**News article published on Friday, March 6**

**GRUFFALO AND CO AT THE WEE WRITE FAMILY DAY IN**

**GLASGOW’S MITCHELL LIBRARY**

Peppa Pig, Worzel Gummidge and the tusksome Gruffalo will be at large in Glasgow this weekend. Some grown-ups may not be able to see them, since these storybook favourites only really come to life in children’s imaginations. But at the Mitchell Library **tomorrow (Saturday, March 7)** those characters – and a whole lot more – will be making their presence felt through rhymes, songs and stories at the Wee Write Family Day.

Glasgow’s Book Festival for Children & Young People began on Monday, March 2, with the Wee Write schools programme. Offering 70 events, it has allowed pupils from 65 primary, secondary and early years establishments to meet authors and explore books and storytelling in local libraries as well as the Mitchell.

Tomorrow, the festival comes to a fun-filled close with a packed programme of free and ticketed events at the Wee Write Family Day. Open to young book-lovers of all ages and their parents and carers, it takes place at the Mitchell Library from 10am-4.30pm.

Gruffalo fans won’t want to miss a chance to meet their favourite monster. With his terrible tusks and terrible claws, Julia Donaldson’s famous character will feature in three free afternoon storytelling sessions aimed at children aged three-plus.

The day features big-name children’s authors such as Philip Ardagh and Gareth P Jones, writers of the hugely popular Eddie Dickens and Dragon Detective Agency series. They’ll co-host a Dickens And Dragons event aimed at over-sevens. Meanwhile, babies and toddlers can enjoy a fun Scots language event based on Peppa’s Bonnie Unicorn or a happy time with rhymes and stories aboard the Play, Talk, Read Bus.

Hogwarts fans will have wizard fun at Fleurble Laffalot’s Celebrating The Harry Potter Books event, and sci-fi lovers will feel they are on-board the space ship Orion, as author Alistair Chisholm guides them on an action-packed romp around the galaxy.

Others can pretend to be slipping Through The Wardrobe, as they celebrate the 70th anniversary of the publication of CS Lewis’s The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, at a free event packed with fun activities and drama.

There’s a Gaelic-speaking session featuring the incorrigible Pippi Fhad-stocainneach (Pippi Longstocking) and an entertaining event in which award-winning master storyteller Lari Don explores the Scottish history and folklore that inspired her book, The Legend Of The First Unicorn.

Tales about Mog The Cat, a school for mermaids and that loveable scarecrow, Worzel Gummidge, will also feature during a day that’s designed to spark imaginations and inspire children with a lifelong love of books and reading.

Many events are free; others cost £3 per ticket and while tickets are selling fast, there are still spaces available.

It’s well known that the ability to read well, and with enjoyment, benefits children throughout their educational, social and working lives. Yet research suggests that in Scotland, one in seven children doesn’t own a book at home, while one in five children from poor families leaves primary school unable to read well. Glasgow Libraries is committed to countering that trend through the Wee Write Reading and Literacy Fund, which is supported through ticket sales from the Family Day.

Councillor David McDonald, chair of Glasgow Life and depute leader of Glasgow City Council, said: “Wee Write is a festival which is incredibly important in helping to foster a lifelong love of reading and public libraries in the young people who attend. By sharing the joy of books and meeting authors with their friends and families, it cements reading as a passion to be shared and is a brilliant opportunity for young people and their parents and carers to have fun together. This year’s programme is packed with events that will be enjoyed by children of all ages.”

Margaret Houston, Wee Write Programmer, said: “Wee Write is a highlight of the year for Glasgow Libraries. Not only is the programme great fun, it also plays a really important role in switching children on to the pleasures of books and storytelling, encouraging them to engage with libraries – hopefully, for life.

“This year’s Wee Write features a fantastic range of authors and events aimed at children of all ages and interests. We hope the Family Day will help as many families as possible to share in this celebration of books and reading, and enjoy meeting some of the incredibly talented authors and illustrators behind their favourite storybooks.”

***Wee Write takes place on Saturday, March 7 at the Mitchell Library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN, from 10am-4.30pm. For more information including tickets, visit*** [***www.ayewrite.com/weewrite***](http://www.ayewrite.com/weewrite)***. Spaces are still available for most events, but those interested in a particular session are advised to check availability online. While many events are free of charge, some are ticketed and cost £3. Parents are required to purchase a ticket and attend events with children aged under eight years old.***

**Notes**

The *Wee Write Reading and Literacy Fund* is part of Glasgow Life.  We are grateful for all support that we receive which allows us to put on this world class literacy festival and provide opportunities for school children across the city.

Glasgow Life (SC037844) is a charity that seeks to transform lives through culture, sport and learning for both citizens and visitors to the city. In 2018/19, more than 19 million attendances were recorded at Glasgow Life-managed venues, events and festivals – up more than one third since 2007. 2,600 staff and 2,200 volunteers deliver services across 171 Glasgow Life venues. For more information, visit [www.glasgowlife.org.uk](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk).