

DAN FREEDMAN

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Hi everyone,

This is your favourite author (well, you can't blame me for trying!) checking in to see how you're all doing.

Well? How are you doing? Did you get a sack-load of cracking Christmas presents? Did you read any brilliant books over the holidays? Are you delighted to be back at school?! Ok, maybe I'm starting to push my luck a bit!

All is well this end. I spent a lot of time working on the Jamie Johnson TV drama in 2015. Having spent ages talking about getting the show on TV, suddenly, when we knew it was actually going to happen, we had to click into gear. We needed to find the cast (kids who could act brilliantly and play football to professional level are not easy to come by!) We had to write the scripts and film it - all in a short few months.

I'm pleased to say it's looking great so I hope you will all be tuning in to watch it. It'll be hitting CBBC and the IPlayer later in the year so you'll have to tune in and let me know what you think. It's the first kids' football drama on the BBC for thirty years so we want to make it as good as it can possibly be.

I'm also keeping ideas for new stories tumbling around my mind. That's the fun bit; thinking about characters and ideas. Creating something that's never existed before means that absolutely anything is possible.

I get so many of my ideas simply from visiting schools and talking to people. The whole inspiration behind Skills From Brazil was watching a Teachers v Pupils football match at a school in London so, if you have ideas for stories and subjects that you'd like me to write about by all means get in touch and let me know.

What kind of book would you most want to read? What kind of story will excite you and interest you enough for you to get lost in it? These are the stories I need to write.

Let me know what you want. You can contact me through my website or Twitter ([@danfreedman99](https://twitter.com/danfreedman99))

You are the bosses. A good book is only a good book if you guys want to read it. Otherwise, what's the point? I'd just be talking to myself.

In the meantime, I hope you continue to enjoy the books I've written so far. The Jamie Johnson stories are about shooting for your dreams and going for your goals, despite all the obstacles that are in your way. They are about being ordinary and special at the same time. I believe we are all ordinary and special and I thank you guys for making the JJ books a part of your life. Every time I see someone reading one of the books, I feel like the proudest man in the world.

You're at a great school and it's fantastic to see how many of you are getting into your reading. It's so important in our lives and, if you pick up the reading habit now, your life will be all the richer and more enjoyable for it.

It's why I love being an author and talking to you about books and stories. That's something that unites all of us. We all love a good story - whether it's a book, a film, a TV show, or just something funny that happened to you that you can't wait to tell your best mate about.

So, the story of 2015 has been written and the tale of 2016 is just beginning.

I hope it's a great year for you and you achieve all of your goals.

I have a feeling it's going to be a pretty exciting year. A Jamie Johnson TV show...the Euros in the summer...and the Olympics to come too.

So strap yourselves in, get yourselves ready. It's time to turn the first page of 2016.

A handwritten signature of Dan Freedman in black ink.

Author

