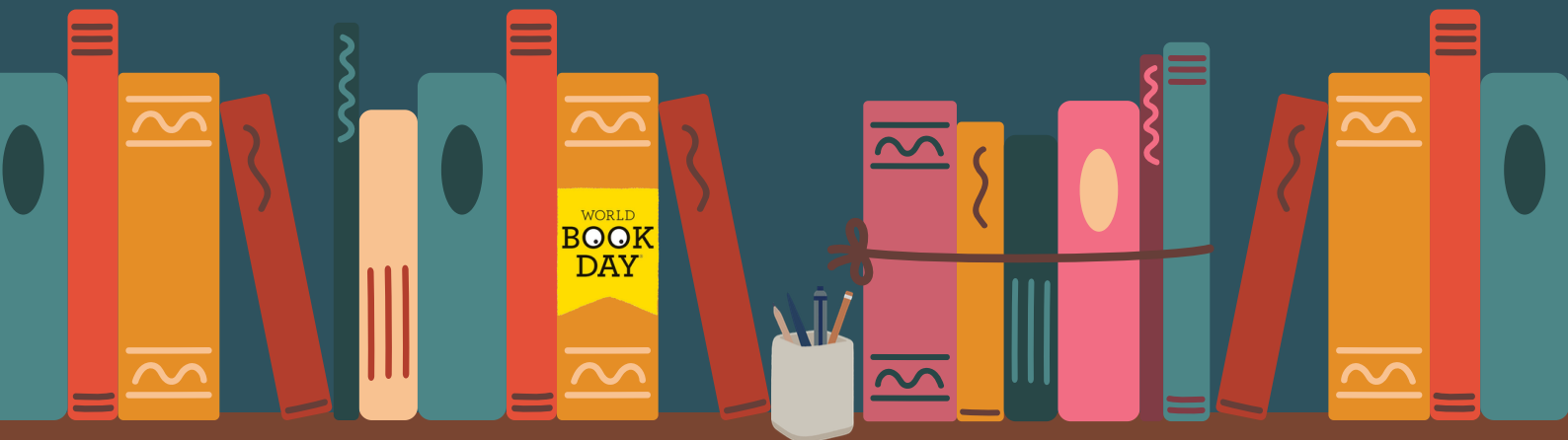




**MICHAEL
SHANKS**
MP FOR RUTHERGLEN

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

**Winners
of 2026**



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Introduction

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to my short story competition this year!

I received over 300 entries from P6 and P7 pupils at primary schools all over the constituency. There are some fantastic characters in the stories this year, from Patrick the Peanut to John the In-Bru Hero, and even a dragon spotted right here in Rutherglen! It's amazing to see the range of ideas the pupils came up with and to see your imagination come to life.

This book includes all of this year's winning entries from 11 schools across the constituency, a huge well done to everyone!

*Best wishes,
Michael*



Andrew Majcher

Bothwell Primary School

P7 – Age 12

The Day My Boogers Came Alive

It was a normal Monday morning when Tim's life changed forever.

'What a boring day this is going to be' thought Tim, as he woke up and put on his clothes.

"ACHOO!"

'Ugh, what is that on the ground?' thought Tim. Little did he know it was his boogers. 'Are they moving? They are!' Tim thought as his boogers ran around his room. That's gross!

"Tim, I left something in your room. I'm going in to get it!" said his annoying little brother as he opened the door despite Tim's frantic screams to leave him alone. Jimmy the annoying brother slid in due to the snot and the boogers ran out. "NO!" screamed Tim as he ran after them.

The boogers ran into the TV lounge and started to jump on the remote's buttons to turn it on. "I've got to contain them somehow" Tim said. "A plastic container should work" Tim ran into the kitchen to grab one and when he got back to the lounge, he saw that the boogies were gone! Boogies are what Tim calls them. "Where are they?" Tim shouted. "Are you ok in there?" his mum said. "Yes all fine" Tim said even though it really wasn't.

