

# Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,  
Another month has passed and December is fast approaching.. Which means festivities (and Christmas of course) is nearly here. November has meant that the evenings are darker, the weather is much colder but the spirits of Park Lane remain as high as ever. Awaiting the arrival of our Griffins each morning, among the many golden leaves at the entrance gate, truly is one of the best parts of the day.

On November 10th, Park Lane, Race Leys and Nicholas Chamberlaine Griffins joined together in great honour of the service men and women of Great Britain and Commonwealth for a memorial service at Nicholas Chamberlaine school. As always, our Park Lane Griffins displayed their values beautifully and represented the school impeccably.

Our Griffins received a special visit from James Campbell, a children's author/comedian, which was a roaring success: the bouts of laughter and cheers that could be heard coming from the hall were heartwarming to say the very least. We are sure that James inspired many of our Griffins with his stories of what inspired him to become the success that he now is. His books have been enjoyed by various children since his visit and we thank our Park Lane Family for their generosity for purchasing their very own copies on the day.

Last Friday was our Children in Need Day and it was wonderful to observe so many of our community getting involved with this inspirational cause. As always, your kindness never ceases to amaze and we thank you for your donations: a final amount of £147.28 was raised on this day which will be donated to the charity to make a difference to many lives.

December is going to be a jam-packed month as the festivities commence and the spread of Christmas cheer fills the halls of Park Lane once more.

Warmest of Wishes,  
**Alex Ladbury**  
Head of School



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## Key Dates:

### **Monday 29th November**

*Individual School Photographs for all Griffins: full school uniform is to be worn.*

### **Thursday 2nd December**

*Christmas Movie Evening: 4:00-5:30pm*

### **Wednesday 8th December**

*Christmas Dinner Day for Griffins*

### **Friday 10th December**

*Christmas Jumper Day: Chocolate Donations*

### **Thursday 16th December**

*Cathedral Concert for KS2 Griffins: 2:15 in seats.*

### **Friday 17th December**

*School closes @ 2pm: no after-school wraparound care on this day.*





# Mini Griffins

Throughout this half-term, our Mini Griffins have been learning all about the celebrations of Diwali and Bonfire Night. We have been very creative and made Diva Lamps out of salt dough, our own firework pictures using shaving foam and paint and enjoyed hotdogs whilst watching a firework display. Some of our artwork is proudly hanging in our environment as it makes us feel very proud!

We also took part in Outdoor Learning Day, learning about families whilst enjoying being outside exploring the great outdoor environment. Mini Griffins enjoyed joining with Pre-School Griffins to act out the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* using our Now Press Play resources: it was great to observe everyone become immersed with the story.

**Well done Mini-Griffins: a great November!**



# Pre-School Griffins

Our Pre-School Griffins have used their 'Once Upon a Time' topic to develop both their love of reading and their love of the arts. Focusing on the traditional tale, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, we applied our skills of recalling the beginning, middle and end of a story to retell and act out the events in a chronological order. The children were outstanding in their ability to collaborate with their peers to cast and perform their showcases, demonstrating great courage.

Further to our retelling of Goldilocks, we extended our passion for dance as we learnt about Bonfire Night and Diwali. Using colourful scarves and tinsel wands, we created patterns of movement which were related to the rhythm and music we listened to. It's been wonderful to observe our Griffins develop in the expressive art and design and we cannot wait to observe this flourish throughout the year.

**Pre-School Griffins , yet again another great month completed of your Griffin journey.**





# Reception

This half term Reception have been exploring art in many forms and have continued their creative journey with making poppies for Remembrance Day, as well as independently creating their own poppy landscapes. For Bonfire Night, we applied wet chalk and experimented with textures to create our own colourful firework displays. We each created a self-portrait while discussing what makes us special, and made our own crowns while looking into the life of Princess Diana.

Each Tuesday afternoon, Reception take part in their weekly music lessons strengthening their singing and recall skills, and this month we began learning to play different instruments such as drums and maracas, which the children have loved.

This term RJE are exploring 'world dance' for their Griffin University focus, and so far have studied and performed the dance styles of Punjabi Bangra, Japanese Kabuki, South African Gwara Gwara and Hawaiian Hula Dancing.

