

Biggest Book Show on Earth

On Monday 29th February the pupils of Willow (year 5) and Oak (year 6) class had the opportunity to attend the Biggest Book Show on Earth as part of the launch of World Book Week.

Leaving Watlington at 8.30 a.m. we travelled by coach to St. Andrew's Hall in Norwich. The children were very excited and looking forward to hearing from a variety of children's authors.

On arrival we were shown to our seats and soon after the show commenced. The show was introduced by Steven Butler - author of the Dennis the Menace books. The Imagination Seekers appeared first, moving amongst the audience 'catching dreams' in large nets. Once on stage they talked about the legacy of author Roald Dahl.



Holly Smale, author of the Geek Girl series, was next. Holly talked to the children about her first memories of books and stories and how as a very small child she wanted to read for herself. Holly went on to describe how as she grow older she found it hard to fit in at school because of her love of books and of learning - she was a 'geek'. While growing up Holly wrote her own stories. As a teenager she was spotted by a modelling agency who signed her as a model. Holly explained how she thought this would help her fit it but it didn't. After going to University, Holly was encouraged to continue with her writing, which she did eventually getting published. Holly clearly demonstrated her love of books and the adventures you go on as you read. Very inspirational.

Illustrator Martin Brown, Horrible Histories, took the children on a journey through time looking at art from cave paintings, through ancient Egypt to the present day. Through his eyes, and explanations, the children became aware that you do not have to be able to draw to be able to illustrate books. Very engaging and gave those who find drawing a challenge encouragement and ideas.



Julian Clarey, together with his illustrator took to the stage to talk about how they turned the ideas for 'The Bolds', a family of hyena's who have come over to live in Britain as a normal family, turn into words and pictures. It was amazing to observe characters coming to life before our very eyes.



The final author to speak was Liz Pichon, author of the Tom Gates series. Liz talked about how she came up with the ideas for Tom Gates and had all the children participating.

Following the show the children who had pre-ordered books were able to meet their favourite author and get their books signed. A real highlight.

