



Our fourth annual Stockbridge Primary BookFest in March 2023 explored 'Togetherness'. Hugely popular guest visits brought children together with some of their favourite authors, illustrators, storytellers and comic makers...

# Emily MacKenzie

What a treat it was to welcome picture book author and illustrator Emily MacKenzie to our P1, P2/1 and P2 classes, thanks to Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature scheme. This bunnytastic event was full of inspiration and fun in equal measure!

Emily is the author and illustrator of many popular children's picture books, including *Wanted! Ralfy Rabbit Book Burglar* and *Beware! Ralfy Rabbit and the Secret Book Biter*. Emily has twice been on the shortlist for the Bookbug Picture Book Prize.



*"I liked learning how to draw Ralfy!"*  
P2

The children loved hearing why Emily had chosen a rabbit to be the central character in her Ralfy books.



Emily asked if the children would like to learn how to draw Ralfy – there was a big YESSSS! Emily showed them how to start by drawing a sausage... then a bridge... to another sausage!



*"I liked doing the sausages for ears for the bunny."*  
P2



In easy steps, the children were guided through the illustration, adding a smile, some whiskers, some eyes... and suddenly they had all drawn Ralfy too!





Emily was so supportive and encouraging, patiently guiding the children through the drawing and reminding them not to worry about getting it wrong.

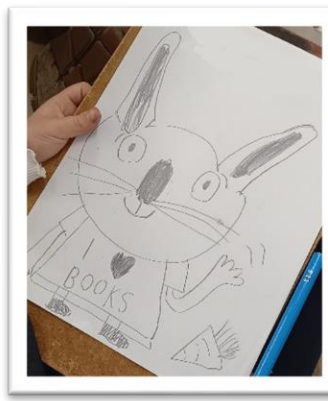
*"I liked drawing the head the best, and the ears with the bit inside."*

P2

It was great fun! The children found that they too could be illustrators.



The children drew some brilliant artwork of Ralfy – look at our amazing drawings!



Even though the children had all drawn Ralfy, the drawings were all unique and captured his character differently.



*"I liked drawing the whole bunny."*

P2

The P1 children were so inspired that they asked Emily to draw Ralfy Rabbit's baby brother Rodney, so they could draw him in class next week too! And P2 told Emily how one of their library books had a hole in it... had the Secret Book Biter been to Stockbridge?



Finally the children had a chance to talk with Emily in a lovely Q&A, and a chance to chat with her before she signed their books which they had brought in from home.

**Thank you for visiting us, Emily! It was such a treat to have you in our classrooms!**



Bookfest has gifted copies of *Wanted! Ralfy Rabbit Book Burglar* and *Beware! Ralfy Rabbit and the Secret Book Biter* to the infants' class libraries to be enjoyed by Stockbridge children both now and in the future.



### Thank You...

- ... to Emily MacKenzie
- ... to Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature fund
- ... to everyone who supported BookFest's 'Bakes into Books' fundraising bake sale
- ... to Julie Richardson at Ginger and Pickles Children's Bookshop
- ... to Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Ashbrook, Miss Judges, Mrs Brett and Mr McGowan
- ... to the BookFest volunteer organising team of Meredith and Hazel, and to Jenny

#### Stockbridge Primary School

Stockbridge Primary School is a City of Edinburgh non-denominational local authority school and nursery, with approximately 275 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.