

# Gosforth East Middle School News



Autumn Term 1

2024

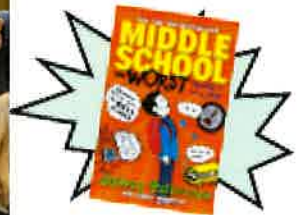


Photo credit: Chronicle Live

✕ @GosEastMiddle

# A Warm Welcome to our New Pupils

This half term, our new year 5s have settled in well at GEMS! It's like they have always been here. They love to visit the library!



## Starting a New School...

Everyone, when they arrived at GEMS, was feeling pretty nervous at the start but then people started to make friends and playing together.

I thought Middle school was going to be quite scary but here at GEMS I found my way so fast. My experience so far here has been so good. In computing we have been doing coding! By Fergus Y5

## At GEMS we Celebrate Differences

In September, a group of pupils from GEMS stood up in front of the whole school to talk about Autism. Some pupils talked about being autistic themselves which was incredibly brave and insightful. Pupils learned how overwhelming school can be for an autistic pupil and we considered ways to be helpful. We also learned of some of the amazing talents our autistic pupils have. Other children talked about autistic friends and family and discussed strategies that they use to support them.

TWO Inside Our Autistic Minds

Home Episodes Clips Information and Support

Thinking differently, Chris Packham helps autistic people illustrate how their minds work, helping them connect with their friends and family in a new, more authentic way.

On iPlayer Episode 2 Series 1 All available episodes (2 total)

On TV Hospitably broadcasts All previous episodes

Discover more about Autistic minds with The Open University

Ethan's Film

Anton's Film

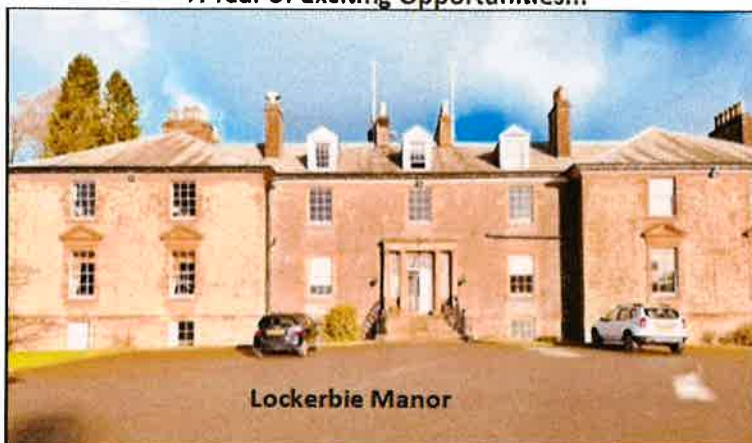
Demystifying autism and overstimulation

At GEMS we love to celebrate the differences within our pupils. The assembly was a really positive experience and we would like to congratulate the children on their wonderful presentations. By Mrs Armstrong

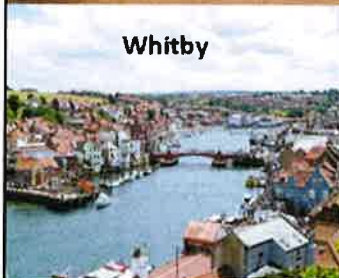
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0bbnh47>

# New Year, New Opportunities!

A Year of Exciting Opportunities...



Lockerbie Manor



Whitby



Grinton Lodge



Newlands



Isle of Arran



London



Alpe D'Huez, France

By Alex I

## American Football Trip



Interview with Mr Hodgson

**Where?**

*At Newcastle Falcons*

**What did you all do?**

*The team played in a competition n to win a trip to London to watch the NFL.*

*It was all organised by Mr Jordan and the Vikings!*

**Who was there?**

*Me, Mr Jordan, The Vikings and year 8 pupils!*

By Lola

# Moana J.r

*Moana Jr is coming in March 2025. The cast and Crew are working very hard on putting on a thrilling show. Like previous shows, we audition and then find out our roles. We will bring a younger, more theatrical spin on the beloved film. Our very talented Moanas are: Amelia in y8 and Maya in y7. Our amazingly brilliant Mauis are: Charlie in y8 and Lily in y7. By Millie*



# HOUSE CAPTAIN News!!!!

The house captain is the representative of their house. For example, if someone was in Davison house and got to be a house captain they would be house captain for Davison house. The house captains were elected on the 18 October.



An interview with Millie Anderson, a candidate:

What does a house captain do?

*A house captain looks after their house and helps around the school.*

Can you be the boss of the house?

*You also have to have input from teachers and vice captains.*

Can you do new school trips for a single house ?

