



Book Week Scotland

Ideas for celebrating
Book Week Scotland

Key Area: 1.3.3

Level: Silver

Resource created by
Scottish Book Trust

scottishbooktrust.com



 **Reading
Schools** 

**Scottish
Book Trust**
inspiring readers and writers

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About this resource

Book Week Scotland is the country's national celebration of books and reading. This resource will support your school's activities in Book Week Scotland to encourage everyone in the school community - pupils, teachers, school management teams, classroom assistants and families - to make time for reading for pleasure. Many of the activities can be used across multiple levels of the curriculum.

Book Week Scotland is a great time to read together, share favourite books, talk about why reading is important to each of us and most of all to have FUN!

The aims of the resource are to:

- Suggest activities for your school during Book Week Scotland
- Provide inspiration to help you celebrate Book Week Scotland

In the resource, there are some quick and easy ideas along with shared experiences from other schools. Scottish Book Trust would love to hear about what your school gets up to during Book Week Scotland. Please share your photographs and stories via our [Facebook page](#) or our [Twitter account](#) @ScottishBkTrust.

Useful links

Here are some useful links, which can provide ideas for your Book Week Scotland preparation and planning.

- [Reading Matters](#) allows you to search for books based on personal preferences
- Scottish Book Trust has a wide range of new titles within [booklists](#) catering for all readers
- [CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway](#) book awards are perfect for sharing
- [Books for All](#) provides books in accessible formats for pupils who have difficulty reading traditionally printed books
- [Literature for Lads](#) is a blog offering book recommendations for boys
- [The Scottish Poetry Library](#) provides resources for teaching poetry

- [Barrington Stoke](#) specialise in publishing books for reluctant readers

Watch Authors Live

[Authors Live](#) is a series of world class, free, children's author and illustrator events brought directly to your classroom, library or home. [Authors Live](#) provides engaging content for all ages, and there are resources to assist use in the classroom. These events are perfectly suited to inclusion in Book Week Scotland activities, and events are often broadcast live during Book Week Scotland. [Find out more about upcoming broadcasts](#).

There are also over 80 events available to watch on demand, featuring world famous authors such as Cressida Cowell and Julia Donaldson, as well as illustrators, poets and spoken word artists. All of the events last 40 minutes. By getting the pupils involved to plan an event around an Authors Live broadcast or a Watch on Demand session, you can build excitement in anticipation of the day.

Activity ideas

To create excitement around watching an Authors Live event, you could give everyone a ticket for the event. Ask pupils to research and write on the ticket one fact they have learned about the author. On the day of the event, get the pupils to share their author facts and "hand" their ticket in to attend the event. Set up fairy lights, provide cushions and blankets and screen the event in a darkened room, like a cinema experience to make it extra special. You could provide snacks or juice – perhaps they could be themed to one of the author's books.

If you have a library or classroom space available to pupils at lunchtime, you could use the Authors Live On Demand library to plan your own digital book festival, and play a different event each day. Pupils could be involved in the selection, or vote for what they want to watch.

Preparing for Book Week Scotland

Planning a whole week of literacy activities can seem daunting, especially when you are fitting it around other priorities and responsibilities. Here are some ideas to get you started:

A pupil committee

To share the workload and to involve pupils directly in the planning process you could appoint a Book Week Scotland committee of pupils who could design a campaign to build interest and plan specific activities for the week.

'Save the date'

'Save the date' posters could advertise the date of an event, but not say what the actual event is going to be. This might be particularly effective if you plan to invite an author in to visit as they can be billed as a "mystery guest".

Recommendation bookmarks

This is a great idea from the National Literacy Trust! Pupils can create bookmarks to leave inside books when they return them to the library. On the bookmarks, they can record their book recommendations to other readers.

Compile a list of recommendations for the library

You can ask pupils to compile a list of recommendations by reading extracts from books of their choice from sites like [LoveReading4Schools](#) and voting on their favourites to be purchased for the school library. This would be a great activity for Book Week Scotland so that new books could be delivered in time for Christmas holiday reading.

Create book trailers and display them around the school

Book trailers are a great tool for engaging pupils with reading and developing digital literacy. Find out more in the Scottish Book Trust [book trailer learning activities](#) resource.

Goody bags

Prior to the event you could put together a simple goody bag for each child and enclose a personal, first name badge with space for them to design their own avatar. The children could wear their name badges so that the author/visitor can read them. Each bag could also contain a coloured pebble and the children could work together in advance of the visit to create a pebble message on the floor of the classroom that they could unveil to their visitor at the end of the session – perhaps a simple “THANK YOU” or “PLEASE COME AGAIN”. A recommendation bookmark could be enclosed too.

