

Press Release



***An Bosca Leabharlainne* launched by Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD**

March 1st 2022

Laureate na nÓg, Áine Ní Ghlinn, today (March 1st) celebrated the launch of her flagship project, *An Bosca Leabharlainne*, by Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD. Produced in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge and the Arts Council, the project has delivered 55,000 books to over 1,800 schools this month.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Foley TD said,

'There are few greater pleasures in life than reading, and we must do everything we can to instil a passion for reading in our young people. This is why I am so happy to launch this project today in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge and the Arts Council.

With thanks to the excellent work and commitment of Laureate na nÓg Áine Ní Ghlinn children across the country can enjoy the creativity and colour of Irish storytelling through our native language.'

Áine's vision as Laureate na nÓg is to promote reading for children *as Gaeilge* as a hobby, and not simply as homework. Now that a selection of high-quality, original books *as Gaeilge* have arrived into schools, children in every county in Ireland will have that exact opportunity. The launch was followed by a workshop with children at Gaelscoil Lios na nÓg in Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

Áine Ní Ghlinn, Laureate na nÓg, said,

'I am delighted *An Bosca Leabharlainne* is on its way to schools across the country. A huge amount of work has gotten the project to this point, and I would like to extend my thanks to Children's Books Ireland, the Arts Council and Foras na Gaeilge for giving me, and for giving the project, the opportunity and the support needed to bring *An Bosca Leabharlainne* to

fruition. 55,000 high-quality books have been sent to schools around the country, and I hope children and teachers will benefit from, and enjoy, *An Bosca Leabharlainne*.'

Support for the project, which is on a much larger scale than first envisaged, came from the Arts Council and from Foras na Gaeilge.

Seán Ó Coinn, Príomhfheidhmeannach Fhoras na Gaeilge said,

'Foras na Gaeilge recognises the vital importance of reading in the promotion of the Irish language. Foras na Gaeilge supports both writers and publishers to ensure that high quality books are available as Gaeilge. We are delighted to be supporting Áine Ní Ghlinn's flagship project as Laureate na nÓg. *An Bosca Leabharlainne* contains a wonderful selection of books which will inspire children to read, while the additional resources included will support teachers in fostering a love of reading into the future.'

Stiúrthóir na Comhairle Ealaíon, Maureen Kennelly, said,

'Since the Arts Council initiated Laureate na nÓg in 2010, we have been blown away by the generosity of spirit that each Laureate has demonstrated through their public programmes. Through her magnificent work as a creative artist, Áine Ní Ghlinn has already embedded a love of language and story with generations of readers. Now, with this ambitious programme, Áine will further enable a passion for reading as Gaeilge for children across the country, on a scale that is inspiring and far-reaching.'

From March until June, *An Bosca Leabharlainne* will extend its impact with an artist-in-residence programme across 21 schools, along with an online resource booklet and video resources for classrooms available to all at childrenslaureate.ie.

#anboscaleabharlainne

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Áine Ní Ghlinn is available for interview in Irish and English

For more information please contact:
Ruth Ní Eidhin (Laureate na nÓg Project Manager)
info@childrenslaureate.ie

Anna Davitt (Clár bhainisteoir: Cumarsáid, Margaíocht & Feasacht, Foras na Gaeilge)
087 673 6175 / adavitt@forasnagaeilge.ie

Notes for Editors

About An Bosca Leabharlainne

- An Bosca Leabharlainne (Library Box) contains 25 excellent Irish language books chosen by Áine, along with specially designed display and print resources to help schools make the most of their books.
- Every gaelscoil, every Gaeltacht school and DEIS school have received An Bosca Leabharlainne.
- More than 500 schools applied directly online and every one of those schools received An Bosca Leabharlainne.

About Áine Ní Ghlinn:

Áine is a children's writer and poet. She has written twenty-eight books for children, including stories and novels for all ages, as well as poetry and drama. Her ambition as Laureate is to lift the cloak of invisibility from Irish language authors and books, and to encourage children and young people to read for pleasure *as Gaeilge*. Originally from County Tipperary, Áine worked for a number of years in RTÉ and Raidió na Gaeltachta as a journalist, and now divides her time between writing, delivering creative writing workshops in schools, and lecturing.

About Laureate na nÓg:

Laureate na nÓg is an initiative of the Arts Council. It is managed and delivered on Council's behalf by Children's Books Ireland, and also supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

A selection of photos are [available here](#)

