

24 January 2008

Popular children's author to visit Fife primary schools

Andy Stanton, the celebrated children's author, is to visit four primary schools in Fife on 4 and 5 February to engross pupils with uproarious readings from his best loved books, and to stir their interest in writing.

The visits, part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, will reach children at Canmore, Crossford, Capshard and Markinch primaries.

Pupils are bound to be entertained by Andy's visit as the London-based author has a distinguished career in the world of children's literature and has won a Red House Children's Book Award for '*You're A Bad Man, Mr Gum!*' – his first book.

Andy's 'Mr Gum' series has received rave reviews from critics throughout the country and is set to achieve similar success stateside. His unusually diverse working background is reflected in the irreverence of his stories. In recent years, Andy has been a stand-up comedian, a film script reader, and a cartoonist – all of which have fuelled the imaginative capers in his widely read tales.

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour is run by Scottish Book Trust, Scotland's national agency for readers and writers, which aims to provide access to book related activities and promote a love of reading across Scotland, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Jasmine Fassl of the Scottish Book Trust, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for the children to meet and be entertained by one of Britain's most inspiring creative talents".

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly added: "The tour offers a stimulating environment in which children can find out how much fun reading and writing can be. We are delighted to help bring Andy Stanton's tour to the young pupils of Fife."

Andy Stanton tour schedule:

Date	Area	AM	PM
4 February 2008	Fife	10:30am Canmore primary school, Evershed Drive, Dunfermline	1:45pm Crossford primary school, Dean Drive, Crossford
5 February 2008	Fife	10:30am Capshard	1:45pm Markinch primary school,

		primary school, Barrie Road, Kirkcaldy	Beston Street, Markinch
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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.
- Scottish Book Trust is the leading agency for the promotion of literature in Scotland, developing innovative projects to encourage adults and children to read, write and be inspired by books. 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 biggest children's book award in the UK, judged by over 8,500 children
 - Promotes Scottish writing to over 10 million people world wide
- 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

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