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24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Author Visit on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2:30pm – Claire Hatcher-Smith**



Claire Hatcher-Smith will be visiting the school to give an assembly to Years 3-6 and talk about her debut children's novel from 'The Mizzy Mysteries' series. Claire, originally from Putney, now lives in Vancouver, Canada.

*Twelve-year-old Mizzy dreams of being a detective and she won't let anything stand in her way — not her reputation for tall tales, or her embarrassing fear of escalators, and definitely not her Down syndrome. Dumped for the summer with cousins who've outgrown her, Mizzy feels even more sidelined than usual. But when she discovers Great Aunt Jane's diaries in a locked wardrobe in their spare room, and realises her aunt didn't die in her sleep but under suspicious circumstances, everything changes. What's more ... someone in the family appears to have been involved.*

*Under the guise of a family-tree project for school, and armed with a brand new set of Pipsqueak markers, Mizzy grabs the chance to prove herself to her cousins — and the world.*

During the assembly, Claire will:

- support the children to guess key information about her, using photo clues from her life.
- introduce Mizzy and the book and, during a brief reading, encourage children to listen for clues to Mizzy's personality.
- After the reading, collate the clues identified by the children to create a description of Mizzy, including her detective superpower EMPATHY.
- Following a brief discussion of what empathy is (and isn't), as well as why empathy skills are important: as detectives, as readers/writers and as human beings, lead the students in a FEELINGS DETECTIVE game: a fun, highly interactive and thought-provoking improv-drama activity which promotes affective and cognitive empathy, using our best/worst acting skills and a giant pink magnifying glass.
- The game is followed by a group quiz: WHAT SORT OF DETECTIVE ARE YOU?
- The event wraps up with a Q&A.

We do encourage you to purchase a copy of the book in advance of Claire's visit as the children to enjoy asking authors to sign their copies. If you wish to purchase the book, please do so online by **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** and your child will receive their book during the assembly. <https://sevenoaksbookshop.co.uk/clairehs-schools/> Please do use this link rather than purchasing from another retailer as the school has to purchase a certain number in order to support the author's visit.

Visits such as these help pupils to understand the purpose of writing and reading for pleasure and are proven to improve the quality of pupils' work. I am sure the children will enjoy this special event.

Mrs Gillian Lovatt-Young  
Headteacher