Involving all staff

For staff it can be difficult to find the time to seek out new books, but some schools have found it helpful to build this in to their weekly routine. Why not ask one member of staff every week to talk for five minutes about the book they are currently reading?

You can get staff involved in finding out about new books by organising staff book swaps or, since Book Week Scotland happens in the lead up to Christmas, why not organise a secret Santa, where staff members gift books they own to each other? You might want to include a note explaining why you think your chosen recipient will like the book!

Alternatively, you could use a ‘lucky book dip’, where everyone brings one book they really like, wraps it in paper and puts a note inside saying why they like it.

Be a reading role model

It can be very powerful for pupils to see teachers’ reading lives, particularly if you are sharing not only the rewards but also the challenges you experience while reading. We all experience challenges in our reading: sometimes we read things we’re uncomfortable with, sometimes we find a writer’s prose style difficult to adjust to, sometimes we have to read and re-read before we understand something and sometimes we don’t know what to read next.

Bearing this in mind, there are some fundamental principles of modelling which may help you bring your reading life into the classroom:

- Talk to your pupils about your reading life – take some time on a regular basis to speak about what you are currently reading and invite them to do the same;
- Let them see you reading a wide variety of texts – whatever you are keen on – graphic novels, non-fiction, autobiography, magazines, etc.
- Talk to them about the challenges you experience as a reader and how you get around them – also, talk about which books you have not finished and say why you haven't finished them.
- Hold a Booktalk. Find exciting new titles on the Scottish Book Trust [#ChildrensBookChat](#) Twitter feed and read [here](#) about how one teacher made the process of talking about books part of her class's weekly activities.
- Read along with your class. You could support your class by telling them you are going to read along with them so, if they pick a "tricky read", you pick a tricky read too or if they select a poetry book you'll read one too.

Planning your activities

Plan a gifting event

Every year all Primary 1 children receive the [Bookbug Primary 1 family bag](#) and all Primary 2 and Primary 3 children receive the [Read Write Count bag](#) from Scottish Book Trust. These bags contain books and materials to develop pupils' literacy and numeracy skills in an enjoyable way. There are associated teaching resources for use in class and as homework activities, and so teachers can plan the use of the resources knowing that pupils have all of the materials necessary to engage with them. The bags usually during Book Week Scotland in a school gifting event to which parents are invited so that parents can see how the games and activities are used in school and thus make full use of them at home too.

Make a viral video

Check out Larbert High School's [Big Books video](#). If you film your own video beforehand, you can show the final edit during Book Week Scotland or hold a video launch event and invite members of the local community. You could make it a "red-carpet" style event or model it on a film festival, perhaps showing other film projects.

Set up a Domino Book Challenge

Get all pupils involved in placing their book in the [Domino Book Challenge](#) and then collecting their own book again afterwards. You can film the process and discuss any sticking points, why they occurred and how you could fix them next time. You can take it outside too if the weather is kind.

Take part in a book award

All Primary 1 pupils in Scotland will receive the [Bookbug Picture Book Prize](#) shortlist in their Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag. Primary 1 teachers ask pupils to vote for their favourite of those three books and then submit the children's votes so a national

winner can be chosen. Registering to take part is free and easy to do whether you want to enter a small group or a whole class of pupils.

For teenagers, there is the [Scottish Teenage Book Prize](#) with three shortlisted titles for teenagers to read before voting for their favourite. You could celebrate and highlight the shortlist during Book Week Scotland, or encourage pupils to start reading.

Your community's favourite books

Encourage your pupils to go out into the community and interview people about their favourite books. They could speak about their current favourite or their childhood favourite. You could get your pupils to compile their findings into a booklet, or a video if they film the interviews, and distribute them at a celebration event.

Books across the school

If you want to create a reading culture, one great idea is to tie reading into every curricular area. If you are in a secondary school, it's a case of encouraging different subject teachers to put relevant fiction into their classrooms. For instance:

- **History** could have *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne
- **Modern Studies** could have *The Carbon Diaries* by Saci Lloyd
- **PE** could have *Keeper* by Mal Peet
- **Art and Design** could have *The Blackhope Enigma* by Teresa Flavin
- **Maths** could have *In the Key of Code* by Aimee Lucido

For further recommendations you can explore the specially selected booklists for all curricular areas on the [First Minister's Reading Challenge](#) website.

One novel across the curriculum

You can create excitement and curiosity about a book by basing an exciting cross-curricular project on it. One school used Darren Shan's *Zom-B* to inspire a whole range of cross-curricular activities, which led to the whole S1 borrowing the book (and the sequel!). Explore resources to support our whole school projects on:

- [Journey](#)
- [The Hunger Games](#)

Get pupils to compile book lists

To help everyone in the school find new things to read, you could get pupils to compile themed book lists. Have a look at [Scottish Book Trust's book lists](#) to get some ideas!

