

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

World Class News



March 2023
Edition 30



Welcome from Mark Bailie

Dear Parents and Carers,



A few days ago I was having a conversation with some colleagues about the risks we used to take as children in the 70s/80s...fully encouraged by our parents! Stunts on bikes; concrete 'safety surfaces'; and of course, the 'big slide'!! The photographs below are just some examples for those members of your family who may remember the glory days(?):



...And that made me think about how I saw 'risk' in my own family. I would not have dreamed of encouraging my son to line up his friends in front of a home-made ramp, then watching with a neighbour as he cycled at full speed, leaping into the air over her child...! However, like many of you, I know my Mum did a fantastic job – it's just that times were different... Of course, I'm not encouraging us to return to the days where extreme danger was a feature of every child's playtime out of school! Rather, in a school context, I am trying to reflect on whether we really build sufficient opportunity into the curriculum for our children to take risks with their learning and learn from their mistakes. There are precious few research studies on the importance of risk and/or making mistakes and the benefit they bring about to learning. However, one interesting study is described in a book called 'Learning Gap: Why Our Schools Are Failing and What We Can Learn from Japanese and Chinese Education' (Harold W. Stevenson and James W. Stigler, 1994). Their study examined different approaches to teaching maths in American and Japanese schools. Research showed that American teachers focused on the correct procedures for solving problems—primarily ignoring mistakes and praising students for correct answers only. Japanese teachers, on the other hand, rarely praised their students and asked them to solve problems individually. Then, they led discussions of common errors as students explored a variety of pathways to both correct and incorrect solutions. Is it a coincidence that Japanese students outperform American students in maths?

This academic year, our primary schools have been reviewing their curriculum in Foundation subjects; some secondary schools have been redesigning a three-year Key Stage 3 programme; and others have been refining and improving what already exists. While providing opportunity for pupils to learn from their mistakes is powerful, this cannot be achieved if we do not also build their emotional resilience and acceptance that making mistakes is an acceptable part of the learning process. These are complex challenges and something that schools will only succeed with if they work in partnership with you and your families at home.

And finally, thank you once again to all our colleagues who have contributed some wonderfully thought-provoking articles to this edition. Hopefully you will find some time to put your feet up, sit back and enjoy reading them over the next two weeks. Have a well-earned rest and see you in April!

Mark Bailie
Executive Headteacher
Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Update from the Education Development Team...



Liz Allton
Director of
Education
Development



Claire Denton
Director of Primary
Education
Development



Emma O'Toole
Primary Support
and Innovation
Lead



Mat Gaynon
Secondary Support
and Innovation
Lead

Where are we working? What have we been doing?

Each half term we review where each of the team will be deployed based on the needs of our schools at the time and areas of focus needed. Plus, also taking into consideration the development of the team, the trust and ensuring we get to know each school well.

Liz Allton – Liz continues to work with Meadow Park and is now also based at Finham Park 2 this half term, having spent time with Lyng Hall in the Autumn term and Finham Park School in Spring 1. She is continuing with Primary visits as well to get to know the staff and students better in all of the FPMAT schools.

Claire Denton – Claire continues to be at Pearl Hyde as Acting Headteacher full time. Claire has been working at Pearl Hyde since November and is working with the team to ensure the daily smooth running of the school as well as pushing forward with the school's development priorities.

Emma O'Toole – Emma is supporting all three of our Primaries but has been spending more time at Lillington this half term supporting as part of the senior leadership team and continuing to work with colleagues on T&L and curriculum.

Mat Gaynon – Mat continues to be based at Meadow Park and Finham Park 2, but his days have been tweaked this half term to be back at MPS for 3 days a week to help make further progress with the Attend Framework improving attendance which is a school priority.

It continues to be a pleasure to work with such great colleagues across our all of our schools who are doing amazing things for our students and their communities.

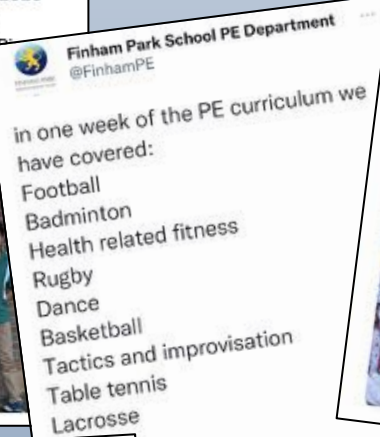
MAT wide projects

The team are also working with various colleagues across the MAT focusing on:

- Primary ECT in school support and Secondary UCL ECT facilitation
- Primary foundation curriculum development
- Moderation across the Primaries
- Secondary co-construction
- Developing MAT wide data analysis/reporting for Trustees
- MAT T&L/CPD development group
- SEND – part of the working group
- KS3 Assessment – part of the working group
- Post 16 development group
- Review of appraisal systems and software
- Attendance working group
- World Class Guarantee and student MAT leaders relaunch
- Sustainable schools projects
- Year 11 Leads/PiXL Raising Standards Leaders
- Facilitating the Lion Leadership Courses
- Primary and Secondary partnerships

We love sharing what each school has been celebrating on Twitter. Don't forget to tag us in your tweets so we don't miss anything!

@FinhamParkMAT





Experiences at Lillington

At Lillington we have been working to try to include more experiences for our children to engage them in their learning and increase parental engagement. Having 53% pupil premium, we find that many of our children do not have the everyday experiences that we would expect such as going to the park, the zoo or travelling on a coach for example. We are currently looking at our curriculum to find 'wows' that can be included and have begun to start organising them. We use Cornerstones for the majority of our curriculum subjects and all projects begin with 'wow' ideas to engage the children in the new topic. These have been really successful, however we want this to continue at different points throughout the terms as well. I have included some examples of experiences that have been used so far this year – some from topic areas and some of experiences that we feel the children should have during their time at Lillington.

Nursery have regular 'stay and plays' for parents to join their child in completing different activities. These are always really popular and give some examples of activities that their children enjoy with an explanation of why they are beneficial. The nursery children have also had duck eggs to look after – the predictions of what was inside the eggs included dinosaurs of course. They were able to watch the eggs hatch and have enjoyed watching the ducklings eat and drink and will be teaching them to swim before they leave. Children also have a weekly visit from a Spanish teacher where they learn songs.



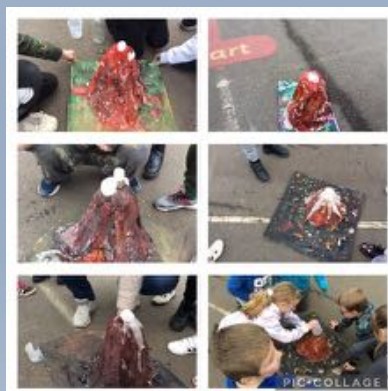
Reception have also been watching the ducklings grow as well as looking after some caterpillars. Measuring Monday has seen the caterpillars triple in size in just a week. Children have been predicting how much more they will grow before their next measure. As our topic wow last term we went on a walk around the school grounds during the day to see what the children noticed. We then invited parents back in the evening to

accompany their children on a night walk to see what was different in the same places in the dark. They had great fun sneaking up to Mrs Wallace's window in the dark and banging on it to make her jump! In reception we have also started inviting parents and carers into the classroom for 'Come and Read' sessions every week where children can enjoy their favourite books with their adults. It is lovely to see them all reading together for pleasure.



Year 3 and 4 visited the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. They investigated the difference between 'rocks' and 'minerals' and discovered how essential they are in our everyday lives. They also explored the museum and were amazed by what they found.

Both classes also made volcanoes from mod-roc and invited their parents in for an afternoon to watch them erupt and then they used Oreo cookies to complete a plate tectonics geology experiment.



Year 5 had a Stargazer Sleepover at school to engage them in their topic. They had great fun toasting marshmallows on an open fire whilst looking at the night sky to help them understand their topic.





World Book Day March 3rd

There were a range of fun activities aimed at promoting the joy of reading; Mr Smith gave assemblies to all colleges, Mr Amos organised a book swap for all of year 7 in their PE lessons where students donated books they had read and enjoyed and everybody went away with a new book to read. In addition, there were quizzes and, as always, we had some amazing costumes from staff, all desperate to win the coveted prize for the best effort! Well done to Humanities with their tribute to Dodie Smith's '101 Dalmatians'!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023



Theatre trips to An Inspector Calls

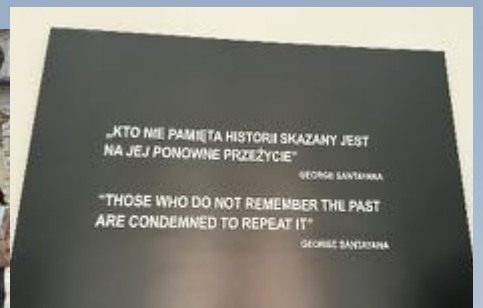
Drama and English students visited the Belgrade Theatre at the start of March to attend the National Theatre's acclaimed production of J B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* which is a text they are studying for their GCSEs. It's always wonderful to see texts brought to life and really helps understand the themes and ideas. The students on both trips thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a credit to the school.



Krakow Visit February 2023

Ms Madden, Ms Green and Mr Shield took students on a memorable and moving trip to Poland where they had the unforgettable experience of going to Auschwitz concentration camp. They also had a highly emotional talk from Holocaust survivor, Lidia Maksymowicz. This first-hand testimony from someone who survived Auschwitz was an incredible privilege for our students and all were deeply affected by what they saw and heard.

The staff and students also enjoyed a tour of the beautiful Polish capital and sampled lots of local cuisine. All in all, a wonderful opportunity for all involved.



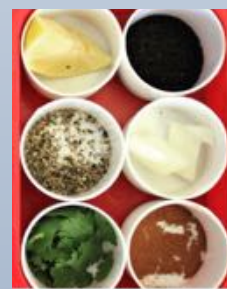


Science Week at Pearl Hyde Community Primary School

After a fantastic Science Week last year looking at growth, our budding scientists couldn't wait to get stuck in to this year's. The theme for our Science Week this year was Connections, giving us a broad range of scientific areas to look at. Each year group in school focused on a different connection, from looking at humans, animals and plants and how they connect with each other, to connections between humans and climate change.

EYFS

Our EYFS children began their week by looking at connections we have using our senses. Their first activity involved using their sense of smell and having a sniff of different items in pots, from coffee and mint to floral shower gels. Our children were then encouraged to describe their favourite scent and recorded these on a class pictogram. We then extended this further by connecting our smells to our emotions and thought about how each scent made us feel. Our connections grew from this and we had lovely ideas for other scents that made us feel a certain way. For example, with children commenting that the smell of their Grandma's cooking made them feel happy. The week continued in EYFS with children looking for connections in wildlife. Our children found and matched halves of wildlife faces then thought about the connections between them, how they were similar and how they differed.



KS1

In KS1 our children focused on the connections between humans. Their first activity was called Freckle Finders. Children were encouraged to think about and investigate how we might look alike but how we can also differ. The activity extended to looking at DNA and how we are connected to different generations in our family. After exploring visual connections found with peers and our family, our children then thought about other connections we may have that we might not be able to see. We looked at hobbies, foods we like and dislike and also subjects we like to learn about (Science of course coming out as a fun favourite). The children then used their knowledge of connections to create mandalas, meaning circles in Sanskrit. Mandalas are used to represent life and to symbolise how you can find connections in all aspects of life.



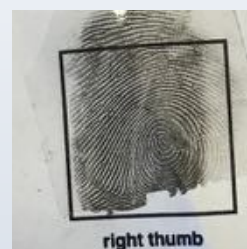
eye colour	No. of people
blue	1
green	
brown/hazel	1
grey	1

LKS2

Science week in LKS2 began with an investigation into our DNA, looking at our finger prints. A huge buzz was created as our children stepped into the role of detective and began analysing patterns in their fingerprints and were amazed to discover how unique fingerprints are. We then thought about our bodies further and thought about how we connect to the world around us, just by looking at what we eat. We built up our favourite meals then looked at the impact our food choices make on climate change. We calculated the amount of emissions our food choices made, using information about how it is produced and where it comes from. Our children were shocked to discover that three slices of cheese emit 1590g of carbon dioxide into our climate however a portion of broccoli only emits 80g. This



sparked us to create meals that not only made us healthier but also the world around us.



