



**ST PIRAN'S**

Inspiring Confidence

# A Week in the World of Wizardry



Dear parents,

Reading is magic – stories can make us disappear into another world, travel through time and even transform into someone else entirely! So, witches, wizards and Muggles of all ages will delight in discovering magical characters, fantastic beasts, enchanting spells and unforgettable worlds during St. Piran's Book Week.

Book Week is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and – most importantly it's a celebration of reading. The main aim of the week is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books. It is dedicated to getting children closer to the books and authors they already love – and helping them discover brand new books and authors they'll love just as much.

St. Piran's Book Week runs from Monday 29th January - Friday 2nd February 2018 and is based on the theme of wizards, witches and fantastic beasts. Last year marked 20 years since the publication of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. From an idea born on a train journey to its creation in a small cafe in Edinburgh, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* started a global phenomenon. It has sold over 450 million copies worldwide in 79 languages, inspired a major movie franchise, a spellbinding theatre production and captivated readers of all ages. The Wizarding World, created by J.K. Rowling, has grown and grown, with films, theme park rides and studio attractions all based around Harry Potter, the Boy Who Lived. But as huge as the Wizarding World gets, it all started with the books.

Have you seen the illustrated versions of the Harry Potter books? If you are new to the magic of Harry Potter, prepare to be spellbound by Jim Kay's dazzling depiction of the wizarding world and much loved characters. Kay's illustrations are simply gorgeous in the full-colour illustrated editions – they're peppered throughout the story in different shapes and sizes, and perfectly blend with Rowling's words. These books are a super way to introduce to the exciting world of Harry Potter. However, if you are already a huge fan, in a way, these illustrated books feel new and exciting and bring Harry's world to life. Paging through the illustrated editions brings back the magic and wonder you felt while reading the series for the first time.

Classical music provides escapism, magic and creativity. Please take the time to appreciate the various scores of Harry Potter and allow the music to transport the listener straight into that amazing fantasy world of wonder and adventure of J. K. Rowling's work. Why not listen to the music while discussing the illustrations with your child? It'll be interesting to hear what creative responses you get!

John Williams scored three films in the series, starting with the first, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Of the several themes Williams composed, the most prominent is 'Hedwig's Theme'. Although this theme may originally have been intended only for Harry's pet snowy owl named Hedwig, its pervasiveness throughout the film captures much of the general air of mystery and wonder that a child like Harry would feel in becoming part of a world filled with wizards, witches, and magic.

Book Trust, who inspire a love of reading, asked the nation to vote for their favourite top 10 from 100 best books for children from the last 100 years, and *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* made it to number one!

1. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J K Rowling
2. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
3. The BFG by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake
4. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
5. Winnie-the-Pooh by A A Milne, illustrated by E H Shepherd
6. The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss
7. The Fellowship of the Ring by J R R Tolkien
8. Charlotte's Web by E B White
9. Northern Lights by Philip Pullman
10. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C S Lewis

To ensure Book Week is as fun-filled and magical as it can be, pupils will enjoy a week organised with lots of exciting events, beastly activities and wizarding workshops to celebrate and explore the pleasures of books and reading. Pupils will also be involved in studying creatures in the classroom, expressive drama, performance poetry, illuminating illustrations and, of course, enter the St. Piran's annual handwriting competition!

Please start organising costumes for character dress-up day on Thursday 1st February 2018. Pupils are allowed to come to school dressed as wizards and witches, including characters from Harry Potter, or as a fantastic beast. Pupils are also allowed to come dressed as a characters from the book they are studying in their class as part of Book Week.

The Travelling Book Company will be located in Big School throughout Book Week, offering a large range of exciting new reads for parents and pupils to browse and purchase after school.

Harry Potter Book Night, the most magical night of the year, returns on Thursday 1st February 2018. I am sure some of the older pupils at St. Piran's will already have plans to attend events at local book shops and libraries in order to celebrate this wonderful series – and pass the magic on to young readers who have still to discover these unforgettable books and the unforgettable worlds created within. For 2018, the thrilling theme is Fantastic Beasts, the original cornucopia of mythical creatures, which sit at the very heart of the Harry Potter stories. If you are attending an event or you are holding an event, please take pictures and send them in for the newsletter and school magazine.

I look would like to thank all the witches, wizards and fantastic beasts in advance and all of their wonderfully supportive parents.

Let's get ready to share the magic during St. Piran's wicked wizarding week!

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