They might be in the kitchen thought Tim as he turned off the TV. Tim ran to see if they were there, but when he got there he realised it was too late, his Mum was there and had spotted them. "Be careful, there is something slimy on the floor there!" screamed his Mum from on top of the counter "Your Dad's trying to catch them so go and help him!" screamed his Mum again. Tim stormed into his Mum's study to grab a plastic container and screamed "WHERE ARE THEY?" "There!" his Dad yelled from the other side of the room. "What are they?" he asked. Tim replied "they're my boogies" as he slammed the plastic container down in an attempt to capture them, the container barely missed the boogies who then jumped out the window. The boogies now in the real world ran down Bothwell Main Street and got all the way to Bothwell's Co-op before Tim caught them in the container.

Back at his house Tim placed the container with the boogies down to search up how to destroy them. The boogies' chief climbed up a rock in the container and screamed "Vive la révolution!" then all the boogies were like "yeah!" and then the boogies' chief pointed to one of the container's walls and then all the boogies started to ram into it.

They continued until it fell off the table and burst open. The boogies' chief screamed "nous combattons jusqu'à ce que les géants s'agenouillent devant nous!" Tim ran in and shouted, "What's happening!" then saw the boogies. "You!" chief boogie said, "we are nice!" Tim replied "Oh! Well if you promise to be good you can live here." The boogies replied "Bend the knee..."

The End

The Dragon Story

Once upon a time there was a dragon called Alex. He was ten years old and he




was a blue dragon, but he is a special dragon who can swim.

Alex lived in a forest next to the River Clyde. He liked eating salmon from the river, and he swam in the river every day to get the salmon.

But one day there was no salmon in the river. He was confused and wanted to know why there was no salmon at all in the river, so he went to tell his mum that there was no salmon in the river. Alex and his mum were sad that they had no

salmon to eat so they went on an adventure to get some salmon. They flew to a different pond near Burnhill to get some salmon and cod. Once they got to the pond Alex started swimming in the pond to get fish. He got a lot of fish. He caught 59 fishes for him and his mum so they packed up and went back home to the forest.

Once they got back, they cooked the fish and sat down to eat the fish. After they ate, they went to sleep but the next day all the fish were gone. The night before they had 10 fish left but, in the morning, they were all gone. They searched everywhere. They decided to go get more but then Alex's mum



remembered that she ate them in the middle of the night as a midnight snack.

Alex was disappointed in his mum. He woke up and wanted breakfast but there was no fish left. So, he went to get more fish but, on the way there, Alex saw another dragon, the same colour as him! He said hi to the other dragon. His name was Sam and he lived not too far away from Alex. They became great friends and saw each other all the time after that. Their favourite thing to do together was catch fish in the pond.

One day when they were out flying, they saw an abandoned building near the Main Street. They decided to explore it. They found it was full of fish! Someone else had been stealing the fish from the

pond and hiding it from the dragons as they wanted all the fish for themselves. Sam and Alex fly back and got all their friends and they all returned to the building and collected all the fish and took it back to the dragon village at Cathkin Braes! Everyone celebrated and had a huge fishy feast. Every year at the same time of year they would fly back to the building, steal all the fish back and have huge fish feasts! They were never hungry again and Sam and Alex were heroes.

The End

By Christopher Clemenson
Burgh Primary

Have you ever heard the story about Patrick + the peanut
I'm guessing you haven't so let me tell you all about it. Patrick
and his family were w+ sitting watching the news but
his mom and dad Polly and Pauly were the only ones
actully watching though, the kids were just playing on th
family ipad. On the TV it was saying that the peanut
patrol was going house to house to take the peanuts
away. Polly and Pauly weren't really worried cause normal
they go to the North and they live in the South.