UKS2



In UKS2 our children looked at DNA and its structure. We were astonished to discover that just four chemical coding blocks in DNA connect all living organisms. For our activity, and with a lot of patience, we were able to extract DNA from a strawberry! This then led to us thinking about our DNA and how close our DNA could be to other

living organisms. Our children investigated looking at our connections to strawberries, mice and our amazing link to chimpanzees. We discovered that 60% of DNA found in humans is also found in strawberries, 70% of our DNA can be found in mice and astoundingly 98.8% of our DNA is present in the DNA of chimpanzees!



Science Ambassadors

We currently have 7 science ambassadors in our school and they played a crucial part in our Science week. Our ambassadors donned their lab coats and goggles and set to work ensuring our celebration of Science was a success. This started with helping to organise activities for different year groups but extended to leading investigations across the key stages, focusing on helping our children to build their skills in working scientifically and challenging thoughts and ideas.

What an incredible week we have had. We can't wait to see what we will be investigating next year in Science Week. Bring it on!

Hannah Shilton



A Fortnight in the life of Finham Park 2!

This may have been a short half term, but it has proven to be one of the busiest and most amazing in the short history of Finham Park 2! Here is an excerpt of just a fortnight at our school!

Work with Coventry University

Our relationship with Coventry University is going from strength to strength and we have been invited to become a Phoenix Partner – a great honour, reflecting our strong ties with this establishment and our commitment to promoting HE opportunities to our students.

On Wednesday of this week we had two groups of students making a subject visit to campus. Our Year 9 Engineering students visited the state of the art engineering facility and took part in a lesson entitled 'Citizen Scientists Investigating Apps and GDPR Compliance'. Meanwhile our Year 12 students attended a lecture and took part in a trading floor activity. All students enjoyed the lunch provided, and learnt a lot from the sessions.



On Friday another group of Year 12 students braved the snow and took part in workshops to prepare them for their entries into the Orwell Prize. The workshops ranged from poetry to journalism and will also help with exam preparation and essay writing skills. The students were praised for their enthusiasm and talents.

World Book Day

An important date in any school calendar as another time to promote literacy and reading, and, at FinhamPark 2, an excuse for staff to dress up! Alongside this we held a number of whole school reading activities, with the most popular being a book related escape room!



Phoenix Rise

On Tuesday we had the most unbelievable day in Edward's Keep – a space more commonly associated with exams and assemblies was transformed by a team from the BBC into a space to host a red carpet premiere! During the day we hosted students from Finham Park and Caludon Castle, who, along with our own students, undertook a series of workshops on media marketing, scriptwriting, and being a DJ. During this time our Year 10 students were busy preparing the canapes for our evening event.



Once the workshops were over the cast and crew of the show were assembled and interviewed by a large number of television and radio shows including The One Show, BBC Midlands Today, BBC Radio CWR, Capital Radio and Mirror Group Newspapers. Mr Plester recorded a headteacher interview with the actor who plays the headteacher in the show, Tyler Fayose, and Mrs Kerr did a number of live interviews on a 360 degree camera.

At 5.30pm the canape reception was opened for the 'opinion formers' with a bar run exceptionally well by Mr Ludgate, Mr Wiggins, and Miss Dear. The head of BBC Midlands gave a speech and we then watched the first two episodes of Phoenix Rise alongside 400 other guests! It was amazing to see so many of our students in supporting roles, and brilliant to see so many iconic locations in Coventry.

It was a fantastic event, and so brilliant to have so many of our students and staff involved in different ways.



Engineering Trip

On Friday we took a group of Year 10 Engineers to Elite training in Brackley, Northampton. What an experience! We were treated to an immersive scenario-based training at the multi-million pound site using live actors and a 360 degree screen. Mrs. Trout and Mrs. Kerr were interviewed in mock Police questioning rooms by HSE inspectors, and all students were given sessions on leadership and teamwork. As if this wasn't enough, we were then transported to Tanks A Lot where we saw the world's largest collection of armoured vehicles, before having a ride in on of the largest tanks on site. Students were blown away by the day with some saying it was the best school trip ever!



Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC)

The children at Finham Primary always work hard in their lessons and there are many exciting learning opportunities. One of the key drivers in Year 4 this year has been Nature Connectedness which has seen the children learning outside the classroom.

We have introduced quick 5 - or 10-minute activities to refresh their brains. The children have been cloud spotting, tree hugging or running outside bare foot to be connected with nature. This has improved their levels of concentration as well as developing them as responsible citizens. We have found this particularly useful when the children have transitioned between lessons in the afternoon. It allows the children to use and develop their noticing skills and has the added benefit of being away from all screens, be it iPads or the interactive whiteboard.

We have also extended Learning Outside the Classroom to Friday afternoons. As a result, the children have been able to learn about how to measure the perimeter of the school playground, use nature as a basis for similes, creating fraction number lines for counting as well as measuring trees to see how old they are.



Learning Outside the Classroom has reinforced their learning inside the classroom with obvious benefits. Making Andy Goldsworthy style art using natural objects helped to develop the children's creativity. The children were asked to create Iron Age tri spirals using leaves, grass, sticks and stones. Their creativity was superb and the final pieces were beautifully crafted.



Learning outside the classroom is ideal way to alter the focus of the childrens learning but also make it interesting and relevant.

The Stone Age paintings were a culmination of a series of lessons. The children had learnt about Stone Age cave paintings, how they were drawn and in which countries they can be found. Eventually we took the children outside



In Geography, we have improved the childrens enquiry and questioning skills using a question generator at the beginning of each new topic. This has helped develop their questioning and noticing skills. We have used chatterboxes to encourage the children to make observations of the world around them with excellent observations and interesting results.



Finally, the Finham Primary Eco Club have been very active in and around the school. They had the pleasure of meeting some employees of Amazon at one of our recent meetings. They questioned them on their environmental credentials, as well as giving them some advice on how to become more sustainable! Then, they performed their presentation requesting for some help

in making the school more environmentally friendly. We are looking forward to the results.

The Eco Club have also introduced a new initiative called Waste Free Wednesdays. The children have been encouraged to bring packed lunches with no waste that cannot decompose.



Careers Fayre

On Wednesday 15th February, Meadow Park School hosted our School Careers Fayre in the school theatre.

Over 30 organisations attended and we were thrilled to welcome so many diverse organisations.

These included local training providers, colleges and universities as well as the NHS, the Army, Aston Martin, Aldi, Wates Construction, Buckingham, Ricardo and representatives from the engineering, motor vehicle repair, football academies, logistics, care, media and gaming sectors.

The event commenced at 12.30 after a networking lunch for our stand holders.

All year groups were given the opportunity to attend and it was so beneficial for our students to meet and approach so many organisations. Their eyes and thoughts were opened to so many career opportunities that they might not even have been aware of before.

There was so much positive feedback from students and from our guests!



Here are some of the comments from the **organisations** who attended:

- “Thank you so much for inviting us. This is such a well organised event and your students are so polite”.
- “We have really enjoyed being at Meadow Park School today as your students have been so engaged and asked so many really good questions”.
- “Congratulations on having such well-behaved and polite students. We look forward to working more with the school.”



From the **students**:

- “This is such an interesting event. I have learned so much about different types of careers:.
- “I didn't know there were so many different roles in one organisation”.
- “I've really enjoyed this event and it has given me so much to think about for my future career.”

From our **careers advisor**:

“We are delighted to bring so many organisations to our school and overwhelmed with the positive comments about our students as well as seeing how much they were engaging with so many companies. This was a great step into the career world, communicating with employers and considering all of the many options available to our students. This is just the start of our growing engagement with the world of work and in bringing that world into the school for our students to learn about. Many of the organisations who attended are wanting to do more work with the school and we look forward such collaboration. This will really benefit our students.”

Krakow 2023 – RE Department Trip



This half term some of our students were fortunate enough to visit Krakow, in Poland. The trip was offered to our older students in Years 11, 12 and 13. Students spent four days and three nights in and around the city of Krakow visiting commemorative sites from the Holocaust such as the Jewish Holocaust museum and Auschwitz-Birkenau. One of the highlights of the trip was when students got the opportunity to listen to a Holocaust survivor speak about the atrocities that her family went through over the duration of the Second World War and how she survived Auschwitz. This was a very moving experience and enabled our students to get the most from their visit to the Auschwitz concentration camp. We also found time to enjoy the delights of the city! Students who went on the trip will be visiting Year 8 lessons after Easter to tell them all about their experience.





Film and Media

"The Film and Media Department have had a number of notable successes this term, with 60 lower school students on the trip to Warner Bros Studio Tours being treated to an additional expert talk from Art Director Gary Tomkins, who worked on all of the Harry Potter films, and is one of only two people to have worked on all three sequences of the Star Wars films, from the originals in the 1970s to the prequels and then the most recent films (Photo attached).

We are also very proud to have helped put together video diaries of Filip Pcion's accounts of his great grandfather's experiences of being in a concentration camp during WW2 for Holocaust Remembrance Day, which have been shared throughout the school as part of our PHSE programme.

It's also awards season, and our students and ex-students have been picking up an armful of awards! Aaron Mann in Year 13 picked up Into Film's 'Film Of The Month' Award for his outstanding horror film 'A Clear Picture Of Myself'. Freya Baker-Duffin's film 'Driven To Despair' about a girl with OCD anxiety won our own CovCreative Film Festival Award for Best Year 13 Film last year, but last week it went on to do a clean sweep of all the national student awards, starting with July's 'Film Of The Month', followed by Into Film's 'Best Short Film' award, and then last week winning the National Moving Image award (Photo attached). And finally, an ex-student of ours in Media who has been working as a sports journalist for The Mirror has won the 'Football Media Award' for his pioneering work reporting on homophobia in football. Well done to all!"



Initial Teacher Training

**Do you know anyone who'd like to get into teaching?
Please direct them to us! We'd love to hear from them.**



This month we'll be at the Coventry University Get Into Teaching Event (Wednesday 22nd March 4.30-7.30pm). Please encourage anyone interested to come along.



Why choose the Lion Alliance? What makes us different?



To begin with our Alliance is led by a small, but perfectly formed duo – Alexandra (the Head of the Alliance) who is an experienced English teacher and Senior Leader passionate about staff development and educational research, alongside Sean (Alliance administrator) who is highly organised and informed, always on hand to answer trainee queries and a listening ear.

Given this very intimate and friendly team, we are part of a trainee's journey from the very start; recruiting, training and developing teachers continuously through a supportive ITT programme. This has evolved over the years into something that we're really proud to deliver. We regularly receive excellent feedback (including a 100% recommendation rate, 2022) which you can find on our

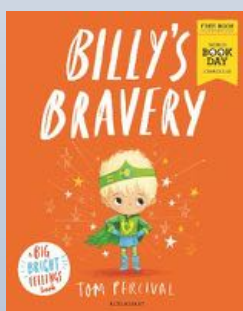
'Trainee Testimonials' page, showing just how passionate both we and our trainees are whilst with the Lion Alliance.

We ensure we work closely with 'Our University Partners' to design and deliver an effective ITT programme that is personalised for each of our trainees. During the training year we continually review and reflect on what each of your needs are and how we can best support you in developing your own professional practice. The help we offer doesn't end there either; there are a number of initiatives we have running not only to aid training and development but also with looking for employment in your first teaching role as an ECT (Early Career Teacher).

If you're interested in becoming a teacher at a Secondary or Primary level, the Lion Alliance is perfectly positioned to help you achieve your goals.

