

# World Book Day



World Book Day is an annual reading celebration. In most countries, it is celebrated each year on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. This particular date was chosen as it marks the anniversary of the death of many famous authors, including William Shakespeare and William Wordsworth. However, due to the celebration of St George's Day on the same date, the United Kingdom celebrates World Book day on the first Thursday of March instead.

World Book Day is a one-day charitable festival, with a focus on books, authors and reading. It is an opportunity for people to share their favourite books with others, explore new texts and learn more about their favourite authors. Every year, on World Book Day, each child in the UK is given a £1 voucher to spend on a book of their choice, in order to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

## World Book Day Beginnings

The idea for World Book Day was originally created by an organisation called UNESCO, who are responsible for ensuring that everyone around the world gets a chance to learn. In

1995, UNESCO created an annual celebration of reading. Therefore, the very first World Book Day was held around the world in April of that year. It is now celebrated in around 100 different countries, with UNESCO choosing a different city each year to be the centre of their World Book Day celebrations.

### Did You Know?

- 171 million people could be able to free themselves from poverty if they were able to leave school with basic reading skills.
- For every £2 donated on World Book Day, Book Aid International can send a new reading book to a school where children do not have enough books to learn to read.



## The Importance of Reading

Reading is a vital lifelong skill. Without being able to read, simple tasks can become practically impossible.

Having the ability to read allows you to access many opportunities to improve your life. However, 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 through fancy dress competitions, sponsored reading or whole school collections. Charities such as Book Aid International work with children in less fortunate countries, providing them with books and teaching them how to read, in order to give them the best chance of success in the future.

