

MAYESPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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21st November 2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

On **Wednesday 23rd November** the children will be having a visit from a local author, Natalie Newman.

She co-wrote a children's book called **Lark the Shark** with her 7-year-old son Henry.

Natalie has provided us with some information about herself.

Hello I'm Natalie Newman. I have just had my first book published that I co-wrote with my then 7-year-old son, Henry. Named Lark the Shark, it is aimed at children 2-8 years old. Literature has been my passion as a child and adult too and my son also shares this love.

I have always been a shark admirer and was discussing with my son about how sharks get such a bad reputation. All they are doing is being at home in their ocean.

We were also discussing pollution in the environment which was Henry's homework topic for that week. I was shocked to learn that Henry was not being taught about water pollution. We googled it and Henry was shocked.

He said, "Mummy what can we do to help?" and that's when we thought of a friendly shark that would help clean up the Sea. From these discussions Lark was born and his journey began.

Working with Henry was fun and exciting. We bounced ideas off each other and it was a lovely bonding experience.

Our book has now been featured in:

- Marine Conservation Society Education Hub.
- Daily Mail newspaper recommended Most Fun Summer Reads for Kids feature.
- Featured on Vanessa Feltz BBC breakfast radio show.
- Featured on London Live News.
- Featured in The Shark Trust Magazine as recommended children's book.
- Featured in Sharks4Kids magazine in Florida as recommended book about sharks.

Here is some information about my book:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Lark-Shark-Natalie-Newman/dp/1528991060>

Also available at Austin Macauley, Waterstones, Gardner's and WHSmiths.

Book Trailer

https://youtu.be/8aI_WFVt2RM

Natalie will be available in the playground after school where the children will have the opportunity to buy her book for £10.

It will be a lovely opportunity for the children to be inspired by a local author and to hear how she took a topic that she was passionate about and made it into a story for others to enjoy and learn from.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Amey

English Leader

