

Pupils across the year groups at Pimperne Primary school were excited to meet author Keith Hatton who is the creator of the *Professor Plunder* adventure series and has written several picture books for younger children.

During his visit Keith shared some of his favourite books during a whole school assembly along with a Q & A session at the end. He then spent the day running some creative workshops sharing his top tips for writing and editing.

The children enjoyed learning how to use their senses to make their stories more engaging and the older children worked on how to build suspense and create tension in their writing.

Some workshops focused on creating their own spy gadget, and characterisation and children worked with Keith to create a cast of weird and wonderful characters which went on to feature in their own creative writing.

Keith said: *"What a fabulous visit to Pimperne School, where the children were engaged and enthusiastic from the very beginning. I was stunned by the quality of work produced by Year 5/6 workshop. The children producing some highly skilled, tension-packed stories. In Year 1/2, we had great fun with the children designing their own soft toy spy characters - and some imaginative gadgets for them to use on their adventures. Finally, I would like to thank Year 3 and 4 children for editing a piece of my work and giving me some excellent critical feedback! There are certainly some future authors at the school, and the children were a credit to the hardworking and welcoming staff."*

The school's English Lead, Kathryn Quincey said: *"Keith really captured the children's imaginations and inspired them to think more like a writer, highlighting the importance of both creativity and the technical side of writing. We love reading together at Pimperne Primary and books play an important part in developing our children as writers. The workshops were a perfect way to complete our celebration of World Book Day."*

After the workshops, Keith also took time to read some of the children's own stories, inspired by the sessions, remarking on the quality and originality of their work.

The workshops might just have inspired some of the next generation of local writers, with a Year 1 pupil saying: *"I loved it, we made some things out of the story, cool things that Panda has."* A Year 4 pupil said *"He inspired me to write short stories at home"* and a Year 5 commented *"I liked hearing the author's vocabulary and how he showed expression in his stories."*

At the end of the day many children excitedly waited to purchase a signed copy of their favourite book. Happy Reading all !



