



Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Whole School: Visiting Author – David Owen

On Monday 5th October, bestselling children's author David Owen, creator of the popular *Alex Neptune* series, will join the children during assembly for a fun, interactive event based around his brand-new book, *Graveyard Gladiators*.

Graveyard Gladiators is a fast-paced, high-stakes adventure about heroes beating impossible odds. Perfect for fans of *Escape Room* and *Goosebumps*, the story follows Jude, whose dad has become the star prize in the terrifying Graveyard Games. With the help of new friend Posie and zombie trainer Mickey, Jude must race monsters, conquer impossible challenges and battle the undefeated champion in order to become the ultimate Graveyard Gladiator.

During his event, David will introduce the children to the exciting world of *Graveyard Gladiators* and challenge them to discover whether they have what it takes to become a Graveyard Gladiator themselves. He will explore famous gladiators from history, the stories and legends that made them immortal, before working with the children to create the most fearsome Graveyard Gladiator the competition has ever seen. There will also be time for a Q&A session, giving the children the opportunity to ask David about his books, his writing process and where his ideas come from.

David is an experienced visiting author who has appeared at schools and festivals across the UK. Before becoming a full-time author, he worked as a games journalist and taught on a Creative Writing degree course. His *Alex Neptune* series has proved hugely popular with young readers, and *Alex Neptune: Dragon Thief* was selected as a Waterstones Book of the Month.

After his talk with the children, there will be an opportunity for them to buy a book and have it signed by David. A signed book can be a permanent reminder of a special experience and can reinforce the message about the importance of reading.

If your child would like to purchase a copy of *Graveyard Gladiators*, please send them in with in £8 in cash in a named envelope.

We are sure you will agree this is an exciting opportunity not to be missed, and the children can look forward to a very exciting morning.

Kind regards,

Miss Connor and Mrs. O'Brien
English Leads, Crosshall Junior School