3 AM! "Open the door now!" The parents calling said "Kids were
gonna have a game of hide and seek find the best spot
you can!" The three kids exclaimed "okay!" as they ran to
find a spot. Polly and Pauly already knew it was the
peanut patrol. They both put on a disguise to look human.
Polly and Pauly walked to the door and Polly said
"hello what would you like?" The Peanut patrol said "We
know it's you Polly and Pauly." The parents knew they had
to sacrifice for their kids "Yes it is us" They said "Now where
are your kids." "Kids? We don't have any kids!" They said "Let
us look then" "Okay but just know your wasting your time
they found the middle child first Penelope, she was hiding
in her parents cupboard. After more searching they found
the oldest, Peter was hiding in the dining room curtains
then they left.

Patrick shouted "I will!" and jumped out his hiding spot
he was hiding inside a small tub in the sunroom. He was
running around the house but he couldn't see anyone
he decided to go watch some TV. He unpaused what
his parents were watching it said "Then they search for
you in a van and sell you in home bargains." Patrick
knew this happened to his family, he went on the family
ipad and called a taxi. He ran upstairs and got

his pocket money to pay, the taxi finally showed up
he went in it and he saw that the taxi driver was also
a peanut. That made Patrick feel a bit more safer. Patrick
asked to go to tesco and he gets there in about two
minutes. The driver says "Be safe" and Patrick says "I will."
He gets out the car and goes to Home bargains. He sees
the peanut aisle and runs, he puts his ear to every tin of
peanuts he finally hears screaming from a tin in the back
of the shelf. He quickly buys them and runs to the taxi. He gets
home and empties the tin on the couch and the peanut parcel
never comes again!!

Grace Green
Calderwood Primary

The Endless Alley

By Ellie McCue

Hallside Primary

P7

The street was gloomy and was surrounded by a deep, dark, dense forest. The paint job on the wall was nothing but cobwebs and the occasional bit of graffiti, the one solitary street light flickered on and off and the ground below was cracked and dishevelled. Nobody ever set foot in this alley. Until now. Alone, lost and miserable Nico wandered around the long forgotten street. He had faced challenges before but none like this. He had lost his friends somewhere in the alley. The strong evil force of the street had forced them all to separate. It was *Her* plan, the Evil Mistress of Monsters. Nico looked around and saw an old tattered sign that read *The Scotty Inn*. That was a start, he was in Scotland. Not a bit of Scotland anybody had known about for a long time, dark forces had shut this place off from anyone. How had he and his friends wandered through? Nico remembered the force that had pulled him in, it had to be The Mistress's powers practising for when she finally met her pawns. Nico, Zoey, Roger and Will. A shrill laugh echoed around the street then a scream that was full of pure terror and fright. The scream was a girl. "Zoey?" he whispered quietly.

Nico ran but tripped on a broken tile, landed on his arm and skidded to a halt. He groaned and stood up "Zoey, Roger, Will?" he shouted desperately waiting for someone, anyone to reply. He felt like crying but knew he couldn't. Bravely Nico stood up and brushed his black hair out of his face. His piercing dark blue eyes stung with tiredness. Suddenly he heard a twig crack. Then out of the dark emerged a figure too small to be a monster, hopefully. It dropped to its knees as if Nico were royalty. It exhaled loudly then quietly said

“Nico” Cautiously Nico tiptoed over. It was Roger. “Zoey, Will, trapped...” said Roger as he stood up with the help of Nico. Clearly he had sprinted away to find Nico or any source of help. Ten minutes later they arrived at the last known place of Zoey and Will, nothing. Nico's head filled with worry. As well as Roger they were his best friends. His only friends. He had to find them, he couldn't just leave them.

He had once been told by The Mistress that his weakness was being too loyal to his friends. He would die for his friends. He had to find them. Just then he heard a muffled scream. Forgetting being careful, he ran towards the scream. “W-” He didn't hear anymore. Blackness and pain. A wall had appeared in his path and had created a cell around him and Roger. His sore arm throbbed with pain from his fall earlier. But when he saw Will and Zoey huddled together, he ran to hug them and so did Roger. It didn't matter that they were trapped, all four of them were together.

