



**ILLUSTRATORS - THE ART OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS
EXHIBITION AT GALLERY@RHEGED**

PRESS RELEASE

The hotly anticipated new exhibition 'Illustrators - The Art of Children's Books' opens at Rheged on **Tuesday 10 July 2012**.

Curated and delivered by writer Julia Donaldson, the exhibition encompasses Julia's favourite illustrations from, *The Gruffalo*, her widely celebrated book adored by children of all ages. Visitors can expect a family-friendly exhibition, with illustrations and interactive elements alongside special insights into the illustrative process.

London-born Julia Donaldson is the current children's laureate (2011-2013) and has published over 150 works. She is best known for her children's book, *The Gruffalo*, which tells the story of a mouse's walk in the woods. The story is beautifully illustrated by Axel Scheffler with now iconic images, recently being adapted into a feature film.

"We are so pleased to welcome this exciting new exhibition to the gallery@rheged and we're sure it will prove to be a big hit with families over the holidays," states John Stokes, Art Officer at the gallery@Rheged. "It will be the first illustration exhibition the gallery has hosted, and we're delighted to be able to provide space for these images which are close to the hearts of so many readers."

Alongside the exhibition, there will be exciting related activities including a special 'Make Your Own Gruffalo' workshop where children can learn how to design and paint their own Gruffalo character in the style of Alex Scheffler.

The gallery@Rheged opened in 2011 and attracted 17,000 in its first year. The Gallery has a changing programme of 5 exhibitions per year including art, photography and craft. The Gallery aims to promote the best of Cumbrian art and Culture while also bringing exceptional exhibitions and artists to the region, often for the first time. The Gallery also features a shop selling beautifully hand-crafted ceramics, jewellery, textiles, handbags and homeware together with a Cumbria Culture and Arts Information Station.

Venue: gallery@Rheged, Rheged Centre, Penrith CA11 0DQ

Entry fee: £2 - adult, £1 - child / conc

Date: Tuesday 10 July - Sunday 2 September 2012, 10.30am - 4.30pm daily

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