"I am currently reading" badges

You can ask everyone in school – including all staff and any visitors – to wear an "I am currently reading" badge. You could get pupils to design their own badges following [this guide](#).

Recommendations wall

There are different ways this could work. You could get pupils to write recommendations for each other or you could get pupils to write recommendations of

children's books for staff to read, perhaps on a particular theme. Equally, staff could post their responses on the board.

Where can pupils read in your school?

It is not just the library that is for reading. Find corners and unused spaces around the school and drape fabrics to create small tents. Place beanbags on the floor, enclose a reading box with books and a torch or battery operated lantern to create cosy reading spaces. You could include a soft toy for children to read to and to cuddle while reading and create an outdoor reading space too.

Raise funds to donate books

The [Pelican Post website](#) provides the opportunity for pupils to devise their own social enterprise project to raise funds to donate books. Alternatively, they may wish to concentrate their efforts on getting books for their local hospital, nursery or any other worthy recipient.

Drop Everything and Read

Holding a regular Drop Everything and Read, where everyone in the school reads for a set amount of time, can be a great way to build a reading culture. [This article](#) gives advice on getting buy in for the idea from other staff, senior management and pupils and offers advice on resources and timetabling.

Host a poetry slam

Getting pupils involved in writing and then performing their own poems in a poetry slam is a good way of helping secondary pupils to build creative writing and performance skills. You can watch our [Authors Live On Demand poetry slam](#) to get ideas. This helps pupils to consider the rhythm of delivery, voice projection, intonation, the power of the pause and awareness of audience.

Set up a book bistro

St Andrew's and St Bride's High held a book bistro for their pupils to create a buzz around reading in their school. One classroom was converted into the bistro using colourful sheets, cushions and blankets. Pupils were given a pass to attend the bistro and were allowed to sit and read, and were served hot chocolate by staff. You can read more about it in their [case study](#).

You could also serve 'book canapés' at your café or bistro – print outs of amazing opening pages to hook readers, fun facts from non-fiction books and action spreads from graphic novels.

Celebrating books

Create a book zoo

For younger children, you could find out their favourite animals and [create a book zoo](#), building stations of books themed around a particular animal.

Change names

You can change the school's naming system for Book Week Scotland! Use the names of literary characters as your names for houses, teams and rooms. For instance, your pupils could transform the school into Hogwarts for a week, making

posters with the rules of Quidditch for the sports hall, painting pictures of pupils' favourite selection from the moving paintings found in Hogwarts, and much more! Check [this link](#) for inspiration. You can also ask pupils for their ideas.

Matching literary pairs

Children's literature is full of great pairings: Harry and Ron, Holmes and Watson, Peter Pan and Wendy, Romeo and Juliet, Frodo and Sam . . . and you can test pupils' knowledge of books by getting them to match up pairs across the school.

Give out badges to staff, with a name written on each badge. Challenge pupils to match the pairs, with prizes for finding and matching each pair!

Holding a reading quiz

There are lots of pre-made quizzes online. This can help you to get started with [this Teachlt quiz](#), or follow [this template](#) for pupils to make their own quiz.

Reading Flashmobs

A Flashmob is a public stunt of some description, captured on video and circulated on the internet. Pupils always have fun with flashmobs, and as the following examples show, they can be done very simply!

A flashmob can be a dance event, like this one from [Bell Baxter High](#). Why not try setting up your own dance flash mob with pupils and teachers dressed as literary characters?

Reading assemblies

Assemblies are the ideal opportunity for you to promote books. Ideas can include:

- A regular book recommendation section, where a pupil or staff member can recommend one of their favourite reads;
- A GLOW meet with a literary character (one of the teachers in role-play);
- A GLOW meet with another school, sharing recommendations;
- A 'most despicable character' trial! You could hold a school vote on the most despicable character ever to appear in a children's book, and then hold a trial where all the evidence is considered. You can get pupils to call out their evidence and then vote for the character they think should be convicted.

Hold a paired reading event

During Book Week Scotland you could organise a paired reading session in which older pupils read to younger ones. Explore our comprehensive [paired reading toolkit](#) for more ideas and printable resources.

Hold a book swap event

Holding a school-wide book swap is always fun – the key rule is to make sure pupils leave with the same number of books they brought, so everyone gets at least one book. Alternatively, you could use the 'lucky book dip' format where everyone brings one book they really like, wraps it in paper and puts a note inside saying why they like it.