Spy Mission

One day there was a boy called Joe who did not know that from this day forward he would be a spy for the MI5 (British secret service.) At just 15 he would be the youngest spy ever. His uncle had a spy, but he died in combat, and his dad was a spy, but he retired and now Joe will be taking over. Joe, his dad, and his uncle would go on holiday skiing, mountain climbing, Scuba diving, and his dad taught him loads of martial arts. Joe has been trained without even knowing it.

The next day his dad took him to an office (Joe was confused) it seemed odd that they were meeting a spy in an office. When we got in there was a desk in front of us, they said to go up to the 3rd floor, and we met a man called Cornelius who told me that I would be going to Australia for a mission. His mission was to watch This man who MI5 thought was up to no good.

The next morning, he was packing his stuff and leaving because he had to be at the airport for his flight at 15:00. When he got to Australia there was a car with the name Joe on a bit of paper to take him to his hotel. He got into his hotel room and there was a man there called George who gave him a file with a person and some facts on the inside. His name is Jeremy Goldstein. He ran a mining business, but MI5 think he is releasing a poisonous gas into the air.

Joe got to his warehouse and saw Jeremy talking to a guy with glasses and brown hair saying, "our plan will work we will release poisonous gas over Glasgow, and they will never know." Then a guard came up behind Joe and tried to grab him, But Joe was too strong and held him off and then the guard got knocked out. That attracted attention to Joe and they all saw him. They started chasing him, so he ran and luckily there was a car out the front, so he quickly hopped into it and drove away. Joe did not actually know how to drive it was the one thing his dad and uncle did not teach him on their holidays.

All the guys got in Jeeps and started chasing Joe and he felt like his heart was pounding out of his chest. Joe was driving away when something caught his eye. A speed boat docked at the shore. He drove next to it and jumped out the car and quickly got on to the speed boat. It was fast and he started up the engine, and it revved up and Joe sped away into the distance. After about 25 minutes of driving, he saw a Submarine and he was petrified he thought more of the people were in it, but it was Cornelius sent to help me. He took me back and we went into Glasgow city centre, and he sent people in helicopters to block Jeremy's way. Suddenly they saw a helicopter in the distance, and it was Jeremy. MI5 caught him and handed him over to the police. When the police met him, they interrogated him then they searched the helicopter and found poison, so they shut down his business for good. They gave all his workers 20 years jailtime and Jeremy will be behind bars for the rest of his life.

As for Joe the police handed him £100 and 2 tickets for any amusement park that he wants.

Elizabeth and the Big Bubble

Not far from where I live, lives an old woman named Elizabeth. She lives alone. She's lived like that for many years, sad and lonely.



It was a lovely winter's day in Newton farm, and Elizabeth was alone in her old and rustic house, staring with her piercing green eyes at the children playing in the local pitches, near the school. It reminded her about when she was young and how she had always wanted to go to magical Paris, where dreams are made, New York and mighty Rome. She turned stubbornly away from the window and left the room. Elizabeth has soft curly gray hair, a lovely violet dress and a diamond necklace that her mother gave her. She lived like that every day, until one special day of Elizabeth's life.

The very next day, Elizabeth woke to find a big round pink bubble there in her room. "Oh my giddy eyes"! She said in total disbelief. Elizabeth stood up hesitantly and poked the bubble, but nothing happened then she slowly walked closer to the bubble and **POP** she walked straight inside. Elizabeth noticed inside there was a pink seat. She sat down and shook as a rush of excitement scurried through. Elizabeth pinched herself just in case she was dreaming. Suddenly the bubble started to rise! Elizabeth



gaped in shock as it flew rapidly out the window. They flew over towns and sites. Over mountains and lakes, then suddenly they came to a halt. They were outside a beautiful bakery in Paris. She smelled the sweet smell of the baking and then she wanted to buy some. Elizabeth realized she had no euros. She suddenly walked away, until a sparkle on the floor caught her eye. It was five euros! She picked them up and walked into the bakery.



After a while they set off for Rome. When they arrived Elizabeth noticed they were in a Coliseum. She walked through until she came to the end.



