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World Book Day Thursday 5th March 2026 and Illustrator Visit

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are already getting excited for World Book Day, which is now just under a month away! The aim of World Book Day is to help foster a love of reading and encourage children to see reading as an entertaining, social and fun thing to do. Reading has numerous proven benefits, including improving cognitive function, increasing vocabulary, enhancing empathy and social skills, and reducing stress.

To make the day extra fun and engaging, our costume theme this year will be '**Come as your favourite word type**'. Children can be as creative as they like, for example:

- Dressing as a character such as *The Gruffalo* or as their favourite superhero (**noun**)
- Wearing leisure wear (sporty) or yellow to represent an **adjective**.

Costumes can be simple, homemade or imaginative, and we encourage children to enjoy linking language with creativity.

Illustrator visit - Wednesday 4th March

World Book Day will be part of a week full of reading-related activities. We are especially excited to welcome **illustrator Gary Parsons**, who will be visiting the school on **Wednesday 4th March**.

Gary will talk to the children about his work and the books he has illustrated, including the best-selling ***The Dinosaur That Pooped*** series by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter, as well as the ***Dragonsitter*** and ***Travel Twins*** book series by Josh Lacey. He will be explaining how an illustrator works from the creation stage to a finished book. This will include showing examples of character sketches and drawings through to final artwork, as well as outlining how a book is made. He will also be running drawing workshops with different classes throughout the day.

Gary will be happy to sign copies of his books for children on the day, giving them a special chance to meet him in person, chat about his illustrations and take home a signed book to treasure. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to connect with a real illustrator and feel inspired by the world of books. Should you wish to pre-purchase a copy for signing, please refer to the book options on the next page. Payment can be made via the MCAS system **by Friday 13th February**.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a fantastic celebration of reading.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Pearce
English Lead



CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY!

Meet the illustrator

GARRY PARSONS















