



Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of **INSIGHT**
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



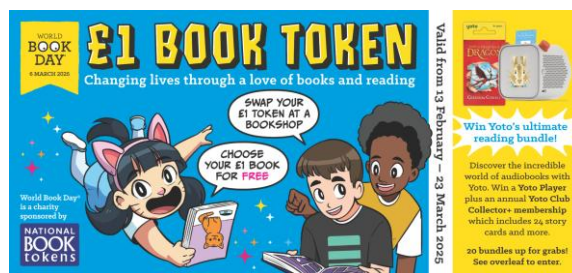
February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to share with you the activities which are planned to celebrate World Book Day on **Tuesday 4th March**.

World Book Day token

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will receive a £1 book token which entitles them to either one FREE World Book Day 2025 book, or £1 off a book costing £2.99 or more in participating booksellers. Tokens are valid from 13th February to 23rd March. Please see www.worldbookday.com/families/ for more information.



Scholastic Book Fair

This will be in the Library from Thursday 13th to Thursday 20th March. Scholastic's experts have selected the newest and best books from over 60 publishers, including exclusive titles that you won't see in shops. Students can purchase books at Break and Lunch times and can use their World Book Day Tokens to get £1 off purchases. All students who are in receipt of Free School Meals will be given a postcard by English staff. This will entitle them to a free book of their choice (up to the value of £8.99). They simply take their postcard and exchange it for a book. Research shows that children are five times more likely to finish a book if they have chosen it themselves.

Address: North Avenue, Stafford ST16 1NR **Tel:** 01785 223490 **Email:** office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk **Web:** www.sirgrahambalfour.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr M M Mason

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S L Metcalfe

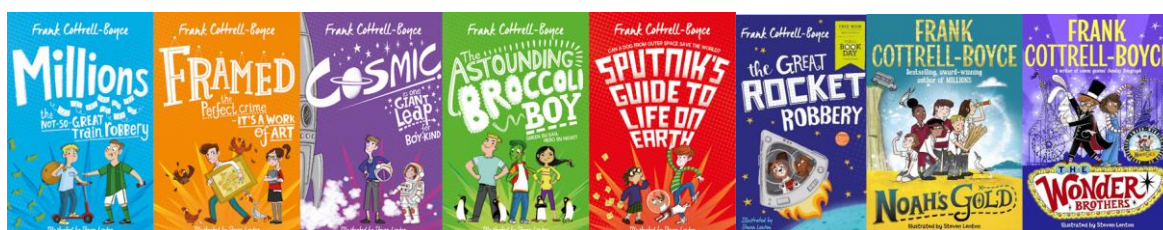
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Haines

Sir Graham Balfour School is a member of Insight Multi-Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10238899.

The registered office is at Sir Graham Balfour High School, North Avenue, Stafford, ST16 1NR.

Author focus – Children’s Laureate 2024 - 2026

Frank Cottrell-Boyce is a multi award-winning children’s book author and screenwriter. *Millions*, his debut children's novel, won the prestigious CILIP Carnegie Medal. His other books include *Cosmic*, *Framed*, *The Astounding Broccoli Boy*, *Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth*, *Runaway Robot*, *Noah’s Gold* and *The Wonder Brothers*. Frank is a lifelong champion of children’s books and launched his Laureateship with a powerful speech declaring his ambitions for children’s books and the life-changing benefits of reading to be “taken seriously”. He also said that “writing and reading has transformed my life – and I write children’s books because I think they help build the apparatus of happiness inside us.” Most of Frank’s books are available to borrow from the Library and Year 7 students will learn more about Frank and his books in their Library lessons.



Book Swap

Bring in unwanted books, swap them for a token and then choose some ‘new’ books! Please give your books to a Reading Ambassador in the Library (from 8.20am on **Tuesday 4th March**) and keep hold of your tokens until Break time. If you don’t have a book to swap, books will be available for 50p, with the proceeds being donated to our sister school in Cambodia.

Manga quiz

If you are a fan of manga and graphic novels, make sure that you have read *Spy x Family*, the *Maximum Ride* manga series and *Death Note*. All of these are available to borrow from the Library. The link to the quiz will be in the Student Bulletin and there will be merits for high scores.

Short story competition

Can you write a story only using 500 words? Of course you can! The theme of the competition is “good vs evil” which you can interpret however you like – unleash your creativity! Here are the rules:

All the stories **must**:

- **Be 500 words or less** (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child’s own original idea

- Be prose, not rap or poem

Stories **must not**:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)
- Be created, written or developed by AI

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Stories can be handwritten (given to Mrs Harmer in the Library) or submitted via email (FHarmer@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk) – the deadline is **Monday 3rd March at 12pm**. Please ensure that your name, Form and word count are on your entry. Every entrant will receive 10 merits and the winner will receive 50 merits. All of the stories will be displayed in the Library.

Craft competition

Create a model of a book character using an empty loo roll tube! The only rule is that you must keep the tube in its original shape. Hand these in, with a note of your name and Form, to Mrs Harmer in the Library by **12pm on Monday 3rd March**.



Form time

There will be book-themed activities happening during Form time too! You might discover a new author or find a must-read book. Also, keep an eye out for posters on class-room doors which will tell what your teachers are reading – you might be surprised.

