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A Snail Called Sylvan

Dear families,

Mrs Ward is a governor at South Kirkby Academy and she also happens to be an author! We have been extremely lucky to have her visit our school for the morning to share her new story 'A Snail Called Sylvan'.

The story follows a snail who has moved to a new place, with messages about celebrating our differences and being kind in everything we do. There is also basic French throughout the story with guidance and translations at the back of the book, lots of facts about snails and tourist information about London and Paris. The children really enjoyed their sessions with Mrs Ward and had lots of questions about the book.

If you would like to purchase a copy of 'A Snail Called Sylvan', the book will be available through the school office for £8 from Wednesday onwards. All funds raised through the sale of Mrs Ward's books go straight to the Rotary Club charity in Wakefield to support people with dementia by purchasing 'robotic' cats to comfort and calm those who need it. The children were able to look at and pet one of the cats today which was fascinating as it was very realistic! Here is some more information about the charity and how the cats are used:

Nearly one million people in the UK have a form of dementia, which is a progressive illness that mainly affects people over 65. There is currently no cure and the problems are progressive, affecting the everyday lives of individuals, their families and carers. Diagnosis is usually made following memory loss, impaired judgement or problems doing daily tasks. It can also result in behavioural and psychological difficulties such as depression, anxiety and agitation.

Holding a family pet can be comforting and have a calming effect, so an American company began producing 'Joy for All' companion pets for people with dementia. It is widely recognised that these lifelike, battery-operated 'robotic' cats have a remarkable positive effect for sufferers.

Several years ago, the Rotary Club of Wakefield started to raise funds to purchase the cats and donate them to those in need. Funds are raised to purchase the cats mainly from donations as well as community grants.

If you would like your child to enjoy the story of 'A Snail Called Sylvan' at home while raising funds for a worthwhile cause, please put the cash in a named envelope and bring it to the school office. On this occasion, we will not be using the MCAS app as school will be giving the cash directly to Mrs Ward who will then donate it to the charity.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Adam Potter
Head of School

