

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September our Patron of Reading, local author Kevin Brooke, visited school to speak to two year 7 classes in the library.

He told us a little about himself and his reading and writing. We learnt, surprisingly, that Kevin did not read a whole book independently until the age of twenty-five. He picked the ideal location as he was on a sun-soaked beach at the time. He hasn't looked back and he thoroughly recommends the reading experience. Clearly it is never too late to start. The second book he read was "Rubbish," so he decided to write a book himself.

Kevin called his book 'Jimmy Cricket' because it is about a boy called Jimmy who wants to play – can you guess? – cricket. It isn't just all about cricket, however, as we heard from some of the extracts that were read to us. It also looks at life and some of the problems and challenges that people can face. Jimmy is an orphan, who is just starting a new school. At his first cricket practice he meets a boy called Stumpy who has a problem that is revealed in spectacular fashion.

Kevin's writing certainly seemed to knock some of our students for six with the enthusiasm and engagement they showed during his presentation. A selection of comments from the students illustrates their reactions. 'Kevin Brooke is an inspiring author... I think I could start writing books too.' 'It taught us never to give up.' 'I wish the book was in the library.'

To learn a little more about Kevin, his writing and his role as Patron of Reading visit his website at [www.kevinbrooke.com](http://www.kevinbrooke.com).

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