

# CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

# A RIGHT ROYAL READ



Meath County Council Library Service  
October 2024



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

## Happy Autumn!

And with Autumn comes the Children's Book Festival with Meath County Council Library Service.

This year's festival runs from **Wednesday 2nd to Wednesday 23rd October** and contains a multitude of events, classes and workshops with a wonderful selection of authors and facilitators that aim to delight and inspire in equal measure.

Every school in the county will get a chance to join in the fun as we have pre-recorded and online events available. What's more, the ever-popular Big Book Quiz will make a welcome return, with fun spot prizes on the day.

To get your creativity flowing in advance of the main event, we're also running a competition, where your class/school could win an author visit. See below for details!

**We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks and we hope you enjoy Children's Book Festival 2024.**

## Create a Picture Board of your favourite book and win a visit for your class/school with Alan Nolan

*Get to meet well-known children's Author and Illustrator, Alan Nolan!  
Alan will do an event especially for your class/school and each student will get a free copy of the book you chose for your Picture Board entry.*

*For full details and entry to this competition please email [childrensbookfestival@meathcoco.ie](mailto:childrensbookfestival@meathcoco.ie) and we will send on all the information.*

*Please use **Picture Board Competition** in the subject line.*

**All entries to be received by Friday 25th October.**

*The winning class/school will be announced in November.*



## This Year's Authors & Co-ordinators



### Grace Collender

**Event:** Drama and Creative Writing

**Suitable for** 2nd/3rd/4th Classes

Grace is an Actor and Writer. In her sessions, she will host workshops that encompass a blend of focused drama exercises and creative writing prompts. This mix of media proves to be very popular for young people and allows them to think of a story in a more expansive way. In each workshop, she will cover the topics of creating a character and story arc and finding your unique voice as a writer. An all-round fun workshop!

### Niamh Donnellan

**Event:** Little Irish Folklore Friends

**Suitable for** Junior/Senior Infants

Liam the Leprechaun, Betty the Banshee, Pádraig the Púca, Willow the Wisp, Fiadh the Fairy and Seán the Selkie all have two things in common. One, they are all from families of mischievous, cunning and spooky Irish creatures. Two, they would all very much like to make a friend! But how can they do that when their powers seek to fright instead of delight? Find out in this delightful event with Niamh Donnellan where the children will get to share the magic powers they would like to have and draw their very own magical creatures, before using ink and stamps to create a souvenir bookmark.



Niamh will also bring a pot of Liam the Leprechaun's chocolate gold coins to share!

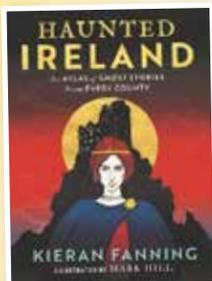
### Paddy Donnelly

**Event:** The Golden Hare (Zoom Event)

**Suitable for** Senior Infants/1st/2nd Classes



Grandad and Meara set out together to find the magical Golden Hare that can jump to the Moon in two-and-a-half leaps, shape-shift into other creatures and hear the tiniest spider. Along the way, they discover all sorts of wildlife wonders that the natural world has been hiding. Paddy Donnelly will read from the book and the children will get to learn some amazing animal facts and enjoy a draw-along sketching a new mythical creature.



## Kieran Fanning

**Suitable for** families with kids aged 9+

**Event:** Haunted Ireland

Kieran is a Writer and Primary School Teacher from Navan, Co. Meath. He has a Master's degree in Children's Literature and a fascination for legendary Irish tales – the spookier the better! Join him as he takes you through some of the spooky stories from his latest publication, *Haunted Ireland: An Atlas of Spooky Tales from every County*.

## Brian Gallagher

**Event:** The Case of the Vanishing Painting

A valuable painting leaves the train station in Galway in a guarded carriage. When the train arrives in Dublin, the painting is gone. Suspicion immediately falls on Mr. Kavanagh, the train's guard. Twins Deirdre and Tim know their father isn't the thief, and they're determined to find out who is. Join well-known Irish Author Brian Gallagher to see if the mystery can be solved to track down the painting!!

**Suitable for** 4th/5th/6th Classes



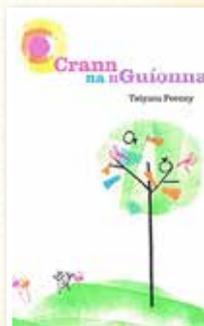
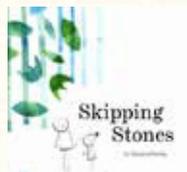
## Tatyana Feeney

**Event:** Story and Drawing Sessions

**Suitable from** from Senior Infants

Tatyana Feeney is a Meath-based Author/Illustrator. She has written and illustrated over 10 books, including *Small Bunny's Blue Blanket* and *Eva and the Perfect Rain*, as well as several in the Irish language. She will be doing two events for us.

