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THOUSANDS OF SMILEY FACES EXPECTED AS BORDERS BOOK FESTIVAL SCHOOLS GALA DAY RETURNS

The Borders Book Festival returns to its first in-person Schools Gala Day since 2019 on Tuesday 20th September, with a series of special events with top authors and illustrators appearing on stage at the Volunteer Hall and MacArts, Galashiels.

In one of the single biggest annual events for schools held in the South of Scotland, more than 1,000 nursery and primary school pupils from across the Scottish Borders are set to join master storytellers Alan Windram, Tola Okogwu, Jonathan Meres, Rossie Stone, Kate Leiper, Joan Haig, Anne Brusatte and others in Galashiels as they take their audiences into worlds packed with captivating stories and characters.

School groups that are unable to travel to Galashiels will still be able to participate, with some of the events being livestreamed in partnership with Scottish Borders Council's Inspire Learning team, opening the celebrations out to hundreds of classrooms throughout the length and breadth of the Borders.

The Schools Gala Day is sponsored by CGI, one of the largest independent IT and business consulting services firms in the world, which has a base in the Scottish Borders and helped Scottish Borders Council to deliver the successful roll out of its Inspire Learning programme. This year's collaboration is part of an ongoing partnership between CGI and Borders Book Festival which began in 2019, with plans for future schools' events to be presented in towns across the Scottish Borders, reflecting the book festival's ongoing commitment to literature, creativity and participation within the wider local community.

Lindsay McGranaghan, Senior Vice President and Business Lead for CGI in Scotland, said:

"We are very pleased to support The Borders Book Festival once again and look forward to seeing children enjoying The Schools Gala Day. We believe strongly in investing in the communities in which our members live and work and that encouraging a life-long love of reading amongst young people is hugely important".

Paula Ogilvie, Festival Director, said:

"We're delighted to be working in partnership once more with CGI to welcome school groups in-person and online from across the Scottish Borders for a special day filled with imagination and magic. The festival aims to promote creative learning and hopefully this year's events will encourage our young audiences to develop a love for reading for pleasure, and above all, to have fun with words."

Other funders and supporters of educational activities within the Borders Book Festival 2022 include Creative Scotland, Scottish Borders Council and Live Borders.

The Borders Book Festival will return to Melrose from 15 - 18 June 2023.

For further information and to keep in touch visit:

www.bordersbookfestival.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/bordersbookfestival/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/BordersBookFest>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/bordersbookfest/>

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Notes to Editors:

1. **The Borders Book Festival CGI Schools Gala Day** takes place at Volunteer Hall and MacArts, Galashiels, and online on **Tuesday 20th September 2022**. Tickets are £2 per pupil, with accompanying adults going free. The full programme and booking information are available at www.bordersbookfestival.org.
2. **CGI is the Book Festival's Educational Partner.** Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest independent IT and business consulting services firms in the world. With 88,500 consultants and professionals across the globe, CGI delivers an end-to-end portfolio of capability, from strategic IT and business consulting to systems integration, managed IT and business process services and intellectual property solutions. CGI works with clients through a local relationship model complemented by a global delivery network that helps clients digitally transform their organizations and accelerate results. CGI Fiscal 2021 reported revenue is \$12.13 billion and CGI shares are listed on the TSX (GIB.A) and the NYSE (GIB). Learn more at cgicom.