Last New York. The Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. Until it was time to go home to Newton Farm. "Thank You" she said and went to bed.

The next day she rose with a bound and felt great. She skipped down the stairs and made delicious cookies for all the boys and girls in the street.

Live life while you can and enjoy every bit of it.



The End!

Zoe Young P6 Newton Farm

Rutherglen's artist- Written by Emma

1962 A girl called Max Sink joined A new school called Stonelaw high school. Max was a 14-year-old girl with hair the colour of hazelnut chocolate and eyes the colour of the sea. When she joined her new school, everyone bullied her for her hair colour. People would ask Max where she came from, she thought they meant what school she came from, so she would say Spittal primary school, however, everyone would say ohh really, I thought you came from the chocolate factory. Thankfully the bullying got quieter the older she got.

Max had one dream to become an artist. She did geometric art, art you make out of shapes. Her love of this art came from when she was sitting in Overton Park one day looking at all the shapes that made up the bandstand the play park and all the buildings around. She would often draw pictures of these things using shapes and therefore grew her love of geometric art.

One bright sunny day Max was sitting in Overton park doing her homework and of course drawing too. She hadn't been to the park in a while, so she had so many ideas to get onto her paper. While staring at the bandstand something caught her eye in the playpark it was a new swing, one she hadn't seen before... a new shape to draw. She looked down at her empty page laying there. Her hand reached shakily to the pencil sitting next to her. She started drawing all over her page with all the shapes she could see with of course the new swing being centre page. One page done another page was being drawn on. Her imagination was running wild she couldn't control it. Five pages had been completed when she looked at the time. 6:42pm. How was she so late? could she squeeze in just one more drawing?

Unfortunately while rushing home Max dropped one of her art works, without realising Max continued home. About an hour later an old woman came along that same road driving her Corsa. She halted in the middle of the road which caused a lot of traffic. The reason she stopped was because she thought she ran over a little child because she seen a lot of colour like a child's raincoat. The woman stepped out her car and picked up Max's paper. The woman was a famous museum worker and she loved the artwork. She put this artwork in all local and national local newspapers. **MISSING ARTWORK** was the headline.

While in the post office this headline caught Max's eye so with her heart skipping a beat she went straight to the museum to claim her artwork.

Looking back Max realised sitting in the park drawing that day and then dropping her artwork was the best mistake she made because she became one of the most famous artist Rutherglen's ever known!

Emma McPherson

Age 10 - Spittal Primary - Primary 6

The Mystery of Many Missing Things

I thought it was going to be a normal day, just sitting in my office anxiously waiting to see if I get a call for any job. Until my co-worker Amanda called me in to her office and she is the head of my department so it would have been serious. She told me that I had a case! I was so happy. Anyway, the case was finding a missing football, which sure probably sounds boring but I just really wanted a case so I was fine with anything.

A couple hours later I left to start the case at Greggs. Now I started at Greggs because Amanda said that it was a good place to start. Zoey (the manager at Greggs) had no idea but she did say that she lost some earrings the night before so I

promised I'd look for them too!
My next stop was the Picture house
and again I asked the manager
called Brad. Once again he said he
didn't know anything. I was starting
to lose hope when a customer
said she had seen a football
rolling down a hill so I went to
that exact hill at Overton Park.
Still no ball or earrings.

I went home for the night and
fell asleep in a second. I was
waken up by lots of shouting at
my door! When I opened it over 20
people were asking for me to find
all of their lost items! So I wrote
them all down on a mission to
make all those people happy.
A young girl called Betsy lost her
puppy so I looked in bin 18 just
because it's next to the vets.

Nothing to be found. I started looking for all the other things such as jackets, bobbles, Scooters and phones. Still nothing to be found! I started to really worry. Over 100 things I've been asked to find and I've not even found a Silly bobble. So I went home for the night. The next morning I was woken up by another 20 people at my door! I just told them I would look for them too. I was really tired of it but I needed to be a good sport so I went on a hunt. Every single shop on the main street had no idea about anything. So I just decided to tell Amanda I can't figure it out. Amanda agreed and cancelled the mission. When I went home that night I saw something all the lost items in my house. Who said the detective is never the criminal....

