

Award-winning author to inspire adventure story-telling

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

keara.donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0184



Ciaran Murtagh is a multi-award winning author and BAFTA winning TV writer

[The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour](#) brings award-winning children's author and screenwriter Ciaran Murtagh to schools in East Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Falkirk during 11 – 15 September. He will help pupils in P4 – P7 to create their own adventures, demonstrating how to build a story from scratch. The tour is sponsored by Scottish Friendly and run by Scottish Book Trust.

Ciaran Murtagh is an exciting star in the world of children's literature. He currently lives in London and to date has over thirty books to his name, including *The Genie* and *The Dino* series. Ciaran has written for some of the most best-loved TV shows, including *Dangermouse*, *Mr. Bean*, and *The Legend of Dick and Dom*.

His most recent series, *The Fincredible Diary of Fin Spencer*, stars twelve-year-old aspiring stuntboy-rockstar, Fin Spencer. In the first book in this series, *Stuntboy*, Fin is given a magical and mysterious diary which changes his life in the most unexpected and often hilarious ways! *The Fincredible Diary of Fin Spencer* won the Leicester Best Book Award, and prior to that Ciaran won a Riveting Reads Award for *Genie in Training*.



Commenting on the tour, Ciaran said:

“Scotland is a land full of stories and I'm thrilled I get the opportunity to devise some more alongside the children I meet on tour!”

Every year there are six Scottish Friendly Children Book tours – four in Scotland and two in England, visiting a vast range of different communities: from rural schools with an eight pupil roll in Mouswald to 400 seat theatres in Glasgow. The tour visits both primary and secondary schools and has enthralled over 90,000 children since it began in 1998.

Commenting on Ciaran's tour, David Strain, Scottish Friendly's Community Manager said:

“We are excited to have Ciaran touring with us for the first time. Not only will pupils get to meet a star author, Ciaran is sure to leave an lasting impression as he shows pupils how to create stories for themselves.”

Scottish Friendly has sponsored the programme for the past 19 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.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, added:

“Bringing an author into schools is hugely inspiring for pupils and we are delighted to work with Scottish Friendly to share this magic with young people in East Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Falkirk. Ciaran's visit will generate excitement about reading and inspire the children to write their own stories.”

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, interviews and images, please contact Keara Donnachie, Press Officer: 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

Tour dates and times for media and photographers to attend are below.

Please RSVP to: keara.donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0184.



Monday 11 (Renfrewshire)

Newmains Primary School 9-10am

Todholm Primary School 1.30-2.30pm

Tues 12 (Renfrewshire)

St James Primary School 9-10am

Heriot Primary School 1.30-2.30pm

Wed 13 (East Ayrshire)

Crosshouse Primary School 9.30-10.30am

Barshare Primary School & Supported Learning Centre 1.30-2.30pm

Thurs 14 (Falkirk)

Kinnaird Primary School 9 – 10am

St Francis Xaviers Primary School 1-2pm

Fri 15 (Falkirk)

Comely Park Primary School 9.15-10.15am

St Margaret's Primary School 1.30-2.30pm

About the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust, has been running for 19 fruitful years. It tours throughout Scotland's urban, rural and remote communities and visits every single Scottish local authority on a three-year cycle. Every year the tour also brings the best writers living and working in Scotland to England, to inspire pupils. The tour visits both primary and secondary schools and has enthralled over 90,000 children since it began in 1998.

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 is very engaged in the community and works with Scottish Book Trust to provide fresh and exciting content on their website:

<https://www.scottishfriendly.co.uk> @scotfriendly 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.

- We give free books to every child in Scotland to ensure families of all backgrounds can share the joy of books at home.
- We work with teachers to inspire children to develop a love of reading, creating innovative classrooms activities, book awards and author events programme.
- We support Scotland's diverse writing community with our training, awards and writing opportunities.
- We fund a range of author events for the public to enjoy and promote Scottish writing to people worldwide.
- We work for a Scotland where everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive through literacy.

Find out more about us online at:

www.scottishbooktrust.com @scottishbktrust www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust