

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Local flying Doctors and Specialist Paramedics to star alongside Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler for national Zog Day celebration



The real flying Doctors and Specialist Paramedics from Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC) have teamed up with author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler of *Zog and the Flying Doctors* for a special Zog Day celebration, bringing the story to life with the real helicopter, crew and lifesaving care behind it.

Zog Day takes place on 11 June 2026 and this year, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Zog and the Flying Doctors*, GWAAC's crew are helping thousands of children learn about emergency care through storytelling.

Schools can take part in a live event to discover more about the lifesaving work behind the story.

During the event, schools will:

- Watch a special live reading of *Zog and the Flying Doctors*
- Meet real flying Doctors from GWAAC and see the helicopter
- Discover how air ambulance teams help save lives
- Take part in a shared national learning experience

Why take part?

This is a unique opportunity for children to connect a much-loved story with the real people who provide emergency care in their communities.

It helps children learn about teamwork, kindness and the important work of air ambulance charities in a way that is engaging and age-appropriate.

GWAAC's Critical Care Doctor Jayne says: "One of the things we love about the story is that it shows children they can be whatever they want to be. I think seeing princesses turn into doctors means there aren't really any limits and I hope that by meeting real flying Doctors and Specialist Paramedics, children will imagine careers they may never have considered before."

How to register

Schools, families and supporters can register to join the live Zog Day event and discover more about GWAAC and the charity's education programmes at www.gwaac.com/zog

Behind the scenes

On 26 April 2026, Illustrator Axel Scheffler and Zog himself visited GWAAC's airbase in South Gloucestershire to meet the real-life flying Doctors and Paramedics.

Zog took the opportunity to pick up some landing tips from GWAAC's Pilot, Captain Dan.



And Axel drew Zog in GWAAC's hanger.



About GWAAC's educational work

People might not realise that the charity's work is wider than the pre-hospital emergency care its specialist crew provide at the scene. [GWAAC's educational programme for secondary schools](#) teaches children lifesaving skills in CPR and how to use a defibrillator. In 2025, GWAAC's Hearstarters volunteers taught 7,421 school students how to help someone in cardiac arrest. Its new [Junior Hearts](#) initiative is extending that reach to children of primary school age with flat-packed teaching resources delivered through the post and a ready-to-use lesson plan.

Cardiac arrests are the most common call-outs for GWAAC's crew making up more than one in five of all missions. Bystander CPR and defibrillation in the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest can give someone their best chance of survival before GWAAC's Critical Care Team arrive.

ENDS

Notes for editors

Please follow these links for videos (additional content to that used on Zog Day for schools):

Dr Alex tells the story of GWAAC's daily quest: [A paramedic, doctor and pilot, on our daily quest](#)

Pilot Dan gives Zog some landing tips: [Landing school with Captain Dan](#)

1. GWAAC provides the critical care and air ambulance service for 2.1 million people across Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, and parts of Wiltshire.
2. The GWAAC Critical Care Team consists of highly trained and experienced Critical Care Doctors, Advanced Practitioners and Specialist Paramedics in Critical Care, who bring the skill and expertise of a hospital emergency department to the patient.
3. 2025 was GWAAC's busiest year on record with 2,344 people in urgent need of medical care. GWAAC's Critical Care Team is needed by more than six patients a day on average and rushes to treat them by helicopter or critical care car. On average each mission costs around £2,200 to attend.
4. The charity needs to raise over £4 million a year in order to remain operational yet receives no day-to-day funding from the Government or National Lottery.

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