



Imagine a school where dinosaurs survived...

Amazing Author visit from Jay Jay Burridge ignites imagination. – By Zoe Duff, Burford Primary School Literacy Coordinator.

On Wednesday 17th January Burford Primary School were privileged to have a visit from one of our children's favourite authors; Jay Jay Burridge. This was no ordinary visit as Jay Jay managed to bring one of his characters with him! As the children filed out of their classrooms for lunch, they were faced with a huge raptor towering over their playground - one of Jay Jay's amazing sculptures was the perfect start to an incredibly exciting afternoon!



A huge buzz had been surrounding this long awaited visit as the children of Burford have been immersing themselves in a world where dinosaurs had never become extinct. This immersion has come through Jay Jay's first book, Raptors of Paradise. This, the first of six books has ignited a real passion for reading, writing and story- telling in our school and everyone was bursting to meet the face behind the name and the imagination that created such an incredible adventure.



The children met Jay Jay and heard his take on what the world would be like if dinosaurs still existed today. The afternoon was fascinating and everyone involved was amazed at Jay Jay's creativity and openness about his journey towards becoming a writer.

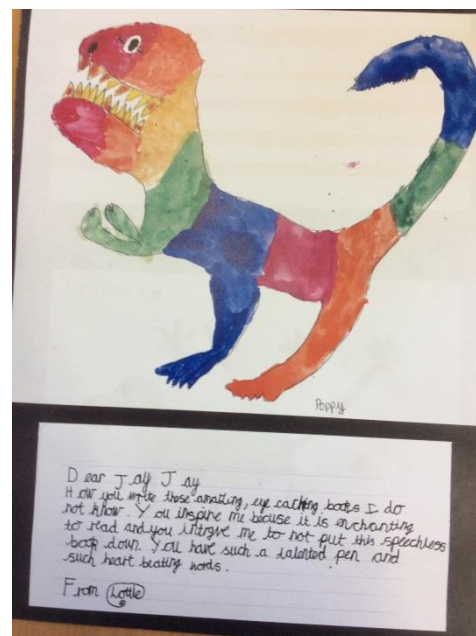
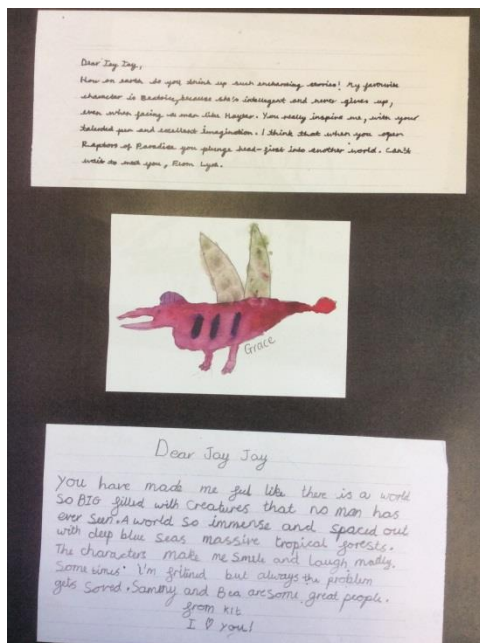
As a school that embraces Growth Mindset we were delighted to hear of Jay Jay's advice on perseverance and resilience. He spoke about working as a team and developing your goals around your own passions and interests. He also took the time to speak to each and every child who had their book signed afterwards which was a brilliant bonus as I know the children had even more questions for Jay Jay.



Throughout the read of the first book, Years 3 and 4 have been basing their creative writing on *The Raptors of Paradise* and have created amazing artwork to accompany their imaginative take on this book. Year 5 are now reading the book while Years 3 and 4 await the release of the next book; 'Stegosorcerer' which is out in February.



As a thank you, the children wrote to Jay Jay explaining how the book had inspired them and what they thought of the characters and settings. The letters were accompanied by amazing artwork and we made them into a book which I know was very well received by Jay Jay and the Supersaurs team.



We love hearing from authors as it gives everyone a real life example of the importance of creativity through reading and writing. At Burford, we say the key to life is reading; and I think this visit showed them that it is the key to life and imagination beyond their wildest dreams!