**A creative and expressive November Reception Griffins - all sounds very exciting!**



# Year 1

During November, Year One took part in Drama Day and acted out a human life cycle as part of our topic 'Memory Box.' The children acted out the different stages of life: from a baby, to being elderly and then performed them to the rest of the class.

We have also been completing lots of pieces of artworks this half term, including our own firework paintings and making our very own crepe paper poppies. In Music, the

Year 1 Griffins have also been learning to recognise rhythm and have been fabulous - they really enjoyed taking part in the Arts.

**Year One should be exceptionally proud of their positive attitudes towards the Arts this half-term.**

**Well done Year One!**

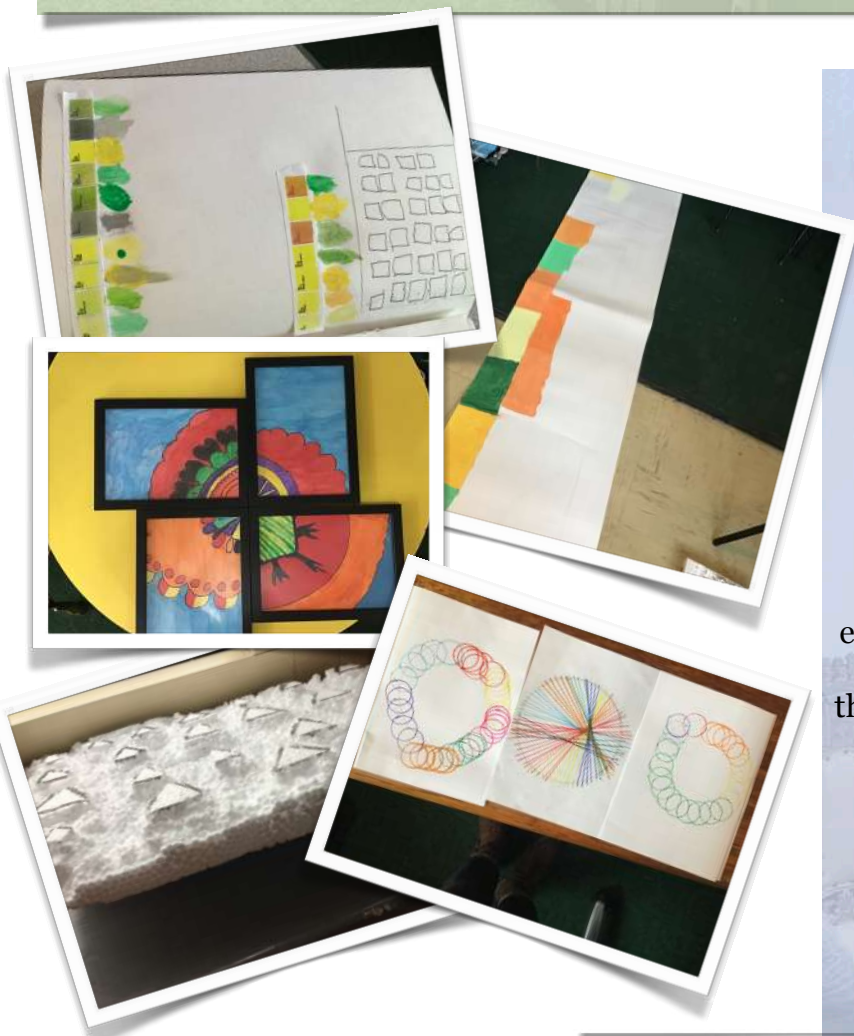


## Year 2

This half-term in Year 2 we have combined the Drama Day celebrations with the marking of Remembrance Day. We created freeze-frames inspired by photographs taken during WW1. We challenged ourselves further by using thought tapping: a drama technique where a character is tapped on the shoulder and they share their thoughts with the audience. The children came up with comments such as, "I feel proud!", "I miss my family" and "it is cold and wet in the trenches." They really did capture the thoughts and feelings of the faces in the images well.

In Music, we have been forming an understanding of some musical terminology. We have created and performed our own rhythms, demonstrated the meaning of tempo by speeding up and slowing down our rhythms, and explored dynamics by responding to the loudness of songs using our bodies and strips of material.

**It has another wonderful half-term in Year 2 and it has been a pleasure observing their confidence, maturity and independence develop throughout the Arts. They should each be very proud of all that they have achieved!**



## Year 3

Our Year 3 Griffins have been learning block printing skills during their Art lessons. The children began by looking at an image from our topic linked book called *River: we* particularly focused on the farm fields and have been building skills to produce our own painting using block printing to add details to the fields.

