World Book Day

World Book Day is an annual celebration. In the United Kingdom, World Book Day happens on the first Thursday of March. However, in other parts of the world, World Book Day always happens on 23rd April. 23rd April was chosen because it is the same date that many famous authors have died on.

World Book Day is a one-day charity event, on which everybody gets to focus on books, authors and reading. Every year, on World Book Day, each child in the UK is given a £1 voucher to spend on a book of their own. This is to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

World Book Day Beginnings

The idea for World Book Day was originally thought up by an organisation called UNESCO. UNESCO are responsible for making sure that everyone around the world gets a chance to learn. In 1995, UNESCO created an annual celebration of reading and the very first World Book Day was held around the world in April of this year. It is now celebrated in around 100 different countries and, each year, UNESCO chooses a different city to be the centre of their World Book Day celebrations.

Did You Know?

- World Book Day is celebrated on a different date every year.

- Around 15 million book tokens are sent out each year in the UK, which can be swapped for a free £1 book in many bookshops.

- Many people dress up as their favourite storybook characters on World Book Day.

The Importance of Reading

Reading is a vital skill and something you will need to be able to do for your whole life. Without being able to read, simple tasks, such as reading the ingredients to bake a cake or reading a letter about bills, become impossible.

Reading allows you to live your life however you choose to but learning to read is a luxury that some children are not lucky enough to experience. World Book Day can be a great chance to raise money for charities, such as Book Aid International, who work with children in less fortunate countries. They provide them with books and teach them to read in order to give them the best chance of success in the future.