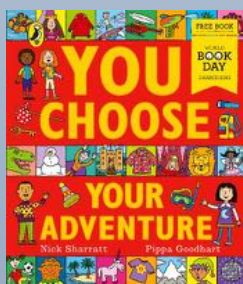
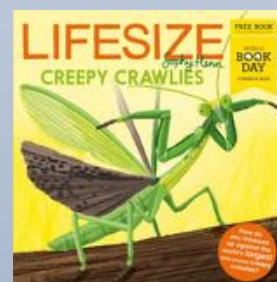
Recommended Reads for March

At the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day. This year was no exception and there was a great selection of titles available with the book vouchers to support every young person to choose and own a book and promote reading for pleasure. There is a wide selection of books to choose from for different ages and interests.



Billy absolutely LOVES Nature Girl. She's his favourite superhero EVER! He has read all the books, seen all the cartoons, and he's even got his own Nature Girl costume! So, when World Book Day comes round, Billy knows exactly who he wants to dress up as.

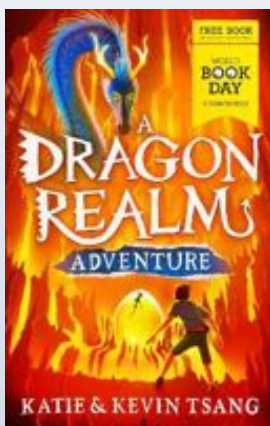
Come on an adventure to discover how YOU measure up against some of the world's most incredible LIFESIZE creepy crawlies – from the teeny tiny to the absolutely gigantic!



Bestselling duo Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart have created this mini book. An immersive, richly illustrated mini adventure where YOU CHOOSE what happens! Welcome to your adventure! What will you wear? Where will you go? Who would you like to meet on the way? Discover a different story every time with this magical storytelling toolkit - let your imagination run wild!

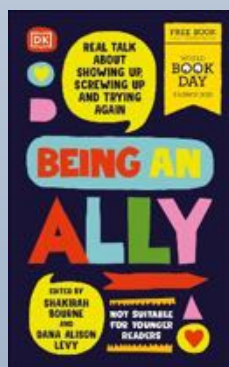
From the creators of Dave Pigeon comes a pigeontastic World Book Day offering, set in a bookshop. Dave Pigeon and his sidekick Skipper are looking for stories and biscuits. Where better to look than a bookshop? A warm, funny and joyful romp that celebrates books, bookshops, booksellers and biscuits!





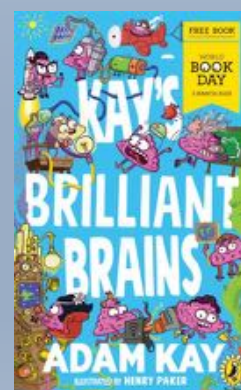
A World Book Day title in the epic and action-packed Dragon Realm series. Twelve-year-old Billy Chan and his friends each share a bond with a dragon. When new dragons fall from the sky into the Human Realm, the group join forces to reunite them with their lost egg. But the Dragon Realm is filled with dangerous golden elixir, magical creatures and threats lurking round every corner. Can our heroes accomplish their mission, or will they fall at the last hurdle?

It is the once-every-century Cloud-Wish Festival in the magical world of Strofadia, and Flick and Jonathan have travelled there from the Strangeworlds Travel Agency via suitcase to be a part of it. At the end of the Cloud-Wish festival, the Cloud Dragon will appear to grant the wishes from the people of Strofadia. But when the moons rise at the end of the festival, there is no sign of movement from the mountain. Will Flick and Jonathan be able to find their way through the mountain to the Cloud Dragon and save the festival from disaster?



This book is for everyone. Because we can all be allies. As an ally you use your power - no matter how big or small - to support others. You learn, and try, and mess up, and try harder. In this collection of true stories, 7 critically acclaimed and bestselling YA authors get real about being an ally, needing an ally, and showing up for friends and strangers. These authors share their truths.

This book is about ten ordinary people who changed the world forever. Like Ada Lovelace, who invented computer programming two hundred years ago. (But was banned from going into libraries.) Or Thomas Edison, who invented movie cameras and lightbulbs and how to record music. (But only went to school until he was twelve.) And Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly across a huge ocean, back in the days when planes were made of bits of old wood and looked like they might fall apart any second. (And worst of all, they didn't have in-flight movies.)



These authors have all written a range of other books so if you enjoyed these why not read some other titles by them.