

# 2014

## **“Some of the crowd are on the pitch”** World Cup display ideas using Tom Palmer’s books



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## “Some of the crowd are on the pitch”

Ok, cast your mind back four or five years ago. I was lucky enough to have seen Tom Palmer at a library conference run by Portsmouth Library Service in November. His interactive talk inspired me to hatch a plan to have our very own goal in the library to celebrate the World Cup 2010.

I collected books from the library and from home to add to the goal that I “acquired” from the PE shed. Just the fact that a goal was up, started up conversations with the football mad pupils. You know the ones who wouldn’t normally be seen in the library, let alone actually talking the librarian! Books were being picked up and casually looked through, and even borrowed. This was brilliant and, coupled with the resources available from Tom via his website, the interest in actually reading, slowing and steadily increased.



Our pupils were invited to draw self portraits and become a part of the crowd. The flags of all countries taking part were also created, a great Geography lesson in its own right.



We are lucky enough to be situated in between Portsmouth and Southampton, so, football is a big thing in our area!!

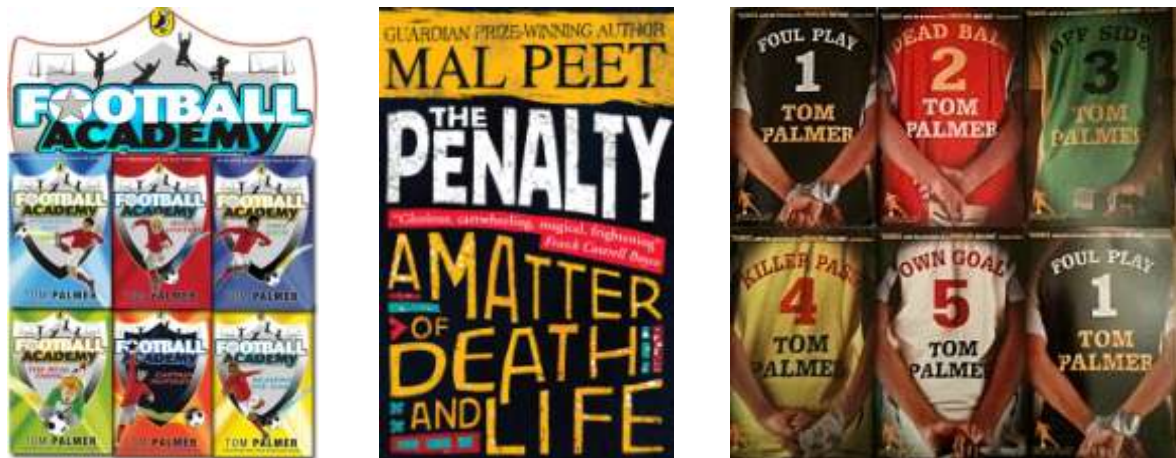


When I learnt that Tom and Helena Pielachty were to be talking at Fratton Park, I booked a coach and invited pupils (and excited staff) from years 4 and 5 to come along. It was on a very hot day in June that we pulled up at Fratton Park and, the children were instantly in the zone, inspired and all wanting books signed by the authors.



The daily story that Tom produced online during the World Cup was a fantastic resource. The take up from our Teachers was pretty good, we have 21 classes and over half of them read out the story each morning. This in turn, increased the borrowing and, the actual reading that went on during the summer. A Football Academy Book became a must have item, along with a Panini Sticker Book of the World Cup of course!

Many of the readers read the Academy Series and the Football Detective Series and, then we moved onto Mal Peet at the recommendation of Tom.



Having the goal in the library from the beginning of June was what created the interest. This together with the resources available and the “fever pitch” enabled us to reach to those reluctant readers. I added to the display throughout the term, with things like footballs; football boots; results etc. The fact that it was so imposing in the library was great, there was an immediate discussion point and that enables you to chat with the children and try to capture their interest and match it to the right book that will hopefully be the one that switches them onto reading.

Four years on and I am looking forward to repeating the whole thing. Tom is visiting our school in March; this coincides with when the actual World Cup Trophy is on its tour and happens to be in the UK.

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