

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming a local, award-winning author to the school on Friday 6th March as part of our World Book Day celebrations. This is a really special opportunity for the children and we hope it will inspire many of them to keep reading and to enjoy writing, too.

Ali Sparkes, born in Southampton, is the proud author of the Shapeshifter Series and winner of the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award for her novel *Frozen in Time*. She will be running workshops with children from Year 1 to Year 6, sharing how she became a writer and offering a unique insight into the world of storytelling.



Throughout the day, children will also have the chance to take part in a book-signing event. This will be a rare opportunity for a personal meet-and-greet with Ali and for children to have one of her books signed. You are, of course, very welcome to send your child in with a book you have purchased yourselves.

We are hoping to run an after-school book sale ahead of the signing. We will do our very best to source a selection of Ali Sparkes' books; however, we know you will appreciate that acquiring stock at an affordable cost is not always easy. As a result, the books available will all be dependent on what we are able to obtain prior to the day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Marchant and Miss Trim
English Leaders



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'That they may have life; life in all its fullness' John 10:10



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