



## Books written and illustrated by Dublin schoolchildren join Book of Kells exhibition at Trinity's Old Library

An exhibition of 80 handmade books written and illustrated by Dublin primary schoolchildren will be unveiled by award-winning children's book author Dave Rudden in the iconic Old Library of Trinity College Dublin this evening, Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. [Photos of the children unveiling their books in the Long Room will be sent to your picture desks.]

The exhibition marks the culmination of the *Bookmarks* programme which sees Dublin primary school children write and illustrate their own books over a two-month period with the help of authors, artists and children's book specialists from Trinity.

The project aims to inspire the children to become the next generation of storytellers, artists and creatives. *Bookmarks* is organised by the [Trinity Access Programmes \(TAP\)](#), which supports students from under-represented backgrounds to progress to further education.

This evening children from 5th and 6th class pupils from Scoil Cholmchille SNS, Ballybrack; Our Lady of Good Counsel BNS, Drimnagh; and Marist Primary School, Crumlin will see their own creations go on display in the awe-inspiring Long Room. Their books will then become part of Trinity's permanent collection of over six million printed volumes including the world-renowned Book of Kells.

**Kathleen O'Toole-Brennan of Trinity Access Programmes** said, "Here at Trinity Access Programmes we are very proud of the Bookmarks initiative and the unique opportunity it provides for children to acquire new skills and to be exposed to the world of children's literature in a very hands-on way. We are delighted to unveil these beautiful works of art and literature. Our outreach programmes attract over 10,000 students annually, and with continued involvement, these students and their peers will successfully make the transition to both second and third level."

This year the *Bookmarks* programme focused on the theme 'Creatures and Creations' and writing and illustrating workshops were delivered by Sine Quinn, Catherine Ann Cullen and Angela McDonagh. Inspiration for the book making workshops was provided by staff from the Library and the [School of English](#), who introduced the children to the Library's Pollard

Collection – the largest collection of children’s books in Ireland, comprising over 10,000 books dating from 17th century to the early 20th century.

The wide range of topics that fired the children’s imagination is evident from the titles of their books this year which include :The Adventures of Kevin the Carrot; Fighting My Thoughts and The Mysterious Box.

**Helen Shelton, the Librarian and Chief Archivist at Trinity College Dublin,** added: “The Trinity Access Programmes Bookmarks event is a high point in the year here in the Long Room. We love getting the chance to invite these talented new authors into our most precious place on campus, and seeing their work placed beside 200,000 of the oldest books in the university’s collection.”