

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Photos available to download from [here](#)**

## **Award-winning author Andy Stanton visits local schools 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 Andy Stanton or would like a reporter or photographer to attend one of the events please contact:

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Award-winning author Andy Stanton will visit schools in the Highlands, Orkney and Shetland from 24 – 28 September as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour](#). Andy will visit Glenurquhart Primary School, Glaitness School, Whiteness Primary School and others.

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.

Andy has been a film script reader and a cartoonist, as well as a writer. His nine-part Mr Gum series has won two Blue Peter Book Awards and the Roald Dahl Funny Prize.

In his interactive sessions, Andy will inspire pupils by talking about his own journey to becoming an author, including hilarious examples of what he wrote when he was at school and his first book, *You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!* He will also give pupils practical tips on using just one idea to start a story and what to do when you get stuck writing a story.

Andy will also use material from his new book, *Natboff! One Million Years of Stupidity*, a hysterical collection of stories set in the Stone Age to Medieval times.



**Commenting on the tour, Andy Stanton said:**

“I can’t wait to perform again in Scotland. The kids are always so enthusiastic and responsive. As per usual, I’ll be capering around onstage, talking in silly voices and doing a lot of horrible, horrible singing. What a treat!”

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

“It’s great to have Andy back in Scotland – he went down a storm the last time with us in Glasgow. Now it’s the turn for pupils in the Highlands, Orkney and Shetland to enjoy and hopefully be inspired by the madcap world of Andy Stanton.”

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

“We’re delighted to host Andy Stanton for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Friendly Children’s Book Tour. Andy’s events are always highly-energetic and full of fun facts, and it’s wonderful that the tour will be revisiting the Highlands, Orkney and Shetland.”

**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).

**Tour dates**

**Highland**

**Monday 24 September**

9.15am: Glenurquhart Primary School

1.30pm: Culbokie Primary School

**Tuesday 25 September**

9.45am: Dornoch Academy



1.30pm: Halkirk Primary School

## **Orkney**

Wednesday 26 September

9.30am: St Andrews Primary School

1.45pm: Glaitness School

Thursday 27 September

9.30am: North Walls Community School

1.45pm: Stromness Primary School

## **Shetland**

Friday 28 September

9.15am: Sound Primary School

1:30pm: Whiteness 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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