

## **Award-winning author Chae Strathie visits Bradford for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour**



Tour dates are included in this release. If you are interested in an interview with Chae Strathie or would like a reporter or photographer to attend one of the events please contact:

keara.donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0184

Award-winning author Chae Strathie will visit schools in Bradford from 18 – 22 June as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour](#). Chae will captivate pupils from reception to Year 3 when he visits St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Lapage Primary School & Nursery and Carrwood Primary School.

The Children's Book Tour is supported by Scottish Friendly, one of the UK's leading financial mutuals, and organised by Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing. The tour visits both primary and secondary schools, and has enthralled more than 100,000 children since it began in 1998.

In 2014, Chae Strathie joined the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour on an epic road trip to Brighton, where he entertained and inspired over 1500 reception to year 3 pupils with his mash-up of reading, singing, drawing, fun and daftness.

Chae Strathie works as a journalist and has been publishing children's books for almost a decade. In that time, his hugely popular books have picked up several awards, including a Scottish Children's Book Award and, most recently, the Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2018, with *Gorilla Loves Vanilla*, voted for by pupils.

During his tour, Chae will be bringing his books to life through readings, songs and puppetry. The author will talk about *Dear Dinosaur*, a story involving a trip to the museum, and letters exchanged between Max and his favourite dinosaur, T. Rex. Chae will also lead the pupils through a number of fun exercises aimed at firing up their imaginations.

**Commenting on the tour, Chae Strathie said:**

“It’s a huge honour to be asked to take part in the Scottish Friendly Tour. I’m incredibly excited about visiting the schools of Bradford to unleash some Gorilla Loves Vanilla mayhem on the kids – it’s fantastic to actually get to meet the people who I write for.

“I’ll be singing songs about worm ice cream, drawing very strange (and exceedingly disgusting) sundaes, revealing how an idea becomes a book and, of course, reading some of my stories.”

**Calum Bennie, Communications Manager of Scottish Friendly, said:**

“It’s wonderful to have Chae back on the Scottish Friendly Children’s Book Tour in this special year for us. Pupils in Bradford are set to have an unforgettable time!”

**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, added:**

“Chae Strathie is a wonderful entertainer and we’re very pleased he is joining the Scottish Friendly Children’s Book Tour for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It’s a fantastic opportunity to see Chae’s stories come alive through his puppetry and music.”

**Notes to Editors**

For media enquiries, interviews and images, please contact Keara Donnachie, PR Officer on [keara.donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:keara.donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com) or 0131 524 0184.

After every tour, Scottish Book Trust’s website features case studies and resources to show the impact of the tour on the pupils we visit: [www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)

The Scottish Friendly Children’s Book Tour Jamboree celebration event is available to watch on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

**Tour dates**

**Monday, 18 June**

**AM:**

9.45am – 11am

St Columba’s Catholic Primary School

**PM:**

1.30pm – 3pm

Sandal Primary School

**Tuesday, 19 June**

**AM:**

9am – 10.30am



Blakehill Primary

**PM:**

1.30pm – 3pm  
Hazelbeck ASN School

Wednesday, 20 June

**AM:**

9.30am – 11am  
Allerton Primary School

**PM:**

2pm – 3.30pm  
Green Lane Primary School

Thursday, 21 June

**AM:**

9.30am – 11am  
Lapage Primary School & Nursery

**PM:**

1.30pm – 2.30pm  
Lister Primary

Friday, 22 June

**AM:**

9.15am – 10.45am  
Christ Church Primary Academy

**PM:**

1pm – 2.30pm  
Carrwood Primary School

**About Scottish Friendly**

Scottish Friendly, one of the UK's largest mutual life offices, is a progressive and modern financial services group. It provides investors and their families with a wide range of affordable investments.

Scottish Friendly has sponsored the programme for the past 20 years, touring some of the finest children's authors and illustrators including former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell, Malorie Blackman, Michael Rosen, Jacqueline Wilson, Melvin Burgess, Steve Cole, Michael Morpurgo and Sophie McKenzie.



Scottish Friendly is very engaged in the community and works with Scottish Book Trust to provide fresh and exciting content on its website: [www.scottishfriendly.co.uk](http://www.scottishfriendly.co.uk) @scotfriendly [www.facebook.com/scottishfriendly](https://www.facebook.com/scottishfriendly)

### **About Scottish Book Trust**

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity changing lives through reading and writing. We inspire and support the people of Scotland to read and write for pleasure through programmes and outreach work that include:

- Gifting books to every child in Scotland to ensure families of all backgrounds can share the joy of books at home.
- Working with teachers to inspire children to develop a love of reading, creating innovative classroom activities, book awards and author events.
- Supporting Scotland's diverse writing community with our training, awards and writing opportunities.
- Funding a range of author events for the public to enjoy and promoting Scottish writing to people worldwide.

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