

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Visit to Barnham Primary School

Year 9 students, accompanied by Mrs Brogan, recently visited Barnham Primary School to read the children's picture books they have been writing in class. The session involved them working with pupils in Years 1 and 2.

Creating the books enabled students to craft their writing for the needs of a very specific audience, using a range of techniques employed in picture books such as repetition, anthropomorphism (giving an animal human characteristics) and ellipsis as well as thinking very carefully about sentence structure. It was a wonderful opportunity to get feedback on their work from a real audience.



Alex Napper, 9Cu, wrote a book entitled 'Tilly and the cats' about 'a little girl, Tilly, who hears noises from underneath her bed and then finds three stuffed, talking cats.' She admits she found the experience of reading to the Year 1 pupils a little nerve-wracking but found that one group of girls refused to allow her to move on and read her book to the next group because they loved her book so much. Alex writes, 'The last pupil she read the book to liked my book a lot but I then found out he only liked it because he had a cat called Tilly!'



Murren Peskett, 9Wi, read her book, 'Daffy the Duck learns to swim', to the Barnham pupils. Murren says, 'My first group were quiet but, by the end of reading my book, they were full of feedback. Their comments were encouraging and this gave me the confidence to use different voices to give the characters life.'

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Head of English