We completed some colour mixing in our sketchbooks first, and then chose a colour to use for our farm land. We then designed a pattern that we wanted to layer onto the field and really enjoyed carving out the patterns into polystyrene. Our Art is a working progress and can be seen in the images. We cannot wait to complete it, so look out for it on seesaw in the coming weeks.

Also, Year 3 have celebrated our fallen heroes by creating quadrant images of poppies: we hope that you like them as much as have enjoyed creating them.

**A fabulous half-term of the Arts Year 3!**





## Year 4

During Art lessons in Year 4, we have been learning about Roman mosaics. We looked at some actual examples from nearby Leicester and further afield. We then used natural materials from our lovely outdoor environment to create our very own mosaics. The children thoroughly enjoyed collecting their own materials. As well as this, in our sketch books, we made mood boards to develop our skills, then designed and created a mosaic using coloured paper tiles.

We have also had several workshops with Mr White to develop our Music skills. We have been having fun working in groups, composing pieces using our voices in different ways. In addition to this, we have also been learning to play the keyboard and xylophone.

**A fantastic half-term of the Arts Year 4 - we are excited to observe your musical abilities flourish throughout the year!**

## Year 5

Year 5 brought evacuation to life throughout Drama Day this half-term. We had studied the evacuation process as part of our *Child's War* Topic last half term, so they were quite knowledgeable about the subject. The Y5 Griffins worked in groups and were given different scenarios regarding evacuation. Their task was to convey empathy for their characters, first by producing a freeze frame and then continuing to act out their scene. There were some very dramatic performances and I feel we may have a future Oscar winner in our midst.

We have also been fortunate enough to participate in music lessons with Mr White, who introduced Year 5 to the African Djembe drums. The children have been learning all about rhythms and polyrhythms, and have been learning an African song that accompanies the drums and it has truly been a magical experience. How lucky we are to have had this opportunity!

**Sounds like yet again another wonderfully creative half-term Year 5 - phenomenal, and your drum playing too!**





## Year 6

In Year 6, we have enjoyed various aspects of Art. During Drama lessons, we have been making evacuation freeze frames and creating scenes of casting spells. During Music lessons, we have started learning how to play the drums (which we will continue to do for the rest of the half-term) and practised reaching different pitches with our voices when singing.

During our Art lessons, we have used clay to create our own poppies that we went on to paint and put up on display in Poppies Café. The children really displayed their creativity and confidence when taking in each of the activities.

During the next few weeks, we will be learning all about tone and mixed mediums to create our own image of The Northern Lights. We are so proud of what our Year 6 Griffins have already achieved in art this term, and we hope to see this continue in the year to come.

**Well done Year 6 - a great half-term of the Arts, we look forward to seeing your Northern Lights pieces!**



## The Nurture Team

This month, our Nurture groups have been getting creative, by decorating spooky biscuits and making pumpkin masks for Halloween. We celebrated Bonfire Night by discussing Guy Fawkes' gun powder plot, painting firework pictures and making delicious chocolate apples.

We have also had a success to celebrate within the team: both Miss Knights and Mrs Johnston have passed their minibus license so watch this space as our Nurture teams go out and about in the community on various exciting trips and enrichment activities. Our first stop will be visiting the towns Cenotaph for Remembrance Day, where we will lay some poppy wreaths.

Something new the Nurture team have reproduced this half term are small bespoke interventions including Forest School, Art Therapy and Emotion Coaching Groups: all of which have been well received by our Griffins and will continue throughout to support their learning and regulation.

Our Therapy Dogs, Mylo, Ruby and Ralph have implemented a 'letter writing' service for our Griffins: they are able to write to our dogs, to encourage them to express their feelings and talk, and our dogs will reply to them. Mylo, Ruby and Ralph cannot wait to get our Griffins talking.







## PE Team



What another fabulous month of celebrating sporting successes at Park Lane: the dedication, devotion and attitudes that our Griffins display towards their Sports is wonderful and deserves the credit.. and outcomes that it receives.

