



## Kid Normal's Chris and Greg answer your questions!

Many thanks to everyone who submitted questions to us for our 'Ask Chris and James' competition. We had a tough time choosing just 5 questions to ask! The 5 winners below will all receive a signed copy of Kid Normal and some Kid Normal goodies!

**1. If you had to be half man and half animal, which animal would you choose and why? James Grocott**

Greg: I would be a bat so that I could terrify people into thinking I'm going to fly into their heads when all the while, I am totally in control. I would enjoy watching them panic. I would also perform aerobatic displays with my fellow bats like you see during an air show. I'll leave it up to you to work out how I'd do the smoke trails.

Chris: I would like to have the head of an owl, please, so I can turn my head all the way around and freak people out on the bus.

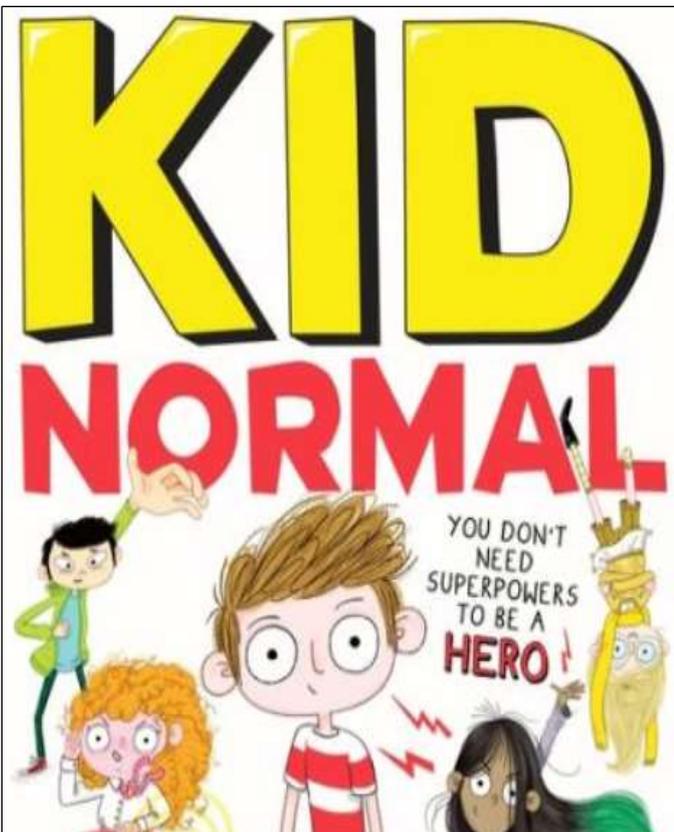
**2. If you could hear something you'd never heard before what would it be? Alison Tarrant**

Greg: My dad was in a band when he was younger, but he's destroyed all the recordings of it.

Chris: The opening theme to Kid Normal: The Series as it premieres on TV!



Pictured: Kid Normal authors Chris Smith and Greg James



Pictured: Kid Normal book cover

**3. If there is a particular day/phase of your childhood that you would repeat (Groundhog Day) what would it be? Alistair Williams**

Chris: I'd like to go back and visit my grandad's engineering workshop again. It was the inspiration for Carl's shed in the books - it was packed with machines and gadgets - even a steam roller or two!

Greg: I would very much like to have a 6-week summer holiday every year.

**4. Which superpower do you wish every schoolteacher had? Mr Brassington**

Greg: The power to teach us everything we needed to know but in half the time. School would ideally run from 10am till midday.

Chris: The power to zap things like fronted adverbial clauses that give people the impression that writing stories is hard and not fun.

**5. Is the character of Kid Normal based on either of you two when you were younger? Nicola Bieda and Cedar Class**

Chris: Yes, definitely! We've never forgotten what it's like to be eleven - that's an important skill all grown-ups should try and develop.



## Birthday cake for an elephant



*Pictured: Kate the Elephant taken from the Blackpool Zoo Twitter page.*

Kate, the Asian elephant, celebrated turning 50 years old on Tuesday 2nd July and Blackpool Zoo, where she has lived since it opened in 1972, wanted to ensure the occasion was extra special with a tasty treat. They appealed for a talented baker to create a special cake to donate to the zoo, which was given to Kate as part of Elefest. Elefest is an event held at the zoo in aid of the Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust and the EAZA Silent Forest Campaign. As elephants aren't able to eat a Victoria sponge or a chocolate cake, the special birthday cake was made of bran mixed with mashed potato, filled with vegetables, and sticks of carrot were used to support the layers. The cake was eaten in minutes, but Kate wasn't keen on the asparagus candles!

## Volcano eruption photographed from space!

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station photographed a spectacular plume of ash rising from the Raikoke volcano. The volcano that had lied dormant for 95 years was captured erupting from 254 miles above in space. Raikoke is an uninhabited island along the Kuril chain in the North Pacific Ocean. It measures less than two square miles. During a volcanic eruption, a mushroom cloud blossoms over the volcano, where ash is catapulted into the sky with explosive force. In this case the plume may have rocketed up more than 10 miles!

Volcanic ash clouds are highly electrified, with hundreds of lightning bolts leaping from the supercharged ash above, this is known as a "dirty thunderstorm." NASA says that monitoring volcanic eruptions helps us all to understand how they affect aviation and the climate.



*Pictured: The volcano erupting taken from NASA's Twitter page.*

/ think...



**YOUR COMMENTS**

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