1. *Skipping Stones* - This event will be based on her latest book and will include a drawing activity. Suitable for Senior Infants to 2nd Class.
2. Is é *Crann na nGuíonna* an chéad leabhar Gaeilge a bhaineann úsáid as dúch fluaraiseach sna léaráidí. Is scéal faoi crann speisialta agus na mianta atá aige é. Tar éis an scéal, tugtar cuireadh chuig na páistí *Crann na nGuíonna* a cruthú, le mianta agus cuairteoirí dá gcuid féin san áireamh. Oiriúnach do lucht Rang 1.



## Greetings Heroes with Dave Rudden and Graham Tugwell

Suitable for 4th/5th/6th Classes

Join award-winning Authors Graham Tugwell and Dave Rudden for their one-of-a-kind interactive storytelling event - *GREETINGS HEROES*.

This is a story where the audience decide the events – choosing our heroes' path through an evil-infested dungeon. With tons of audience interaction, props and crucial decisions for the kids to make, no two events have ever been the same. Victory or death – it's for the audience to decide!



## Karen Harte

Event: Zine Workshops

Suitable for 1st/2nd/3rd Classes



Discover the exciting history of zines and get creative with fun ideas for your own. Learn to make an 8-page zine and a fold-out accordion zine. Express yourself through drawing, writing and collage while exploring comic book elements to help tell your story. Perfect for young creators that love comics and are eager to explore the world of DIY publishing!

Please note these workshops are 1.5 hrs in duration.

## Natasha Mac a'Bháird

Event: The Tower Ghost

Suitable for 3rd/4th/5th Classes

Join Natasha Mac a'Bháird for an interactive event for young readers and budding writers.

Natasha is a freelance Writer and Editor who has written twelve books for children, including the *Star Club* series, *Reindeer Down* and two titles in the *Great Irish Sports Stars* series. In this event, children will get the chance to hear her outline her journey from young bookworm to published Author. Natasha will also give tips on writing and discuss the inspiration behind her stories.



## Méabh McDonnell

Suitable for 3rd/4th Classes

**Event:** Into the Witchwood



Never, ever, set foot inside the Witchwood. Surrounding Rowan's home is the dark, dangerous Witchwood. At the heart of it, sitting at the bottom of an ancient well, is a powerful witch. Six months ago, Rowan's mother went into the woods – and never came back out. Nothing has been the same ever since. She fights with her dad and her little sister, and her Nana won't even speak to her. There's only one thing that can fix it; Rowan needs to bring her mum home. Méabh will talk about her enthralling new book

and also do worldbuilding as a storytelling exercise in this session.

## Erika McGann

Suitable from Junior Infants

**Event:** What is a Peachick? & Chasing the Shy Town

1. I've heard of a chickpea. I've had those for lunch. Is a peachick the same? Is it something you munch? Come on a hilarious adventure with these weird and zany creatures, from the Irish Book Award-shortlisted Author and Illustrator of *Standing on One Leg Is Hard*. Suitable for Junior and Senior Infants.



2. For older children, Erika McGann will read from her new book, *Chasing the Shy Town* (illustrated by Toni Galmés) – a fun and fantastical story about the impossibility of being perfect. With storytelling, curious facts and a brain-teasing game or two, discover how inspiration is all around you, and how adventures with friends make the best stories. Suitable for 1st / 2nd / 3rd Classes.

## Tina Mation

Suitable for 1st/2nd/3rd Classes

**Event:** Illustration Workshops



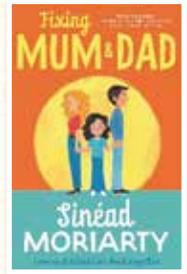
Tina Mation, Creator and Presenter of the longest running children's television art show in the world, is delighted to be part of the Children's Book Festival in Meath Libraries. Tina will show young artists just how easy it is to draw, colour and create wonderful characters in no time.

