

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>, Jay Vincent, author of **The Orangutan Who Sang**, will be coming into school to read his book to the children as well as spend time in each class to work alongside the pupils.

It is the first children's book published by **Meze Publishing**, a Sheffield publishing company, so we are keen to support the title as much as we can, particularly as Jay is giving us his time for free.

The book is about Olly, a shy Orangutan who goes to a jungle school with lots of other animals. He has an incredible voice and loves to sing but can't control his nerves enough to get any words out. After falling from his perch in his favourite tree, Olly is so embarrassed, that he leaves his friends and seeks sanctuary in the jungle. But will Olly discover something on his adventure that means he's finally able to overcome his fears and do what he was born to do... sing?

Jay will spend time in each class reading the book. In addition to this, the children in Y1 will partake in a workshop creating other characters who could feature in the jungle school that Olly attends. Jay would like the children to come up with their own character by drawing a picture of them and discussing their personality and what kind of adventure they could go on. There may even be time for the children to have a go at writing some rhyming couplets for their new character!

If you would like to buy a copy of the book beforehand, you can find it on **Amazon** (currently priced at £5.24) as well as lots of other online book sites and Jay will be happy to sign copies for the children.

### Why did Jay write the book?

*'Two reasons. Firstly, as a father of four, I know how difficult it is to engage with children, with all the modern day distraction of ipads, mobiles, internet, etc., making it harder for parents to have "actual" conversations. In turn, youngsters today have more pressures to face (certainly more than my generation ever did). There are questions at the end of the book, to encourage parents and children to talk about whatever subject is key to the story. For this book, the main theme is shyness, and following stories will look at areas such as not fitting in, being different etc. It's a small step, but the main idea is that children can engage subliminally with the subject without them knowing, and hopefully this may assist parents.'*

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs Faye Pegg  
(one of the English Curriculum Leaders)

