

# PETER J MURRAY



## Patron of Reading

St Bartholomew's School  
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Dear Staff and Pupils

How are your Christmas preparations coming along? I've not really had time to think about Christmas just yet as I've been so busy visiting other schools as far north as Northumberland. I'm so pleased that my Isle of Wight-based book proved just as popular in and around Hexham and Whitley Bay as with schools on the Isle of Wight. Thankfully, it seems that spooky stories are of interest to most pupils wherever they are located!

My wife, Kath, and I really enjoyed presenting our World War 1-themed book, Poppy Warrior, to the Year 9's recently. It was fab to be back in St Barts again, and seeing what a thriving and busy place it is. I'm already looking forward to being back during World Book Week to enthuse and entertain the Year 7's.

In the meantime, here's a little puzzle for you to think about:

In one of my Darker Side of Wight spooky stories, a teacher called, **Dr A Lucard**, is an important character in this vampire-themed story. What is 'special' about the teacher's name? Answers on a postcard and please send directly to:

The Count  
Castle Gothica  
Black Forest  
Transylvania

Have a great end to the term. Have an even greater Christmas, and see you again in 2024.

Very best wishes

Pete

