

**27 November 2008**

### **Children's author to visit Perth and Kinross primary schools**

Nick Ward, the popular children's author and illustrator is to visit schools and libraries in Perth and Kinross next week as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour.

Nick, who writes and illustrates the successful Charlie Small series of adventure stories, will inspire youngsters during his visit from Monday 1 to Thursday 4 December, when he will be talking about reading, writing and illustration, as well as showing the pupils some of his newest work.

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

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at the tour sponsors Scottish Friendly, said: "This programme provides a unique opportunity for children to meet some of Britain's most inspiring authors and illustrators. I'm sure the pupils will be delighted to hear Nick talking about Charlie Small's latest adventures!"

Jasmine Fassel of the Scottish Book Trust added: "Pupils in Perth and Kinross are bound to be enthralled by Nick and his tales about Charlie Small. These thrilling stories already fire children's imaginations, sparking an interest in reading, writing and illustration. What could be better than hearing the tales first hand from their author?"

Nick Ward's first children's book was published in 1979 and since then he has gone on to write and illustrate dozens of stories for children.