

## The Big Friendly writer

A preview of the new issue, celebrating the work of Roald Dahl

**Any child growing up in the 1970s** – and indeed their parents – will count Dahl's extraordinarily irreverent fictional creations as part of their literary education. Children are generally by far the most trustworthy individuals in his stories and grown-ups are pitiable. This has proved a popular approach – Dahl's books have been translated into over 40 languages and worldwide sales have topped 100 million. Royal Mail celebrates this remarkable achievement with ten stamps, the first special issue of 2012. Six stamps feature characters from six different children's stories by Dahl, as originally drawn by artist Quentin Blake. Four more stamps mark the thirtieth anniversary of Dahl's *The BFG* (The Big Friendly Giant) on the Miniature Sheet.

**Stamp by stamp:** The 1st Class stamp depicts the moment in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* when Charlie Bucket wins the golden ticket to visit Willy Wonka's factory – a story that has enchanted children the world over. The 66p stamp features the light-fingered but *Fantastic Mr Fox*. The 68p has

*James and the Giant Peach*, full of anthropomorphic insects. The 76p stamp has the supernaturally gifted *Matilda* as its star. The £1 stamp shows *The Twits*, who enjoy being nasty to each other, animals and children... until, with the aid of the Roly-Poly Bird and the Muggle-Wump monkeys, the animals exact their revenge. Finally, the £1.10 stamp features one of *The Witches*, badly disguised by long gloves and a wig.

Blake's illustration of the pelican from *The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me* appears on the First Day Envelope (30p). The illustrated Presentation Pack contains the new stamps and *The BFG* Miniature Sheet on a separately designed carrier and inside

### Roald Dahl Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	10 January 2012
Number of Stamps	Four
Size of Sheet	115mm x 89mm
Design	Maggie Studio
Illustration	Quentin Blake
Stamp Format	Landscape
Stamp Size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print Process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Right: four stamps on the Miniature Sheets utilise Blake's illustrations from the *The BFG* (The Big Friendly Giant). The right-hand border features an illustration of the BFG meeting The Queen



### Roald Dahl Stamps Specifications

Date of issue	10 January 2012
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Maggie Studio
Illustration	Quentin Blake
Stamp Format	Portrait
Stamp Size	27mm x 37mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print Process	Lithography
Number per Sheet	25/50
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA
Sheet formats	Sheets of 25/50, single designs

### Roald Dahl prices

Stamp Set	£4.66
Miniature Sheet	£2.90
Presentation Pack	£8.10
Prestige Stamp Book	£11.47
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover, Stamps	£6.07
First Day Cover, Miniature Sheet	£3.96
First Day Cover, PSB Pane	£4.03
Stamp Cards (11 in set)	£4.95

Donald Sturrock and Quentin Blake talk about Roald Dahl and his work. The delightful Prestige Stamp Book features four unique stamp panes and information about Dahl's books and his own life story – for more details on this charming PSB, see January *Bulletin* ●



Above: Dahl's characters, as imagined by Quentin Blake, grace the new series of stamps. Left: Prestige Stamp Book Below and facing page: two pictorial postmarks