28.1.26

John, The Irn Bru Hero

One day, on a cloudy, Scottish, Tuesday morning, John was getting a drink but none were left. He nipped to Asda for a cold crate of Irn Bru.

John bought a 12 pack Irn Bru crate and chucked it in his car. He took one can out to drink in the car but the second he cracked it open, it sealed shut and grew legs and arms and even a mouth with sharp teeth. John gasped in shock. He had never seen any thing like it. The Irn Bru can opened the rest of the crate and drank all the Irn Bru like a mad man. With every can it drank, it grew larger and larger. After it drank all 11 cans, it ran off.

The Irn Bru can's goal was to be king of the Irn Bru and can only do that by drinking every Irn Bru in Blantyre. The can went to Asda first and drank every Irn Bru bottle and can in stock. Diet or not, it didn't matter, it drank them all. The can grew to the size of a child, with the locals completely confused. John just watched everything, still stunned at the Irn Bru can being alive. It went to the skate park next, drinking any Irn Bru it could find. The skaters were furious and chased after it but the can swiftly got on a skateboard and rode away. By the time John got to the skate park, the can had already got away but John didn't

give up and continued his pursuit, of the Iron Bru can. The can rode to River Clyde but found no Iron Bru, so it left quickly. It then rode to Gregg and drank every Iron Bru. The can was now the height of an average man. After a couple of hours, the can had drunk almost every Iron Bru. It could still sense that there was one can left and that can belonged to John. The can was now the size of a lorry and casted shadows over small trees. John knew he had to do 2 things, defeat the Iron Bru and save Blantyre.

The Iron Bru can spotted John but John felt no fear. It was about to step on him but John flash stepped in the blink of an eye, without getting hit. John climbed up a tree and boasted himself onto the Iron Bru's lid and cracked it open. He then brought the thing he'd been preparing the whole time. A giant straw. John drank all the Iron Bru and successfully defeated the Iron Bru can.

The locals cheered as John stood there and all of a sudden, every Iron Bru can was restocked instantly! From that day on, he was known as John, the Iron Bru Hero.

Jaxon Mansfield
Age: 11
St Joseph Primary
Primary 7

Cormac Rodger

Age 11

St Mark's Primary

The Great Beast in Cuningar Loop

The fire was up, George and his comrades set up camp. They knew they were in for a long few days of hunting, the beast in question was not known to humankind till a few days ago. When a group of archaeologists went missing while on an expedition, because a meteor landed a few days ago. People feared the low grumbling and sound of angry waves which was weird for a quiet closed woods in the middle of the night.

As midnight drew near the group prepared to hunt. Grabbing all the baits, traps, and weapons to hunt they turn on their flashlights, and set off. The four of them split up to different part of the woods. George went to the upper parts of the of the woods, Steven went to the deeper darker parts of the woods, And Mark and John went to the river Clyde. As George went up, he heard rustling of leaves with nothing there, the waves were getting stronger and stronger. It was weird since the Clyde was a mile away. George set his bait and traps up. The traps were sure to catch something; that's when he heard it - the roar of the waves as it seemed to tense the atmosphere. The air became ice cold, the chilling blood-hurling scream that broke the surroundings, the sound of something slamming the waves. As it settled, George drew his sword, then decided to draw his bow instead. It was long ranged, quite powerful, and was his go to weapon.

He decided to go to the river Clyde to check on Mark and John. George started his trek, the sounds from earlier startled him. they were coming from the river where Mark and John were. George was careful. The forest of cuningar loop at night was like a maze. Finally he reached a horrific scene, the weapons of his comrades lay next to a pool of blood, but someone or something had got rid of the bodies. Then it happened again, the waves started to get faster and bigger until they broke. With three arrows drawn he shot, the waves stopped but a second later a tentacle

rose then another, and another, and another until a great horrific beast was standing there. 8 tentacles, a shark mouth, and an impenetrable shell helmet, in fact it was every sea creature mashed together.

