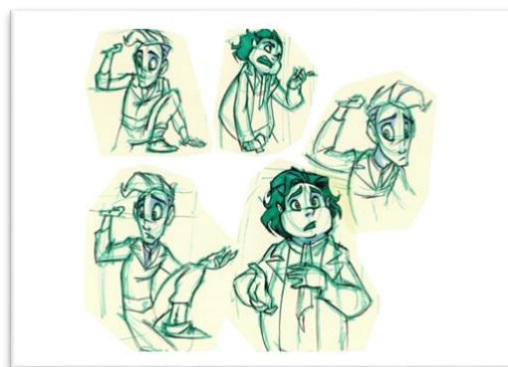
*“Amazing! She was AWESOME! She worked on Helluva Boss and How To Train Your Dragon which is awesome!”*



Tanya led the pupils on a draw-along, taking suggestions from the children as she shared insights about her technique and how she makes decisions when developing a character.

*“It was exciting when she had said that she had done comics for Disney, Pixar and others! Her characters were able to do realistic poses but still look fascinating.”*

Then it was the children’s turn to take what they’d learned and have a go at creating their own comic-book character.



*“It was so kind that she gave away the drawings afterwards and it was really fun getting to draw as she was drawing.”*

Tanya said, “I was so impressed with the work that the students were very keen to show me, the level of imagination they exhibited and the questions that they had. It’s safe to say the future of the creative industry in Scotland is taken care of!” Thank you, Tanya!



*“Tanya Roberts was probably the most inspiring artist I have ever met, she is inspiring to all.”*

*“I think that it was very kind of her to give out her drawings and her drawings were amazing!!!”*

Thanks to the Parent Council, the *Plagued: The Miranda Chronicles* trilogy, illustrated by Tanya, will be gifted to the school for the P7 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 Tanya Roberts
- ... to Stockbridge Primary Parent Council for funding
- ... to our local independent children's bookshop, Ginger and Pickles
- ... to Miss McMillen and Miss Ferguson, and to 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.