## Sinéad Moriarty

**Suitable for** 2nd/3rd Classes

**Event:** Fixing Mum and Dad

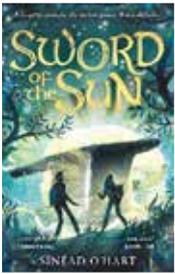
In this event, Sinéad will talk about the topics covered in her four children's books - *Refugees*, *Homelessness*, *Climate Change* and her latest on divorce titled *Fixing Mum and Dad*. The talk will be given in a sensitive and engaging way that is suitable for young children. It will also include videos, slides and lots of interaction. Children will get the opportunity to get involved, giving their opinions and thoughts on these subject matters.



## Sinéad O'Hart

**Suitable for** 4th/5th/6th Classes

**Event:** Making Mythology



Find out about what makes a myth with children's Author and Podcast Host, Sinéad O'Hart! Sinéad's books, *The Silver Road* and *Sword of the Sun* have a generous sprinkling of magic and mythology in their pages, and in this workshop, she will talk about some of her favourite stories and characters from Irish mythology. Then, the children will have the chance to make a myth of their own, either by drawing or writing about it under Sinéad's expert guidance.

## Tom Palmer

**Suitable for** 4th/5th/6th Classes

**Event:** History Talks (Zoom event)

Tom will chat about how he writes history stories set in countries like Holland, France and Russia and how those countries and their people coped with war. He will show the artefacts, photographs and books that inspire him and will outline how he plans and edits those stories with real examples. Tom will dedicate some of the session to answering the children's questions





## Ta Tum Tum!

**Event:** Dance workshop

**Suitable for** Junior/Senior Infants/1st Classes

An engaging and interactive workshop for young children, introducing them to the vibrant rhythms and cultural traditions of Brazilian samba music. The children are introduced to the basic elements of samba music, including rhythm, melody and movement and will explore and experiment with different percussion instruments such as shakers, tambourines and drums.

## Big Book Quiz

Always a popular part of our festival, this year's Big Book Quiz is suitable for children from 3rd and 4th classes. There will be fun spot prizes and a €15 book token up for grabs for one lucky student.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
BIG BOOK QUIZ**

**SUITABLE  
FOR 3RD  
AND 4TH  
CLASSES**

**BIG BOOK QUIZ**

**SEE BRANCH LISTINGS FOR  
TIMES**

Meath County Council Library Service  
Children's Book Festival

## Family Friendly Day

**Saturday 12th October Ashbourne Library**

As part of our festival we are offering events that are suitable for families to attend. We will have a creative writing session, Hallowe'en stories and crafts, a badge making session and to set the tone for Hallowe'en, author Kieran Fanning will be hosting a storytelling session based on his latest book *Haunted Ireland*. Booking essential.

Check our library website for full details [www.meathlibraries.ie](http://www.meathlibraries.ie)

**CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
DAY**

**WRITE WITH US!**  
with Erika McGann  
& Debbie Thomas

SUITABLE  
FOR  
AGES 9+

CREATIVE WRITING  
SESSION

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER  
ASHBOURNE LIBRARY 11AM

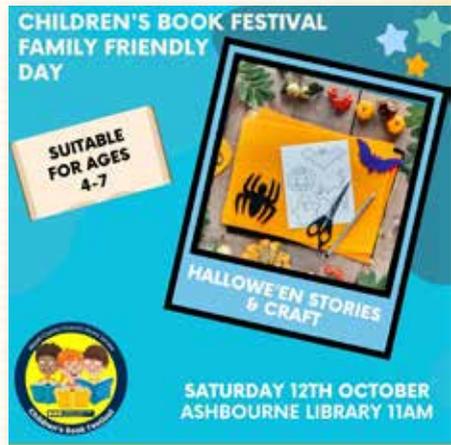
A poster for a creative writing session. It features a collection of various colored pens and pencils. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout with a blue background and white stars.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
DAY**

SUITABLE  
FOR AGES  
4-7

HALLOWE'EN STORIES  
& CRAFT

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER  
ASHBOURNE LIBRARY 11AM

A poster for a Halloween stories and craft session. It shows a yellow card with a black spider and a pair of scissors, surrounded by autumn-themed decorations like pumpkins and leaves. The text is in white and yellow on a blue background.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
DAY**

**BADGE MAKING  
SESSION**

SUITABLE  
FOR  
AGES 6+

DESIGN YOUR OWN  
BADGE

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER  
ASHBOURNE LIBRARY 2PM

A poster for a badge making session. It displays several colorful, circular badges with different designs, including a heart, a star, and a character. The text is in white and yellow on a blue background.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
DAY**

**HAUNTED IRELAND**  
with  
Kieran Fanning

SUITABLE  
FOR  
FAMILIES  
WITH  
CHILDREN  
AGED 9+

HAUNTED  
IRELAND  
BY KIERAN FANNING  
SPOOKY TALES FROM  
ACROSS IRELAND

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER  
ASHBOURNE LIBRARY 3PM

A poster for a storytelling session. It features the cover of the book 'Haunted Ireland' by Kieran Fanning, which shows a woman in a dark, hooded cloak. The text is in white and yellow on a blue background.