George's body was frozen as 1 of the tentacles wrapped around him. The beast roared as he went toward the mouth and then it was black as the beast dispersed through some weird goo. George was reborn but not as a human no, as a helpless spider, then he saw Mark and John were helplessly spinning their webs stuck as the beast had made them immortal to suffer for all eternity.

Alien Contact

One evening I was out walking with my dogs Lily and Violet in Holmhills Park. They were having fun doing zoomies round the big field, chasing each other. All of a sudden there was a flash of light in the dark sky, and I saw a big circular shape floating above my head. The dogs stopped mid zoom, and I stood there in shock, as I stepped closer, I realised it was an alien spaceship.

Out came three little aliens, they were bright pink, with big antennae above their heads and they were wearing bright purple dungarees with short stubby legs, they said their names were Ziri, Popp and Earnu. They told me their space-nav was broken and they had gotten lost on their way home, so wanted to know where they had landed. I told them this is Cambuslang, I live here, come on I will show around.

We started our tour in Cambuslang Park, where they all decided to jump into the stream and by the time they came out, they were dripping wet. After that we ran into the amphitheatre, they found the stone circle, where they started praying to their alien king. Next, I took them to the cenotaph, and they said the soldier looked very brave. I explained the history behind it, and how we remember the heroes who died in the wars, they were really interested. We then walked down Greenlees Road and I showed them Cambuslang Institute, this is where I go every Friday evening for my dance class. I showed them one of the dances I had learned in the theme, Calamity Jane.

They said they could smell something lovely, I said it was probably coming from the bakery across the road. I offered to buy each of them a sausage roll. They looked puzzled, having never heard of a sausage roll before, but after I explained how yummy they are, all three agreed to try one. On finishing, their dungarees were covered in pastry crumbs, but their tummies were full enough to continue with the tour.

