

23 February

Acclaimed Irish author to visit Falkirk and Lanarkshire schools

Oisin McGann, the acclaimed Irish teen fiction author, is seeking to inspire students from Falkirk and Lanarkshire schools as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust.

Oisin, who was shortlisted for the Waterstone's Children's Prize in 2008, will tour local schools from 2-6 March to coincide with World Book Day and will bring the magic of literature to over 900 children over the 5 days.

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour is run by Scottish Book Trust, Scotland's leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing. The tour aims to promote a love of reading across Scotland, particularly in rural and remote areas. The touring programme has visited all 32 Scottish local authorities in the last three years.

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly, which has supported the touring programme for over 10 years, said: "For many years this tour has provided a unique opportunity for children to meet some of the most inspiring authors and illustrators. In the same way, Oisin's visit will provide a stimulating environment in which local children can discover the appeal of reading and writing."

Jasmine Fassl of the Scottish Book Trust added: "The children of Falkirk and Lanarkshire are in for an enthralling visit from Oisin. His audiences will leave with a newfound love of books and armed with top tips on how to write like a professional."

Tour Dates:

Monday 2 March	9.30am: Calderside Academy, Blantyre	1.25pm: Strathaven Academy, East Kilbride
Tuesday 3 March	9.30am: Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen	1.40pm: Duncanrig Secondary, East Kilbride
Wednesday 4 March	11.15am: St Mungo's High School, Falkirk	2.00pm: Bo'ness Academy, Bo'ness
Thursday 5 March WORLD BOOK DAY!	9.30am: Kilsyth Academy, Kilsyth	1.40pm: St Aidan's High School, Wishaw
Friday 6 March	10.00am: Braidhurst High School, Motherwell	1.40pm: Our Lady's High School, Motherwell

Ends

Issued by:

Jennifer Butler / Lucy Penman

3x1 Public Relations

T: 0141 221 0707

jbutler@3x1.com / lpenman@3x1.com

To arrange photography please contact:

Olivier Joly

Scottish Book Trust

olivier.joly@scottishbooktrust.com

0131 524 0160

Notes to Editors:

- The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust, has been running since 1998. It tours throughout Scotland's urban, rural and remote communities and has visited every single Scottish local authority.
- Scottish Friendly is one of the UK's leading friendly societies, providing Child Trust Fund accounts, tax-free savings plans, ISAs, investment plans and term assurance to savers throughout the UK. For more information please visit www.scottishfriendly.co.uk
- Scottish Book Trust is the leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing in Scotland, developing innovative projects to encourage adults and children to read, write and be inspired by books www.scottishbooktrust.com
- Every year Scottish Book Trust:
 - Invests £1.5 million in growing readers and writers in Scotland
 - Funds over 1,200 literature events connecting 70,000 readers with writers
 - Reaches people in all 32 local authorities in Scotland
 - Supports over 500 Scottish writers and illustrators
 - Runs the Royal Mail Awards for Scottish Children's Books, which are judged by over 9,000 children
 - Promotes Scottish writing to over 10 million people worldwide
- Oisín McGann was born in Dublin in 1973 and started writing and illustrating stories aged 6. He studied animation and worked as Background Layout Designer for Fred Wolf films, working on the animated series of *Zorro*. His book, *Ancient Appetites*, was shortlisted for the Waterstone's Children's Prize in 2008. His latest book is called *Strangled Silence*.