## Zoom Events

### Paddy Donnelly

Suitable for Senior Infants/1st/2nd Classes

**Tuesday 8th October**

Session 1: 10.00 - 11.00am

Session 2: 11.30am- 12.30pm

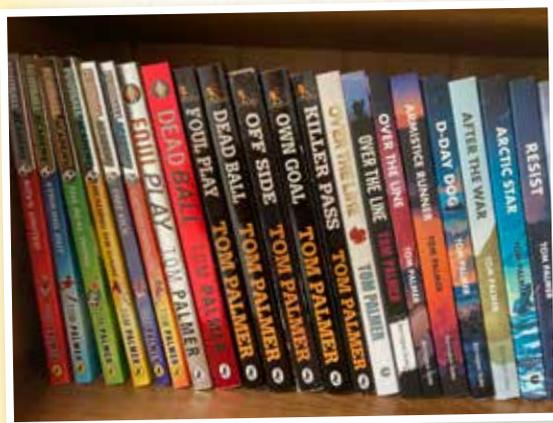
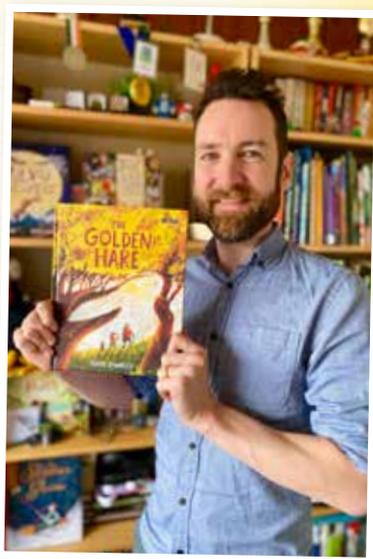
Session 3: 1.30-2.30pm

**Thursday 17th October**

Session 1: 10.00 - 11.00am

Session 2: 11.30am- 12.30pm

Session 3: 1.30-2.30pm



### Tom Palmer

Suitable for 4th/5th/6th Classes

**Wednesday 23rd October**

Session 1: 10.30 - 11.30am

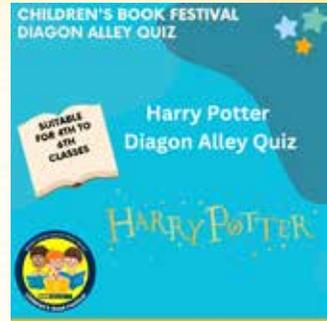
Session 2: 12.00 - 1.00pm

## Pre-recorded Events

### Harry Potter Diagon Alley Quiz

**4th to 6th Class**

Join us for this Harry Potter quick-fire quiz! Based on the (in)famous Diagon Alley, it will really test if you are a true Harry Potter fan.



### Draw a Hedgehog with Tina Mation

**1st to 3rd Class**

Join Tina in this special pre-recording on drawing hedgehogs. Tina will guide the class in the easy steps of creating their own drawings of these wonderful little Irish animals.

### Draw an Ant with Tina Mation

**Junior Infants to 1st Class**

Learn how to draw an ant with Tina as she shows you step-by-step, so everyone can participate. Get your pencils, crayons and paints ready.



### Draw a Crab with Tina Mation

**Junior Infants to 1st Class**

Another popular session, as Tina shows you easy steps to drawing these fascinating underwater creatures. Pencils, paints and crayons to the ready.

### Draw a Tiger cub with Tina Mation

**Junior Infants to 1st Class**

A fun drawing tutorial for these cute cubs where Tina will show you step-by-step how to create your own picture. Have your pencils, paints and crayons ready.