### **Rowing**

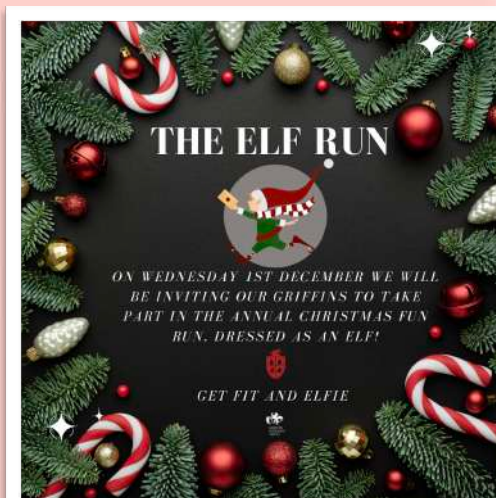
We are thrilled to announce that our Year 6 boys and girls rowing team were crowned Northern Warwickshire champions: all pupils that took part in the competition have worked extremely hard in training, often giving up their break and lunchtime to practise to perfect their technique. Both teams will now go onto to represent, not only Park Lane, but the whole of Nuneaton and Bedworth at the county finals in December! We are incredibly proud of you all and it has been an honour to observe you beam with pride as you walk proudly wearing your medals - very well deserved!

### **Bike Ability**

Some of our KS2 Griffins took part in a Bike Ability course over the past few weeks. Bikeability is the National Cycle Training Programme supported by the Department for Transport. The course builds the skills and confidence of children who can already ride a bike. Bikeability can not only make children better cyclists - potentially for the rest of their lives - but can help with general confidence and independent thinking. Our Griffins that took part all displayed their values towards the instructors.

### **ELF RUN... Coming soon!**

On Wednesday 1st December, all of our Griffins are invited to take part in the annual Christmas fun run... dressed as an Elf! We cannot wait to see you all dressed up and ready to kick start our festive season. **Let's get fit and 'elfie...'**







# Attendance



In the first half of term, 6SM won the prize for the class with the highest attendance. Their prize was afternoon tea at Poppies, with lots of cake and games. We set them a challenge to make a caterpillar track (like the ones that military tanks use) that was big enough to transport their team across the playground without breaking, made only of newspaper and tape. It is fair to say that it took a while for the teams to think about how to design the caterpillar track and then again to think about how to work as a team to make sure it did not break: some managed it better than others, but all had great fun and there were a lot of laughs!

Another prize will be awarded the class with the highest attendance at the end of this half term. Attendance remains a concern for teachers; not only does low attendance affect children's achievement, it also affects their social relationships with other children, their confidence and their self-esteem, so please do ensure that your children are only missing school when they are too ill to attend.

65% of children who miss 15 days of school a year achieve good results in Maths and English: that's missing less than half a day per week. The percentage rises to 90% if children miss less than 8 days across the year. So as you can see, low level absence can have a big impact on learning.



# Pupil Leadership Team

In October, a questionnaire was issued to all Griffins at Park Lane to ask them how they feel about life at school outside of the academic work: what they think is good, what they find difficult, what their relationships are like, what makes them worry. Thank you to all those who responded: some put their names to their answers, some gave them anonymously; the information will help us put things in place to address some of the issues that were highlighted.

The Junior Leadership Team are considering the summary of results of the survey. They will delve a bit deeper into the main themes and suggest ways we can develop strategies and activities to support our Griffins.

The questionnaire is also useful to support our Griffins in their work. Support Griffins are 12 children from across Key Stage 2 classes who have been appointed to help develop Park Lane's response to bullying: both preventing it and dealing with it when it happens. They have recently completed training as part of the *Diana Award* for Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to show them how to support other children who want to talk about their worries. We are so proud of our Support Griffins, who have made such great suggestions already. Watch this space for further announcements...



Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders





# Maths Week England



Maths Week England arrived at Park Lane Primary during the week of the 8th November and our Griffins were part of the nearly 2/3 of the million children national who celebrated all things Maths!

Children in Year 2 – 6 took part in the TT Rockstars 'Maths Week England Rock it out 2021' national tournament: all Griffins battled hard; we can confirm that the class at Park Lane that placed the highest was... 5MQ!!

## **A huge congratulations to all our Griffins in 5MQ!**

Across the week, every year group from Nursery to Year 6 had extra Mathematics sessions with the aim of having fun with Maths: there was so much enjoyment had by all our Griffins, they really raised the bar when it came to Maths and we are so proud of their positive attitudes towards Maths.