*No, everyone has to be equal.*

By Rosey



## **ELECTION RESULTS**

**Head House Captain:**

Charlie Davies

**House Captains:**

Ana Osivand, Hunain Hashim, Millie Anderson, Oscar Shiels

**Vice House Captains:**

Arlene Caryl, Ethan Middleton, Evan Morris, Zach Alexander

*Congratulations!*

# Opal playtimes

Are you bored of standing around at playtimes?

Do you want more things to do at play? Well have no fear, Opal is here!

Opal playtimes are all about being creative with how we play and there will be lots of new equipment for everyone to play with.

By Sam

## OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

OPAL is helping us make our school playground better. Some features of OPAL are no lunch sittings, no passes needed for clubs, the option to eat outside, and making outdoor lessons in the new ECO classroom that is almost finished. However, this is just the beginning. In future, I hope there is more coming!

By Alex I 6ER

### Exclusive Interview with Emma, OPAL Play Team

#### **What is OPAL?**

*Opal is for kids to enjoy playtime with different things to do.*

#### **What do you think about OPAL ?**

*Opal is a great thing for the children to express their play in different ways!*



# READING CHALLENGE !

I spoke with Miss McFall about the Reading challenge

**Why do we do the reading challenge at GEMS?**

*The reading challenge encourages pupils to build the healthy habit of reading frequently because reading is so good for you, especially your wellbeing. Reading also plays an important role in helping you at school and it expands your vocabulary!*



**What book are you reading at the moment ?**

*Frost Hollow Hall*

**What is your favourite book to read?**

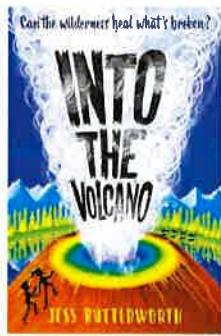
*It depends what I am in the mood for. Recently I have enjoyed 'A Pinch of Magic' and 'Scythe' - two very different books!*



**The reading challenge is a way to get kids into the habit of reading every day and carry books around with them!**

By Lola

# Reading Recommendations



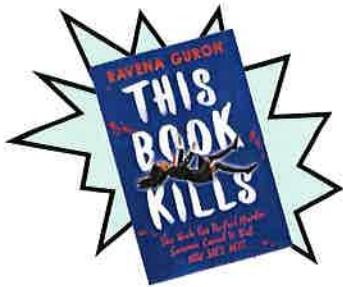
What I liked about Into The Volcano was that it was adventurous and exciting because the characters went everywhere. I think people over the age of 7+ would enjoy it if they liked adventure.