## Children's Book Festival 2024 - A Right Royal Read

### Events Listing by Library

#### Ashbourne

Monday 7th October	Author Visit Niamh Donnellan	10.00 - 10.45am	Junior/Senior Infants
Monday 7th October	Author Visit Niamh Donnellan	11.15 - 12.00pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Wednesday 9th October	Irish Event Tatyana Feeney	10.00 - 11.00am	1st Class
Friday 11th October	Music Event Ta Tum Tum	1.30 - 2.20pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Thursday 17th October	Big Book Quiz	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th Class
Friday 18th October	Author Visit Brian Gallagher	1.30 - 2.30pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Saturday 12th October	Creative Writing with Debbie & Erika	11.00 - 12.00pm	Ages 9+ years
Saturday 12th October	Hallowe'en Stories and Crafts	11.00 - 12.00pm	Ages 4 to 7 years
Saturday 12th October	Badge Maker Session	2.00 - 3.00pm	Ages 6 to 10 years
Saturday 12th October	Storytelling with Kieran Fanning	3.00 - 4.00pm	Families with kids aged 9+

#### \*Family Friendly Events

#### Athboy

Thursday 10th October	Music Event Ta Tum Tum	11.30 - 12.20pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Thursday 17th October	Author Visit Brian Gallagher	11.30 - 12.30pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Friday 18th October	Big Book Quiz	11.30 - 12.30pm	3rd/4th Class

#### Ballivor

Wednesday 9th October	Big Book Quiz	11.00 - 12.00pm	3rd/4th Class
Thursday 10th October	Music Event Ta Tum Tum	10.00 - 10.50am	Junior/Senior Infants
Monday 21st October	Author Visit Natasha Mac a' Bháird	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th/5th Class

#### Bettystown

Friday 11th October	Author/Illustrator Tatyana Feeney	9.45 - 10.45am	1st/2nd Class
Wednesday 16th October	Illustration with Tina Mation	10.00 - 11.00am	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Friday 18th October	Big Book Quiz	10.30 - 11.30am	3rd/4th Class
Monday 21st October	Author Visit Erika McGann	10.30 - 11.30am	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Monday 21st October	Author Visit Erika McGann	12.00 - 1.00pm	1st/2nd/3rd Class

## Events

### Events Listing by Library

#### Duleek

Tuesday 8th October	Big Book Quiz	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th Class
Friday 11th October	Author/Illustrator Tatyana Feeney	11.30 - 12.30pm	1st/2nd Class
Wednesday 16th October	Illustration with Tina Mation	12.00 - 1.00pm	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Wednesday 23rd October	Author Visit Natasha Mac a'Bháird	12.00 - 1.00pm	3rd/4th/5th Class

#### Dunboyne

Thursday 3rd October	Illustrator Karen Harte	9.30 - 11.00am	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Thursday 3rd October	Illustrator Karen Harte	11.30 - 1.00pm	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Tuesday 8th October	Creative Writing Grace Collender	12.00 - 1.00pm	2nd/3rd/4th Class
Friday 11th October	Music Event Ta Tum Tum	10.00 - 10.50am	Junior/Senior Infants
Thursday 17th October	Big Book Quiz	11.00 - 12.00pm	3rd/4th Class
Friday 18th October	Author Visit Brian Gallagher	9.30am - 10.30am	4th/5th/6th Class

#### Dunshaughlin

Wednesday 9th October	Author Visit Niamh Donnellan	11.30 - 12.15pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Wednesday 9th October	Author Visit Niamh Donnellan	1.30 - 2.15pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Friday 11th October	Music Event Ta Tum Tum	11.45 - 12.35pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Wednesday 16th October	Big Book Quiz	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th Class
Friday 18th October	Author Visit Brian Gallagher	11.15 - 12.15pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Tuesday 22nd October	Author Visit Erika McGann	1.30 - 2.30pm	Junior/Senior Infants/1st Class

#### Enfield

Tuesday 8th October	Creative Writing Grace Collender	10.00 - 11.00am	2nd/3rd/4th Class
Friday 11th October	Big Book Quiz	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th Class
Tuesday 15th October	Author Visit Sinéad O'Hart	10.30 - 11.30am	4th/5th/6th Class
Friday 18th October	Illustration with Tina Mation	12.00 - 1.00pm	1st/2nd/3rd Class

## Children's Book Festival 2024 - A Right Royal Read

### Events Listing by Library

#### Kells

Friday 4th October	Author Visit Méabh McDonnell	1.30 - 2.30pm	3rd/4th Class
Thursday 10th October	Music Event Ta Tum Tum	1.30 - 2.20pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Thursday 17th October	Author Visit Brian Gallagher	1.30 - 2.30pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Friday 18th October	Author Visit Sinéad Moriarty	10.00 - 10.45am	2nd/3rd Class
Friday 18th October	Author Visit Sinéad Moriarty	11.15 - 12.00pm	2nd/3rd Class
Wednesday 23rd October	Big Book Quiz	11.30 - 12.30pm	3rd/4th Class

