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## **Joshua Seigal kicks off first Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour of 2019**



Poet Joshua Seigal will kick off the first Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour of 2019 by visiting schools in North and South Lanarkshire. From 21 – 25 January, Joshua will visit over 1,500 pupils from ten different schools during his tour, including Libberton Primary School, Mount Cameron Primary School and John Paul II Primary School. His events will focus on pupils in Primary 3 – Primary 7.

Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tours visit both primary and secondary schools, and have enthralled more than 100,000 children with visits from over 100 individual authors since they began in 1998. In 2018, as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour visited every local authority in Scotland, as well as tours in Northern Ireland and England.

Joshua Seigal is an award-winning poet, performer and educator who uses poetry to inspire confidence and creativity, aiming to please even the most reluctant poetry reader through his mixing of riddles, rhythm, rhyme and revelry. He has worked in hundreds of schools, nurseries, libraries, theatres and festivals around the world. His collection *I Don't Like Poetry* was longlisted for the Laugh Out Loud Award in 2017, and Joshua was an official National Poetry Day ambassador during 2016-17.

During his tour, Joshua will give a fun and interactive poetry performance, providing helpful tips for aspiring poets along the way. He will also discuss his journey and inspirations as a writer, and encourage students to ask questions about his career so far.

### **Touring Dates**

#### **Monday, 21 January**

9.30am – 10.30am: Libberton Primary School (also in attendance: Wiston Primary School and Kirkfieldbank Primary School)



1pm – 2pm: Underbank Primary School (also in attendance: Bent Primary School)

### **Tuesday, 22 January**

9.30am – 10.30am: Udston Primary School

1pm – 2pm: Mount Cameron Primary School

### **Wednesday, 23 January**

9am – 10am: St Charles Primary School

1.30pm – 2.30pm: John Paul II Primary School

### **Thursday, 24 January**

9.30am – 10.30am: St Patrick's Primary School

1.30pm – 2.30pm: Plains Primary School & St David's RC School

### **Friday, 25 January**

9.30am – 10.30am: Ravenswood Primary School

1.30pm – 2.30pm: Balmalloch Primary School

**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:** "It's been a successful 20 years of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, and we're thrilled to be starting 2019 with Joshua Seigal. We're sure his fun and imaginative poetry will inspire even the most reluctant reader, and we hope Joshua enjoys taking part in his first Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour."

**Kevin Brown, Communications Manager at Scottish Friendly, said:** "It's fantastic to have award winning poet Joshua Seigal kick-off the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour for 2019. Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> year we're delighted to sponsor again and Scottish Friendly look forward to a fun-filled programme of activity with a number of leading children's authors visiting as many schools as possible across the UK."

### **Notes to Editors**

For all press queries, please contact:

Keara Donnachie [Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com) or call 0131 524 0184

### **About Scottish Friendly**

Scottish Friendly, one of the UK's largest mutual life offices. At Scottish Friendly we believe saving and investing should be for everyone, which is why we offer a range of affordable investment and savings products to help individuals and their families achieve their financial goals.



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 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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