HELLO AND WELCOME to Moat Brae's first newsletter for teachers. Thank you for taking the time to read this – I really appreciate it as I know how busy you will be!

Our newsletter will come out termly and will give you information about upcoming events at Moat Brae and news from the world of children’s literature, suggest book-related activities and links, and introduce you to different children’s authors. We may also have some special giveaways from time to time!

Please get in touch if you have any suggestions for future editions. We’d love to hear from you.

Wendy

WHAT’S ON AT
MOAT BRAE

• 14th October
  WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL
  Climate and nature themed storytelling event

• 9th–31st October
  HALLOWE’EN VILAINS
  Visit Moat Brae dressed as your favourite fictional villain

MOAT BRAE FOR
SCHOOLS

PETER PAN TEACHING PACK Our new teaching resource for Peter Pan, linked to CfE is now available.

We offer SCHOOL VISITS every Thursday and Friday during term time. The cost for a full day visit, which includes a workshop, house tour, garden access and a dedicated base and lunch space, is £5 per child. There is no cost for accompanying adults. We can accommodate a maximum of 44 children. We offer set workshop/tours or we can tailor your visit for a specific topic. For more details, to book a visit, or to get a free teaching pack, contact Wendy Jones, Creative Learning Officer for Schools: wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org

Wigtown Book Festival

This year’s Wigtown Book Festival will run from Wednesday 22 September until Monday 4 October.

This year’s festival takes the theme ‘Hello, stranger’ and schools can engage with the education programme online while events take place in Wigtown with a live audience. The programme features names such as Adam Bushnell and Imogen Stirling and will provide quality arts engagement for young people of all ages. To find out more about this programme, sign up at https://bit.ly/wfceducationnews.

The 2021 YA programme will look at themes of equality, #HeForShe and minority voices. The YA programme has also teamed up with the Diverse Book Awards and will be deliver a event with 2020 DBA winner, Sue Cheung as well as jetting off across the Atlantic to join Justin A. Reynolds. Find out more at https://bit.ly/samepageya.

The BigWig children's festival will feature festival favourites Vivian French, Alastair Chisholm and Ross MacKenzie, alongside some new faces and Scottish Opera.
**Ross MacKenzie**

Multi award-winning Scottish author Ross MacKenzie is bringing adventure, magic and mortal danger to this year’s Wigtown Book Festival (see page 1 for links). If you’re after a book that will transport you out of the everyday world, step inside *The Nowhere Emporium*, a shop that contains unimaginable wonders. Ross’s latest book, *Feast of the Evernight*, is the sequel to *Evernight*, winner of 2020’s Scottish Teenage Book Prize, set in a world threatened with darkness and chaos.

You can access masterclasses, resources and readings by Ross MacKenzie by signing up for a free account with Authorfy here.

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**The Dog that Saved the World (cup)**

*by Phil Earle*

*illustrated by Elisa Paganelli*

*published by Barrington Stoke*

Inspired by two true stories, Phil Earle’s new book in Barrington Stoke’s dyslexia-friendly list is packed with emotion and page-turning action. Elsie is mad about football and so is her dog Pickles. When the World Cup trophy is stolen, it looks like Elsie will miss her chance to play in a special half-time match at Wembley, the one thing that’s been keeping her going through difficult times. It’s up to Pickles to save the world (cup)!

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**Odd and the Frost Giants**

*by Neil Gaiman*

*illustrated by Chris Riddell*

*published by Bloomsbury*

The book I would like to share is *Odd and the Frost Giants* by Neil Gaiman. It is about a Viking boy called Odd who goes on an adventure and meets a bear, a fox and an eagle (who are actually the Gods Thor, Loki and Odin). I read this to my P4 class when we were doing a Vikings topic as something a little different and it particularly hooked some of my more reluctant readers as they were familiar with the Gods from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The copy I have is wonderfully illustrated by Chris Riddell and this definitely added an extra dimension to the story. The class enjoyed making a cartoon strip and many imitated Chris Riddell’s style of drawing.

Shared by Wendy Jones

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**Children’s Book News**

- Children’s Laureate Cressida Cowell has launched a campaign to put libraries at the heart of primary schools. You can see her open letter to the Prime Minister here: https://tinyurl.com/532yudr8

- The winner of the 2021 CILIP Carnegie Medal is *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds published by Knights of. Author and Illustrator Sydney Smith wins the Kate Greenaway Medal for the second time, for *Small in the City*, published by Walker Books.

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**Useful Organisations**

*Books for Keeps* magazine reviews hundreds of children’s books every year and publishes articles about books for children, interviews with authors and illustrators. Philip Pullman called it ‘the most important periodical in the world of British children’s books.’ Find it at booksforkeeps.co.uk

Tell us about a book you’ve shared with your class in 150 words or less. All entries will be shared on our social media and one lucky entry will appear here and will win a bundle of bookish Moat Brae goodies. Entries to wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org marked A BOOK TO SHARE by 1 October 2021.