#### Navan

Wednesday 2nd October	Illustrator Karen Harte	12.30 - 2.00pm	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Monday 14th October	Greetings Heroes Show (Solstice)	10.00 - 11.00am	4th/5th/6th Class
Monday 14th October	Greetings Heroes Show (Solstice)	12.00 - 1.00pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Wednesday 16th October	Author Visit Sinéad O'Hart	10.00 - 11.00am	4th/5th/6th Class
Thursday 17th October	Author Visit Sinéad Moriarty	10.00 - 10.45am	2nd/3rd Class
Thursday 17th October	Author Visit Sinéad Moriarty	11.15 - 12.00pm	2nd/3rd Class
Monday 21st October	Author Visit Natasha Mac a'Bháird	12.30 - 1.30pm	3rd/4th/5th Class
Tuesday 22nd October	Author Visit Erika McGann	9.45 - 10.45am	Junior/Senior Infants/1st Class
Tuesday 22nd October	Author Visit Erika McGann	11.15 - 12.15pm	Junior/Senior Infants/1st Class
Wednesday 23rd October	Big Book Quiz	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th Class

#### Nobber

Thursday 10th October	Big Book Quiz	11.30 - 12.30pm	3rd/4th Class
Thursday 17th October	Author Visit Brian Gallagher	9.30 - 10.30am	4th/5th/6th Class

#### Oldcastle

Friday 4th October	Author Visit Méabh McDonnell	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/ 4th Class
Friday 4th October	Author Visit Méabh McDonnell	11.30 - 12.30pm	3rd/ 4th Class
Friday 18th October	Big Book Quiz	1.30 - 2.30pm	3rd/ 4th Class
Tuesday 22nd October	Author Visit Natasha Mac a'Bháird	1.30 - 2.30pm	3rd/4th/ 5th Class

## Events

### Events Listing by Library

#### Ráth Chairn

Wednesday 2nd October	Quiz Mór na Leabhar	11.00 - 12.00pm	3rd/4th Class
Wednesday 9th October	Author Visit Niamh Donnellan	9.30 - 10.30am	Junior/Senior Infants

#### Slane

Wednesday 2nd October	Illustrator Karen Harte	9.45 - 11.15am	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Wednesday 16th October	Author Visit Sinéad O'Hart	12.00 - 1.00pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Friday 18th October	Big Book Quiz	11.30 - 12.30pm	3rd/4th Class
Wednesday 23rd October	Author Visit Natasha Mac a'Bháird	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th/5th Class

#### Trim

Saturday 5th October	Storytelling Kieran Fanning	3.00 - 4.00pm	Families with kids aged 9+
Monday 7th October	Author Visit Niamh Donnellan	1.00 - 1.45pm	Junior/Senior Infants
Wednesday 9th October	Big Book Quiz	10.00 - 11.00am	3rd/4th Class
Wednesday 9th October	Irish Event with Tatyana Feeney	12.30 - 1.30pm	1st Class
Tuesday 15th October	Author Visit Sinéad O'Hart	1.30 - 2.30pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Wednesday 16th October	Greetings Heroes Show (Swift Theatre)	10.00 - 11.00am	4th/5th/6th Class
Wednesday 16th October	Greetings Heroes Show (Swift Theatre)	12.00 - 1.00pm	4th/5th/6th Class
Friday 18th October	Illustration with Tina Mation	9.30 - 10.30pm	1st/2nd/3rd Class
Tuesday 22nd October	Author Visit Natasha Mac a'Bháird	11.00 - 12.00pm	3rd/4th/5th Class

[\\*Family Friendly Events](#)

## School Bookings

Your school can choose up to five events, however, due to a very high demand we may only be able to allocate one event per school.

Please ensure that your class age matches the age range listed in the event's details.

**Booking is required for all events including the Zoom and pre-recorded events.**

### How to book:

To book an event please email us at: **childrensbookfestival@meathcoco.ie**

**Use CBF 2024 and your school's name in the subject heading.**

*The email must include the following:*

1. Library
2. Date of Event
3. Time of Event
4. Event Title
5. Your School's Name
6. Class Level
7. Number of Pupils
8. Teacher's Name and Contact Details

**Bookings are open from Monday 2nd September to Friday 13th September.**

Confirmations will be sent to the schools from Monday 23rd September.

For any other queries please contact us:

**Eve: (046) 9097463 Mark: (01) 8358185**

Thanks to the Solstice Arts Centre and Swift Cultural Centre for use of their venues.



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council