Sam B 6NS

## Recommended books by teachers

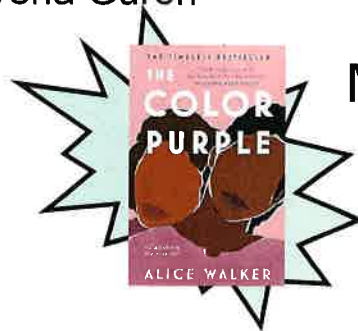
Miss Thompson

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee



Mrs Collister

Is currently reading  
This Book Kills by  
Ravena Guron



Mrs Robinson

The Colour Purple

Miss Crowe

Little Women

By Louisa May Alcott



By Ayomi

Miss Wilson

Magicalia by Jennifer Bell

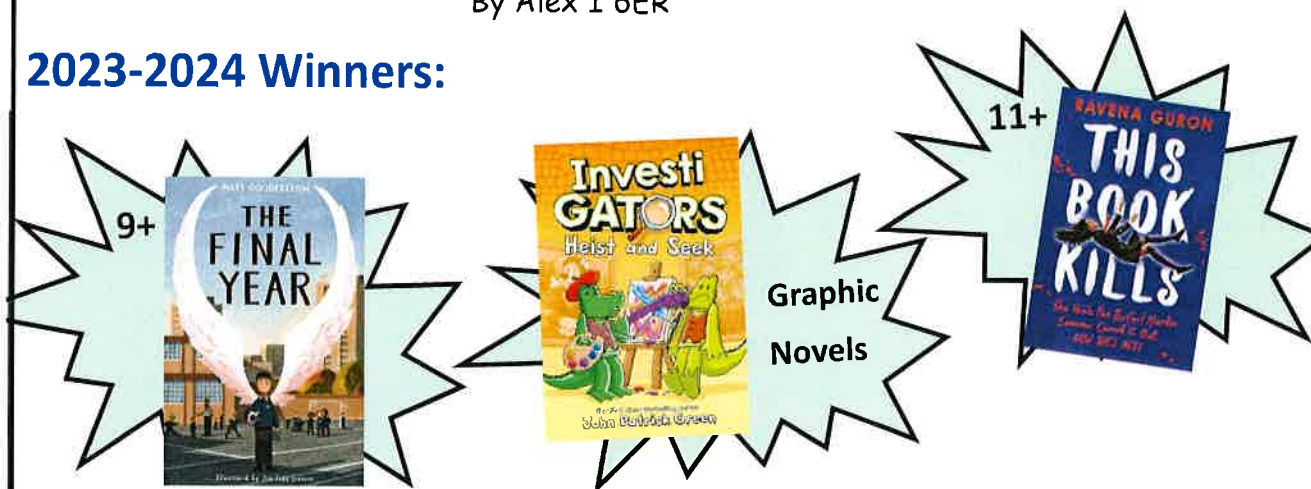




Spark Book Awards are held annually every year. In it, over 50 books for certain categories (including 7+ and 9+) are shortlisted down to 4 books in each category. Then comes the democracy. Every child doing it reads as many of the shortlisted books as they can. They then vote for one book per category. In each category, the book with the most votes wins the award.

By Alex I 6ER

### 2023-2024 Winners:



### - - - Exciting News! - - -

Three members of staff have been chosen to be on the Spark Book Awards shortlisting panel! This means they get to read and carefully choose books to narrow down a longlist and then a shortlist in each category!

#### 9+ Fiction Category

Mrs Gill

Miss McFall

#### Non-Fiction Category

Miss Wilson

# October: The Month of POETRY!

In October, we celebrated National Poetry Day AND Random Acts of Poetry Day!

## Random Acts of Poetry Day

Surprise poetry welcomed pupils as they arrived in the morning!



*"We randomly expressed ourselves through poetry throughout both days!"*



## Autumn Poetry Competition

The competition challenged pupils to write a poem about ANYTHING! Winners received a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair and runners-up received house points!

**Winners:** Emily M y5, Tommy C y6, Annabelle W y6, Sienna A Y6, Poppy S y6, Lily L y8

### **Runners-Up:**

Abigail E y5, Aerin H y5, Toby R y6, Naomi V y6, Rosie H y6, Vesper y7, Grace M y8

Pupils came together to write a wonderful poem about the library—check it out on @GosEastMiddle



In English lessons, we explored the school grounds to inspire us to write autumn poetry for the poetry competition!

The crunches and crinkles of the  
Leaves under my feet  
My hands freezing up  
And the trees are dancing and  
singing to me  
Dropping me cute little presents  
As I watch.

*Extract from poem written by poetry competition runner-up, Grace M*


The lush flowers are  
sending their scent  
to the bees for them to collect  
their last autumn meal.

*Extract from poem written by poetry competition runner-up, Toby R*

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*By competition runner-up, Grace M*

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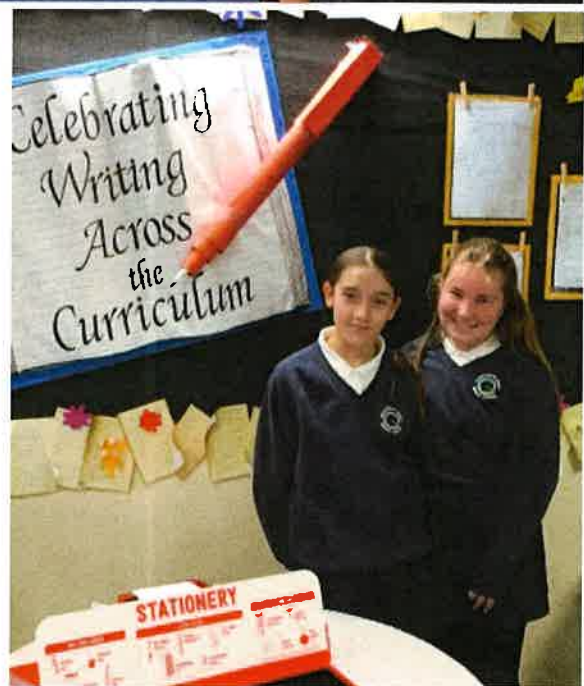
# BOOK FAIR

16th-23rd October



Our Autumn Book Fair arrived in October! The book fair was open every lunch time for a whole week. Every day the book fair was bustling with pupils, excited to choose their next read. Some were even buying Christmas presents!

It was fantastic to see pupils already reading the books they had chosen as they walked away from the fair.

