WHAT’S ON AT MOAT BRAE

• **FABLE MAKERS**
  Over the course of seven weeks, create an interactive Scottish fable, full of interesting characters, magical beings and adventures. Rooted in Scottish myths and legends and introducing simple roleplay mechanics, create a fantasy Scottish village and bring its characters to life. For ages 9-13. Fridays, 4.30-6pm at Moat Brae from 22 April to 3 June. Cost £20 or £4 per session.

• **MINALIMA EXHIBITION**
  Prepare to be transported to favourite worlds with our MinaLima exhibition of classic children’s literature—arriving this summer! Find out more about MinaLima [here](#).

MOAT BRAE FOR SCHOOLS

We offer school visits every Thursday and Friday during term time. A visit includes a workshop, house tour, garden access and a base and lunch space. For more information about workshops, tours or tailored visits, contact: [wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org](mailto:wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org)

HELLO!

I can’t believe it’s the final term already – this term has flown by! I hope you all enjoyed National Storytelling Week and World Book Day last term. It’s always great to see and hear the different ways that people celebrate them.

This term, why not celebrate J M Barrie’s birthday on May 9th? We have some ideas to get you started. Do let us know if you do something in class so we can share it. Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday when it comes.

**J M Barrie’s birthday**

Celebrate J M Barrie’s birthday on May 9th with some activities linked to the author and to Peter Pan.

**Short activity ideas** Have a pyjama party like the Darling children, enjoy some snacks and read or watch Peter Pan together.

Create your own fairy garden in a plant pot using found materials like bark, leaves and pebbles.

**Longer activity ideas** J M Barrie enjoyed using his imagination to create games and make-believe adventures. Invent a new game to share with the class and write a set of instructions about how to play it.

Do some research into the life of J M Barrie and write a short, illustrated biography of him.

**Other resources** You can find information about J M Barrie from Moat Brae [here](#).

Search for ‘fairy garden’ on the internet to find lots of amazing ideas to inspire children.

You can get a free Peter Pan teaching pack by contacting Wendy Jones, Creative Learning Officer for Schools: [wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org](mailto:wendy@peterpanmoatbrae.org)
Abi Elphinstone
Just like J M Barrie, author Abi Elphinstone writes books filled with adventure and magic that take young readers to extraordinary imaginary worlds. That’s why Puffin have commissioned her to write a modern, inclusive reimagining of J M Barrie’s Neverland. Saving Neverland comes out next year and features frostbears, moonpaper maps and a woolly mammoth. Abi says, ‘It’s a story about what it means to be young and fearless and full of hope.’

Abi grew up in Scotland where she loved outdoor adventures as much as she loved the magic of reading. You can find out more about Abi and her books at her website here.

Boy, Everywhere
by A M Dassu
published by Old Barn Books

If ever there was a moment to get your class thinking about what it means to be a refugee, this is it. A M Dassu’s tale of 13-year-old Sami is pitch-perfect. Sami can’t believe the war in his country will ever affect his comfortable life in Damascus. When a bomb goes off in a local shopping mall, his parents decide it’s time to flee Syria. And so begins a terrifying journey across Europe, away from the life he knows, through fear and poverty and into a new life in Britain where a happy ending eludes him. Dassu’s book highlights the ordinariness of Sami, showing that his life before was not so different from the lives of children growing up in Britain.

The Suitcase
written and illustrated by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros
published by Nosy Crow

This is a lovely book that looks at kindness and the acceptance of strangers. An unusual animal arrives in a new place ‘very tired’ because they have ‘come a long way’, and the other animals are very confused, questioning its behaviour and being unsure about whether to trust it. The book investigates how they react to the arrival and what the animals do to welcome the stranger into their community. It gives a flavour of looking at refugees – in the sense that we get the impression that the stranger is from a troubled country that he has had to flee. However, it is done in such a way that it could also apply to a new child joining the classroom or moving into the area. A fantastic book to use as a starting point for discussion about important and current issues.

Shared by Mrs McDonagh, Kirn Primary

Editor Claire Watts