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Dear Families

On Thursday 7th March it is World Book Day and at Fir Tree we value reading very highly. While dressing up for World Book Day can be fun, that's not why we celebrate it and can occasionally distract from the main event which is the celebration of reading. As has been the case for the previous few years, we would again ask that you do not send your child into school dressed up for World Book Day. We do have a number of non-uniform days throughout the school year and the children are very welcome to dress up as their favourite characters on these occasions instead if they wish to. The main aim of the day is to encourage children to explore different genres and develop a passion for reading and traditionally Fir Tree have done this by inviting in authors to speak about their books. This year is no different and we are very excited to announce that children's author and illustrator Gary Northfield will be visiting Fir Tree on World Book Day!

Gary Northfield has regularly worked for magazines such as The Beano, The Phoenix, National Geographic Kids and The Dandy. He has also had many books published, including The Terrible Tales of The Teenytinysaurs, Gary's Garden, and the Julius Zebra series. If you would like a signed copy of these books, then please feel free to buy them beforehand and bring them along on the day. Unfortunately, this year we are not able to arrange for books to be bought from school. Below you will find a link to buy a selection of his books:

<https://www.waterstones.com/author/gary-northfield/325061>

You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for reading well beyond World Book Day. A great way to do this is by reading together regularly and joining your local library, if you are not yet members. For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home, please visit www.worldbookday.com Children are never too young to start their journey with books, and the benefits of reading are enormous—so we hope, like us, you will use World Book Day to celebrate reading with your child.

With many thanks for your continuing support – and happy reading!

Kind regards

Nathan Wilcox
Assistant Headteacher and English Lead