**BOOKVILLE IN A BOOK PRESS RELEASE**

**Bookville Festival Re-imagined for 2020**

Bookville, a festival of books for families and children, celebrates its fourth year in 2020. Usually consisting of live events held in the Arts Office and libraries across county Kilkenny, the festival has been re-imagined for 2020 into Bookville in a Book -  an activity book for 5 to 12 year olds.

A collaboration by the Kilkenny County Council Arts Office and the Kilkenny County Council Library Service and supported by Creative Ireland, Bookville in a Book is beautifully designed and packed with fun activities. 10,000 copies of this free book have been distributed to every primary school and library across Kilkenny city and county. Bookville in a book is also available on www.bookvillekilkenny.com.

According to Arts Officer, Mary Butler, “As schools closed and social distancing became a reality, it was clear that live events were no longer an option and we needed to find a way of keeping this valuable and widely anticipated festival alive. And so the Bookville in a book activity book emerged.”

Bookville in a book includes a variety of fun activities, such as activities as gaeilge, how to draw exercises and even a recipe for slime! All the activities are based around the original 12 authors and illustrators who were to take part in the live events, including Kilkenny’s own Helena Duggan with her very popular “A Place Called Perfect” and Cartoon Saloon featuring their newest animation film “WolfWalkers”, which will be in cinemas this October. Local artist, Sandra MacAllister, created two video workshops for Bookville; shadow puppets and Bookville bookmarks, which are perfect for making in the classroom or at home and can be viewed on www.bookvillekilkenny.com.

There was great excitement at St Canice’s Co-ed National School last week with the arrival of the Bookville activity book. According to Ms Henderson’s 6th class pupils, “We all agree that although we really miss the physical exhibitions and events, that Bookville in a book is a great activity book and that it has encouraged us to look at lots of books”. Bookville in a book is designed to be used in the classroom setting for individual or group activities or at home. All the books featured are available from local Kilkenny libraries and Kilkenny book shops.

County Librarian, Josephine Coyne said, “Although of course we are disappointed not to have any live events for Bookville this year, we are delighted that through this free activity book, Bookville will continue to reach far and wide throughout the county and will be seen, enjoyed and treasured by thousands of children, their teachers and families.”

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