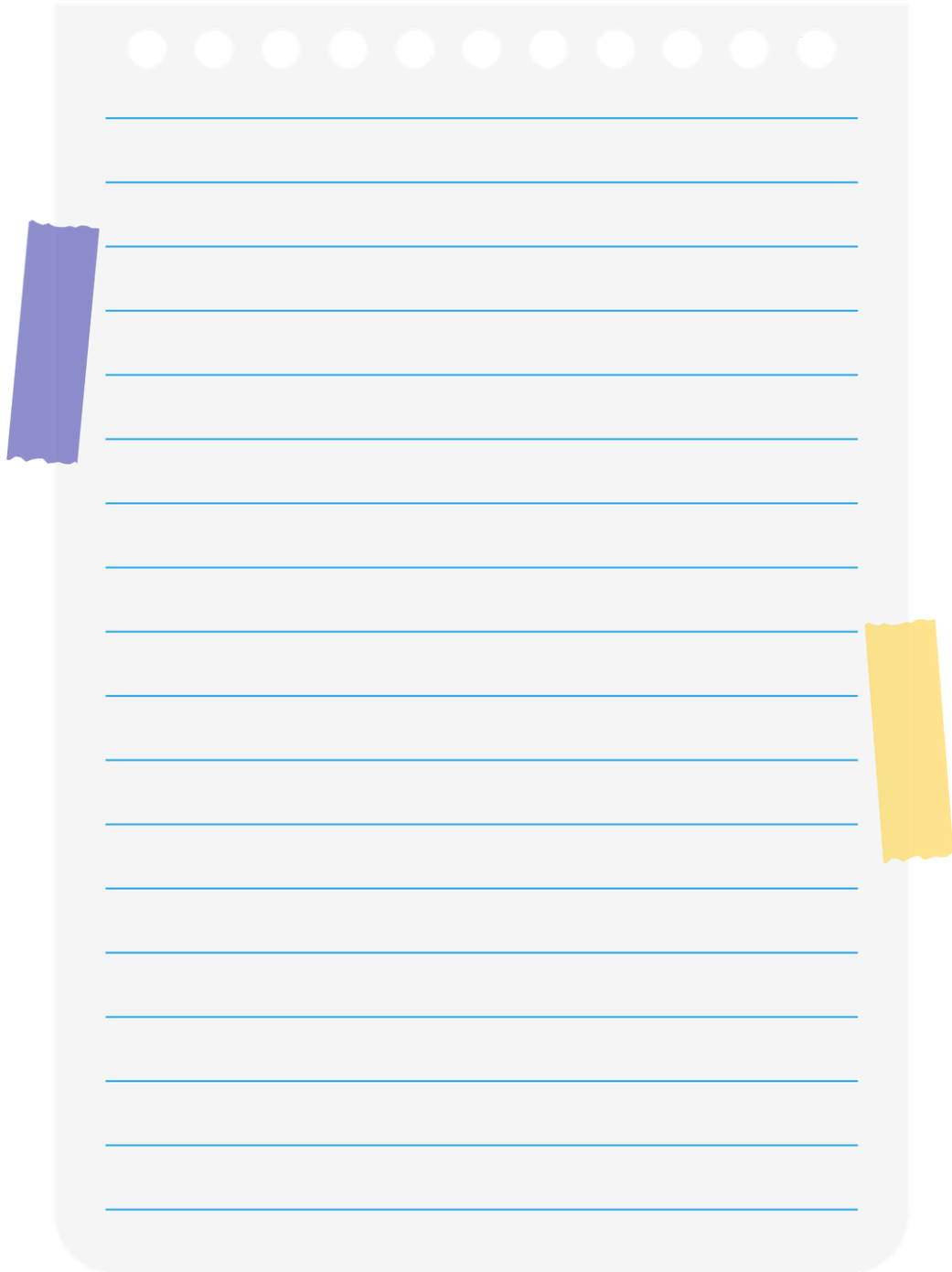
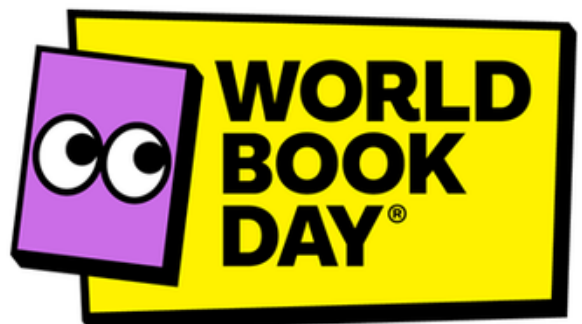
They asked if we could visit a human supermarket, so I showed them around Morrisons. They went inside and wanted to push the trolley, taking a turn each, they decided they were not very good drivers as they kept bumping into things. We left in a hurry and decided to finish our tour at the Clyde Walkway. We saw ducks swimming in the water, and they tried to ride them, but the ducks swam away.

They looked at the time and said we better get going now otherwise the aliens will be very worried about us. They thanked me for showing them around Cambuslang and suggested that next time I could come and visit them for a tour, this sounded very exiting.

Next time you are visiting Cambuslang, be sure to look for the sign in Holmhills Park:

FIRST ALIEN CONTACT MADE HERE BY EILIDH MILLS, FEBRUARY 2026!

Continue your fantastic story writing by starting your next adventure here...

A sheet of white lined paper with a purple tab on the left and a yellow tab on the right. The paper has a series of blue horizontal lines and a row of white circles at the top, suggesting it's a spiral-bound notebook. The paper is slightly offset to the right, creating a shadow effect.

A Snapshot of Last Year's Prizegiving



**Thanks to the following
schools for taking part in
this year's competition**

Bothwell Primary

Burgh Primary

Calderwood Primary

Hallside Primary

Muiredge Primary

Newton Farm Primary

Spittal Primary

St Columbkille's Primary

St Joseph's Primary

St Mark's Primary

West Coats Primary

**A massive thank you to our sponsors
for making the delivery of the
competition possible**



RUTHERGLEN

