

## David Baddiel's New Blockbuster Novel Unleashes Hilarious Body Swap Chaos this Autumn!

HarperCollins Children's Books unveil fifth children's novel *Head Kid* by David Baddiel, illustrated by Steven Lenton

### Press release

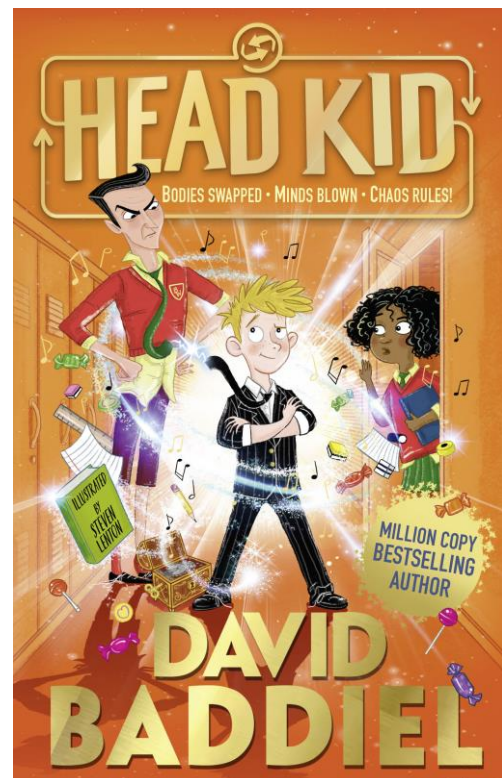
**18 June 2018** – HarperCollins Children's Books today unveils the title and cover of the next, blockbusting novel from the UK's fastest growing middle grade author and much loved comedian David Baddiel. *Head Kid* will publish in hardback in September 2018 with simultaneous eBook and audio voiced by David himself. Funny, exciting, adventurous and poignant, *Head Kid* is set to be the biggest Baddiel book yet. This new title will be illustrated for the first time by the extremely talented Steven Lenton, who brings the book brilliantly to life with illustrations that perfectly complement the filmic flair of the storytelling.

*Head Kid* is a wildly entertaining wish-fulfillment adventure that asks the question: what would happen if the strictest head teacher swapped bodies with the naughtiest kid in school?

The publication of *Head Kid* will be backed by a major marketing and publicity campaign and will build on the success of David Baddiel's previous novels, *The Parent Agency*, *The Person Controller*, *AniMalcolm*, and *Birthday Boy*, which all launched to great critical acclaim and commercial success.

David Baddiel's children's books have now sold over 1 million copies worldwide and have been translated into twenty-seven languages. His latest novel *Birthday Boy* published in paperback this month, rocketing into the top ten children's bestseller list where it debuted at No.3.

David Baddiel said, "I'm very happy to be sending my latest book, *Head Kid*, out into the world. I love a body swap story. And it turns out that Strictest Head divided by Naughtiest Boy equals School Chaos. I hope it's as much a joy to read as it was to write!"



Ann-Janine Murtagh, Executive Publisher at HarperCollins Children's Books, said, "David Baddiel is a genius at creating stories that tap into the universal wish lists of children everywhere – with adventures that bring the hyper-real and unexpected into the everyday. I'm absolutely thrilled to be publishing **Head Kid**. It is a beautifully crafted novel – which balances laugh-out-loud humour with rich emotion and a cast of deeply memorable characters. It will strike a chord with parents and children alike and is set to be Baddiel's biggest book yet!"

David Baddiel is a comedian and author. He began his career as a writer after graduating from Cambridge with a double first in English literature in 1986. He was a judge for the *Guardian* First Book Award in 2000 and the Man Booker Prize in 2002. He lives in London with his family.

**Ends**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Head Kid** is published by HarperCollins Children's Books in September 2018 - Hardback £12.99

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About the illustrator:

Steven Lenton is a best-selling children's book illustrator, known for the Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam series (Nosy Crow) and *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* (Egmont). Originally from Congleton in Cheshire, he works from his studios in London and Brighton.

About HarperCollins Children's Books:

HarperCollins Children's Books, unprecedented three times winner of Children's Publisher of the Year (2014, 2015, 2016), is one of the leading publishers of children's books, recognised for nurturing new talent as well as boasting a reputable list of established bestselling authors. Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality, award-winning books for young readers, HarperCollins is home to many children's classics, including *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the Paddington stories, *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, and to some of the biggest names in children's literature past and present, including David Walliams, Judith Kerr, David Baddiel, Lauren Child, Oliver Jeffers and Michael Morpurgo.

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