



Press Release

NIELSEN BOOK ANNOUNCES DAVID WALLIAMS' *THE BEAST OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE* AS THE #1 CHRISTMAS BESTSELLER

LONDON, 24 December 2019

David Walliams' science-fiction fantasy adventure for children, *The Beast of Buckingham Palace*, has returned to the top of the book charts, scoring the entertainer his third Christmas number one in four years.

The £14.99 hardback, released on 21 November, sold 87,990 copies in the UK in the week ending 21 December 2019, and takes top spot in the Christmas book chart ahead of two titles that enjoyed late sales surges: illustrator Charlie Mackesy's inspirational tale of love and friendship, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, and former doctor Adam Kay's festive hospital diaries, *Twas The Nightshift Before Christmas*.

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, one of the surprise hits of the year, sold 82,545 copies in the UK last week while *Twas The Nightshift Before Christmas* sold 74,216 copies at UK booksellers. Both books increased their sales by more than 20,000 copies week-on-week. £1.1m was spent on copies of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, which proved the biggest title of the week in value terms.

The new Pinch of Nom cookbook, *Everyday Light*, fell from first place to fourth overall. The slimming cookbook sold 59,700 copies in the UK last week, down more than 70,000 units from its huge pre-order boosted first-week sales of 129,985 copies the previous week.

Billy Connolly's memoir, *Tall Tales and Wee Stories*, was the bestselling celebrity memoir of the week, while Lee Child's 24th Jack Reacher thriller, *Blue Moon*, was the UK's bestselling adult fiction title. They were among 57 different books to sell more than 10,000 copies in the UK last week in a list that also includes: Craig Smith's viral sensation, *The Wonky Donkey*; Randall Munroe's perennial Christmas hit, *What If?*; and Joel Morris and Jason Hazeley's Ladybird spoof, *A Ladybird Book About Donald Trump*.

2019 has been a memorable year for Walliams who, earlier this year, joined the likes of J.K. Rowling, Jamie Oliver and Terry Pratchett in surpassing the £100m sales barrier (<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/walliams-hits-100m-earned-through-bookscan-1116696>). He has spent 21 weeks atop the children's bestseller charts in 2019 with his books *Bad Dad*, *Fing*, and *The World's Worst Teachers* all spending time at number one.



Andre Breedt, managing director of Nielsen Book, said: “Congratulations to David Walliams and everyone at HarperCollins for achieving another Christmas number one. The overwhelming success of *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* confirms Walliams as one of the most important writers to UK booksellers.”

Meanwhile, former Ireland rugby coach Joe Schmidt’s memoir, ***Ordinary Joe***, is Ireland’s Christmas number one. Schmidt, who led Ireland to three Six Nations championships in six years, traded positions with Walliams at the top of the Irish-market charts, taking the top spot by 944 copies. Schmidt follows in the footsteps of Paul O’Connell (2016) and Brian O’Driscoll (2014) as rugby stars topping the Irish book market charts on Christmas Day.

Official UK Bestseller List: week ending 21 December 2019

1. *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* (David Walliams) 87,990 copies sold
2. *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* (Charlie Mackesy) 82,545
3. *Twas the Nightshift Before Christmas* (Adam Kay) 74,216
4. *Pinch of Nom: Everyday Light* (Kate Allinson & Kay Featherstone) 59,700
5. *Tall Tales and Wee Stories* (Billy Connolly) 56,981
6. *Guinness World Records 2020* (-) 52,795
7. *Veg* (Jamie Oliver) 39,636
8. *Private Eye Annual 2019* (Ian Hislop) 37,745
9. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball* (Jeff Kinney) 31,480
10. *The Body* (Bill Bryson) 31,110

UK Christmas Number Ones of the Decade

- 2019: *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* (David Walliams)
2018: *Becoming* (Michelle Obama)
2017: *Bad Dad* (David Walliams)
2016: *The Midnight Gang* (David Walliams)
2015: *How it Works: The Husband* (Jason Hazeley & Joel Morris)
2014: *Guinness World Records*
2013: *My Autobiography* (Alex Ferguson)
2012: *Jamie’s 15-Minute Meals* (Jamie Oliver)
2011: *Jamie’s Great Britain* (Jamie Oliver)
2010: *Jamie’s 30-Minute Meals* (Jamie Oliver)

Official Ireland Bestseller List: week ending 21 December 2019

1. *Ordinary Joe* (Joe Schmidt) 9,000 copies sold
2. *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* (David Walliams) 8,056
3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball* (Jeff Kinney) 6,465
4. *Guinness World Records 2020* (-) 5,986
5. *Once, Twice, Three Times an Aisling* (Sarah Breen & Emer McLysaght) 4,713
6. *Cilka’s Journey* (Heather Morris) 3,971



7. *Schmidt Happens* (Ross O'Carroll-Kelly) 3,509
8. *Postscript* (Cecelia Ahern) 3,449
9. *Dog Man: Fetch-22* (Dav Pilkey) 3,412
10. *Boulevard Wren and Other Stories* (Blindboy Boatclub) 3,289

Ireland Christmas Number Ones of the Decade

- 2019: *Ordinary Joe* (Joe Schmidt)
2018: *The Ice Monster* (David Walliams)
2017: *Bad Dad* (David Walliams)
2016: *The Battle* (Paul O'Connell)
2015: *Grandma's Great Escape* (David Walliams)
2014: *The Test* (Brian O'Driscoll)
2013: *My Autobiography* (Alex Ferguson)
2012: *A Week in Winter* (Maeve Binchy)
2011: *Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography* (Walter Isaacson)
2010: *Jamie's 30-Minute Meals* (Jamie Oliver)

Notes for editors

Data should be sourced to Nielsen Book Research. Printed book sales data comes from the Nielsen BookScan UK Total Consumer Market panel of more than 6,500 book retail outlets in the UK.

Please contact mediabookresearch@nielsen.com with any queries.

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