

#Unitedbybooks: Leading children’s reading organisations, authors and illustrators come together to support families at home



Monday 23rd February Today will see the launch of #Unitedbybooks, a social platform to share children’s reading tips, activities and content to support the millions of families around the UK who will be spending more time at home following the Covid-19 outbreak.

Some of the UK’s leading children’s reading organisations including [BookTrust](#), Scottish BookTrust, Coram Beanstalk and Authorfy, along with much loved authors and illustrators, have all joined forces and pledged their support to share reading tips, tricks, activities, videos and ideas to provide family entertainment at home. New content will be pushed out every week for children from pre-school age all the way up to year 7 or 8.

Diana Gerald, BookTrust CEO said: *“We are proud to be able to combine forces with some fantastic UK organisations, authors and illustrators to provide families with some great ideas and much needed distraction during these challenging times.*”

As part of this, BookTrust will be sharing content from our [BookTrust Home Time](#) page which launched today. This digital hub, designed to entertain children and families at home, is filled with free books, videos, games, recipes, competitions, quizzes and much more.

From activity sheets to live drawalongs, BookTrust Home Time hosts an extraordinary menu of ideas created by our own experts as well as leading children’s authors and illustrators, including Cressida Cowell, Sarah Crossan and Ed Vere.”

Ginny Lunn, Coram Beanstalk MD said: *“During these uncertain times we believe it is absolutely vital that children continue to have access to brilliant book-based resources and that we do everything within our power to continue to spread the magic of reading to children everywhere. The book community is full of wonderful authors, illustrators, publishers, booksellers and charities and we are proud to stand*

with them today and be #UnitedByBooks. We know that as a charity we have challenging times ahead of us, and it is incredibly difficult to come to terms with the fact that our volunteers will not be able to deliver their usual one-to-one reading support in schools until further notice. However, we know that by coming together we have an opportunity to bring so much positivity to children through the wonderful world of books.”

Marc Lambert, Scottish Book Trust CEO, said: “*Scottish Book Trust is joining together with BookTrust, Authorfy, Coram Beanstalk and others in the literature sector to highlight free digital events and resources from authors and illustrators. During these difficult times, it's important to ensure families across the UK feel supported and can access the fantastic content available at their fingertips.”*

-ENDS-

Notes to the editor

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About BookTrust

BookTrust is dedicated to getting children reading because we know that children who read are happier, healthier, more empathetic and more creative. Their early language development is supported and they also do better at school. We are the UK's largest children's reading charity; each year we reach 3.9 million children across the UK with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading, because we know that reading can transform lives. We work with a variety of partners to get children excited about books, rhymes and stories, because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. Our books are delivered via health services, libraries, schools and early years practitioners, and are supported with guidance, advice and resources to encourage the reading habit. booktrust.org.uk

About Coram Beanstalk

Coram Beanstalk is a national reading charity which recruits, trains and supports volunteers to provide one-to-one reading support in primary schools and early years settings. Coram Beanstalk's trained reading helpers provide one-to-one support to children aged 3 to 13 in a variety of ways, turning them into confident, passionate and able readers. The charity also provides training to people within the school community who want to help children learn to read for pleasure whilst improving their reading skills. This year the charity plans to help 15,000 children through the help of 4,000 reading helper volunteers, ensuring children have the skills and confidence to reach their true potential. By 2020-21 Coram Beanstalk aims to help 20,000 children every year. Coram Beanstalk is part of the Coram group of charities. For further information visit www.corambeanstalk.org.uk.

About Scottish BookTrust

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.

In addition to the funding we receive from the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland, we need the constant support of trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.