# Children in Need

Friday 19th November saw Children in Need Day and children across the country joined together in wearing their spots and yellow ears in honour of this wonderful charity, to raise awareness and money. Children in Need is a charity that lies close to all of our hearts: their mission is to ensure that every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and that they each reach their full potential. We thank you for your generosity and kindness: we can confirm that a total amount of £147.28 was raised and will be donated to the charity.

**A huge thank you to all of our community who took part in this event and kindly contributed.**





# Outdoor Classroom Day

On November 4th, Park Lane took part in Outdoor Classroom Day! Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to inspire and celebrate outdoor play and learning, both at home and at school. In total, schools in over 170 countries have now been involved with over 10 million children taking part.

Mr Bell, our Outdoor Education Lead, set each year group the task to complete both a morning and afternoon activity outdoors to utilise the wonderful outdoor areas we are lucky to have at Park Lane! This led to a wonderful day of outdoor learning including: using clay to make 'tree faces' in Reception; sorting objects into groups in maths in Year 1; practising addition questions using chalk in Year 2; completing a word treasure hunt and then sorting into groups in Year 3; creating Roman mosaics using natural materials in Year 4; considering religious questions through practical activities in Year 5; and making geographical comparisons in Year 6. The nurture team also made great use of the outdoor environment to support the children that they work with.

It was amazing to see all of our Griffins excited to be learning outdoors with many saying they would like to do more of their learning outside – even if it was a little chilly on the day!

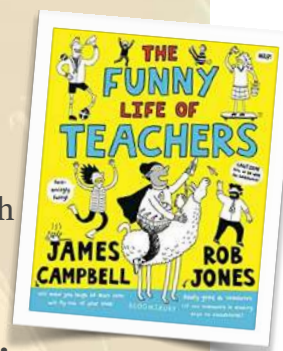


# Author Visit - James Campbell

We are very lucky to have had a visit from James Campbell - a children's author - yesterday afternoon. He completed workshops with both EYFS/KS1 and KS2 - both of which were extremely humorous and great fun!

We are hoping he has inspired some young, budding writers to begin their own storytelling journey.

**Thank you to all our families who purchased one of his fabulous books!**





# Book Talk (Grown Ups)

## Mrs Taylor says...

### The Time Traveler's Wife

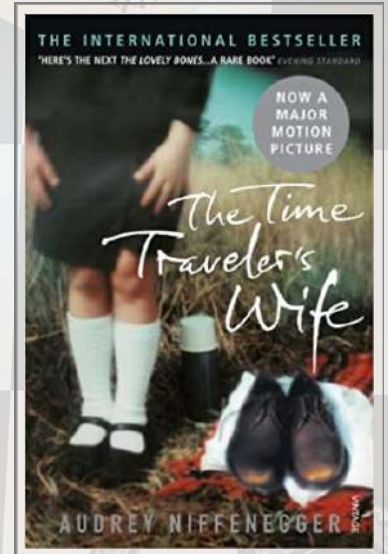
by Audrey Niffenegger

I've picked a book that I first read many years ago on a beach, where I couldn't put it down and have returned to it many times since.

It is a love story about Henry, a man, with a genetic disorder that causes him to time travel unpredictably, and about Clare, his wife, an artist, who has to cope with his frequent absences and dangerous experiences of reappearing in odd places. It's an interesting concept with the book telling the story from both points of view.

It's one of those stories that pulls you into the characters lives and days after turning the last page, I was still thinking about it.

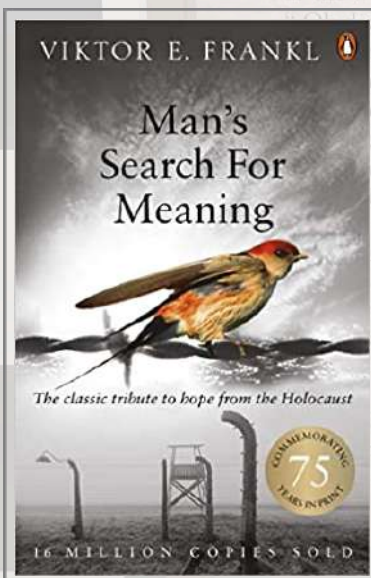
Whilst there is a science fiction element in time travel, it's not unbelievable and the book is more about love and relationships - and I am partial to a good rom-com! It is about loving someone unconditionally, sacrifice and togetherness and for me it's my go to feel good book, I would definitely recommend this to any avid romantics!