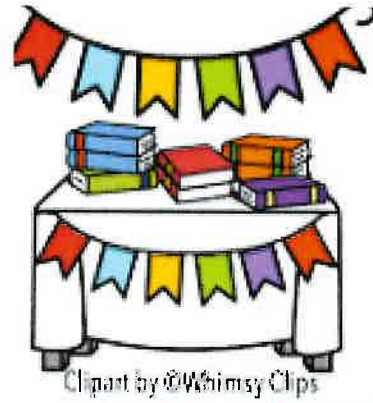


**The book fair will return in the Spring!**

Our incredibly helpful Library helpers, Grace and Elsa, were the friendly faces of the book fair.



# Book Fair Time!



Clipart by @Whimsy Clips

You could get stationery, bookmarks, notepads and most importantly **BOOKS**. People were very excited to attend the book fair and Miss McFall was delighted to see how many people came.

By Lola



Our Book Fair was a **HUGE** success that raised **£1002** for Scholastic. We will receive book vouchers worth **£400.80** in return!

# Eco Classroom Grand Opening

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, at Gosforth East Middle School we had the grand opening reveal of the brand-new eco classroom, organised by Ms. Jefferson. We are proud to announce that our eco classroom is finally open!



Many important visitors such as Catherine McKinnell, MP and the Minister for School Standards and parents came into school to see the reusable ribbon be pulled by author and writer, Chloe Daykin.

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/gallery/gosforth-students-celebrate-unveiling-new-30170084>

The planet people, green influencers and hard working builders have helped achieve this goal after 3 long years but we will soon be able to use the classroom while helping the environment.

Built using 400 eco bricks (2 litre bottles full of rubbish) to cover the outside and using as much recyclable material as possible.



## An Exclusive Interview with Ms Jefferson

The very first group of green influences came up with this idea the whole project has been led by the pupils. I have just supported them in realising their dream. We wanted to show what can be achieved with determination, resourcefulness and teamwork. We were delighted to have so many other head teachers from other schools attend the ceremony as we want to show an example to other schools.



"I can't tell you how excited I am to see this. I am inspired by this school... You are all champions for a better environment here in Gosforth."  
Catherine McKinnell, MP

"It's powerful you've been able to create something with nature, and I'm excited to see what amazing things you'll do next."  
Chloe Daykin

Rowan, Charlie, Laura, Catherine McKinnell, MP, Karol, author Chloe Daykin and Alexey.

## Pop Up Plant Based Eco Café

On the big day, the café was run to raise money for the Malala Fund, a charity which supports girls worldwide to access education. Educating girls globally will be a major driver to tackling the climate crisis.

The café raised a whopping £161.27 for the cause!



Frances Hinton, Green Party. Meryl Batchelder, North East lead for Ministry of Eco Education.

# Halloween Disco

The date for the Halloween disco was 21st October 2024. People were invited to wear their Halloween costumes!

By Fergus

## TRICK OR READ

Lots of scary characters visited the 'Trick or Read' stall at the Halloween Disco!

Rather than judging books by covers, they chose books by reading clues.

As our pupils LOVE to read, the mysterious books were all gone within minutes!



# The Secrets of Ransom Manor

Once upon a time...

Okay, no I'm not starting with this. I'm Penny, absolutely not Penelope. I'm 16, a GCSE student. My life is rapidly getting closer and closer to the brink. I need to get home from school. Fast. I take the short cut through the woods. Avoiding people is the most important thing. However, the mansion is in the woods. You never go there. Ever. According to some ancient myth 2 girls the exact same age. The exact same school. The exact same birthday, 13th of May. Creepy, right? Many have forbade me from going out anywhere because those girls were never seen again. Until, the first girl, Amelia Jennings was found in the woods. Dead. Very Dead. The second girl, Maud Brown, was ransomed off for a lot of money. Then last year was found dead in the same woods. But nobody has ever lived there not since the accident. Well before the girls an old man and his dog disappeared. The dog drowned in the creek but the old man was never found. The creek leads to a large lake outside the village. The woods stretched until the next town over with the mansion in the middle. Panting, I stop outside the mansion. Ivy creeps up the sides and it stinks of rotting flesh. I tread up the path. Holding my nose, I go in... **To be continued. Read the next instalment in the next newsletter!** By Millie A

## Crossword

CHOIRMGHDESTHESD  
LLABTEKSABHFDFTYQ  
FSDEFJHJFDGDGUYTRB  
HOFGJKYEWASFKTEDHJ  
GJOPRESSCLUBGKFEYKJ  
DFTTBULCGINDOCKEHF  
HJKGBDEGTUJFDHKL  
HYFRAFJGSDFKHGDTGF  
DGHELJKGJGDGFDADG  
DDHFLHFSJFHJHDHUIS

Choir      football      lab  
Basketball      press club      coding club



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