



May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Author Visit – Jennifer Killick on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

We are excited to be welcoming author Alex Atkinson into school on Tuesday 2nd June!

Jennifer Killick is the author of the award winning Dread Wood series, the Crater Lake series, and the Alex Sparrow series. Jennifer regularly visits schools and festivals, and loves taking inspiration from the young people she meets on her travels, and the weird and wonderful situations she find herself in. Her favourite stories to write are horror-comedies, often with a science-fiction twist, and she is heavily influenced by anime and manga, and creepy TV shows like Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Stranger Things. When Jennifer isn't writing, she loves spending time with her family and dogs, and preparing herself for the zombie apocalypse.

Jennifer will also be doing a book signing during the school day, your child is welcome to bring their own copy. We have organised with Devizes Books to order the books from them and have them delivered in time for the book signing. This way we can support a local author and an independent bookshop at the same time. The following titles are available and in stock:

Title	Overview	Book Cover	Cost
<b>Serial Chillers: The Witch in the Woods</b>	To Travis and his classmates, Hazard is home. But when they're set a school project to investigate the history of the town, they soon realise that something strange and alien lies beneath Hazard. What can they learn from their investigations into the mysterious witch in the woods? And – if the witch really <i>does</i> exist – will they make it home to tell the tale ...?		£7.99
<b>Serial Chillers: Monster in the Mines</b>	Travis, Zayd, Danielle and Selene have been drawn together to investigate the strange goings-on in their home town. Sinkholes, disappearances and weird creatures are spotted lurking in the darkness. This time, their investigations lead them to the mysterious mines that run underneath Hazard. But a creature is lurking down there in the darkness. And it's hungry for flesh ...		£7.99

Please log into ParentPay and midday on Friday 22nd May. If you have any payment concerns, please speak to the school office on the number/email above.

With Warmth

**Hilary MacMeekin**

Headteacher

# THE REBEL READING SOCIETY

## Author Spotlight



### Jennifer Killick

#### When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I loved writing stories all through school, but I thought authors were super fancy, glamorous, smart people so being one wasn't a job option for me. It was only when I was in my late twenties that I found the courage to start trying to get something published.



#### Did you read lots as a child - if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

My mum has always been a big reader, and as a child she used to take me to my local library every weekend. I'd read in there all morning, and then take books home to read in bed.

#### What was your favourite book as a child and why?

My favourite book as a child was *Morris's Disappearing Bag* by Rosemary Wells because it is an excellent story about getting a win over your brothers and sisters.



#### How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

Seeing my books in shops is always, even after nine years, a lovely, magical thing. It makes me happy and proud.

#### What is the best part about being an author?

The best part of being an author is when I find out that my stories have made a difference to someone and made their life better, even if it's only in a small way.

#### What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

The hardest part about being an author is the constant feeling of not doing it well enough - reading scathing reviews, missing out on awards and opportunities that you really wanted, not selling enough books...



## Why do you think it is important for children to read?

Reading is important for many reasons, but for me the most important one is that it will make your life more fun and less lonely, and it will help you find courage and comfort in tough times.



## What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

My inspiration generally comes from every-day things: a train journey, a weird crack in a wall, people I meet, wildlife documentaries and old movies.



## Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

Most of my feedback comes from my editor, who is brilliant at her job. Sometimes some of it stings a little at first, but I let that feeling settle and then I think about how I can take it on board and improve my work. She's usually right!



+ MANY more!

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## Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

My favourite place to read is at home in my bed - warm, safe and snuggly. My second favourite place to read is in my hotel room bed at Disneyland Paris. My husband, son and I go every year during the Christmas season, and I love having a busy day out in the parks, going on rides and meeting characters, eating a big dinner and then snuggling up in our hotel room next to the Christmas tree.