## Miss Baraniak says...

### Man's Search For Meaning

by Viktor Frankl



I was born just 150 miles from Kraków Auschwitz, and this book has got special place in my heart.

Viktor tells us about his experiences as a prisoner in Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps during World War II. I have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum many years ago: it is an important piece of history and words cannot express how emotional it was to visit Auschwitz.

The book is a classic tribute to hope: I finished reading this book during lockdown and yes, it gave me what I needed at that time: hope! Sometimes we do underestimate things that today we have easy access to, but it was seriously restricted in the inhumane imprisonments like: nourishment, dress, rest. I also believe every human being has a purpose in this life. The meaning of life is when you have been put lots of time and effort into doing something you really love and then you can definitely say, that your life has meaning and purpose in this world. A sentence from the book, which actually quotes Nietzsche: '*He who has a why to live for can bear with almost any how.*' The author tells us about how people didn't die due to lack of food or medicines or the harsh conditions of the concentration camp but more due to lack of hope: the lack of something to live for.



# .. And some to share with your Families!

## Mr Groocock says...

### **Private Peaceful**

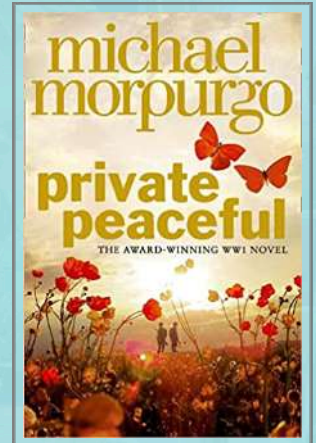
by Michael Morpurgo

Private Peaceful is a very emotive book. The book contains a wide-range of emotions from joy to grief, anger to love. Michael Morpurgo hooks the reader from the very first page and doesn't let you go until the end.

This book is a flashback describing the whole of Thomas Peaceful's life up until the present day and the aftermath of a tragic ending. All of these flashbacks are set to a ticking clock, counting down to an agonising eventuality.

The book is about the calm and tranquil life of Thomas Peaceful and his life in the countryside. However, then the war starts and Thomas and his brother Charlie are forced to go to France to fight. Once there he will experience the crushing reality of war and the consequences that all of the soldiers had to face.

This book is a great read for anyone no matter what genre of books they prefer and one I would recommend to everyone, child or adult alike.

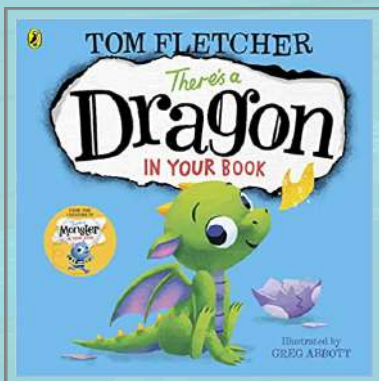


## Miss Wormleighton says...

### **There's a Dragon in your Book**

by Tom fletcher

I have chosen this book because it is one my favourite books to read to my class. The children in my class really enjoy this story because there are lots of funny parts and they get to join in with some of the words and the actions throughout the story! There are a few books in this series and we also love, 'There's a Unicorn in your Book' and 'There's an Alien in your Book'. We are really looking forward to Christmas when we get to read 'There's an Elf in your Book' too!



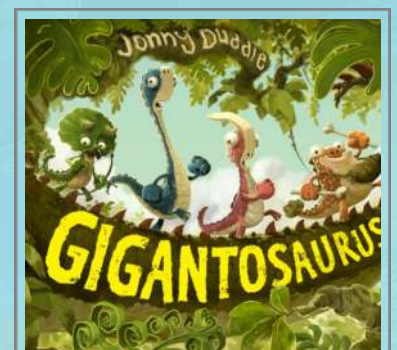
## Miss Mehta says...

### **Giganotosaurus**

by Johnny Duddie

I have chosen this book because it's a hilarious book to read with children whilst educating them about the prehistoric dinosaurs of the land. It tells the tale of Bonehead and his friends lookout for the scary Gigantosauris.

A truly wonderful read for children and one that will have them laughing from the very first page.





# What's on in December?

