



December 2024



Coopersale Hall School

Newsletter

Head's Message



Watching pupils gear up for Christmas always makes me feel nostalgic for my own childhood, remembering making calendars covered in glitter, sticking cotton wool and red crepe paper onto card to make Father Christmas' boots, and practicing my lines for the carol 'We Three Kings'.

It is a privilege to work in a school and to see the excitement growing in the children. This month, the celebrations reached a fever pitch with multiple nativities, our carol service at St Johns, singing at the Tree Festival, our pupils winning the Epping Christmas Card competition, and, of course, our visit from Father Christmas and his reindeer, organised by FOCHS.

In assembly, pupils reflected upon the different Christmas traditions from around the world and remembered the Christmas Truce in 1914, where soldiers forgot their differences for a day, and chose to focus what united them.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

With best wishes



Mr. Paul Wilson

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Upper Kindergarten Letters to Father Christmas

The children in all the Upper Kindergarten classes have been busy looking through toy catalogues, deciding what toys they would like Father Christmas to bring them as they have all been so good. They cut out the pictures and made special letters. We walked down the lane to the letter box to post the letters to Reindeer Land. They are all eagerly waiting for letters to come back to their home addresses with news from Father Christmas.



UKC Hoop Activity

Working in pairs, Upper Kindergarten Cambridge tried to move the hoop across the room without using their hands and keeping the hoop balanced.

The children had great fun and repeated this activity several times, growing in confidence and moving it further along the carpet. UKC also helped decorate their classroom with decorations to get in the Christmas spirit!



Reception Christmas Nativity

This year, the Reception Nativity at Coopersale Hall School was titled *“The Twinkly Nativity.”*

The pupils delivered a truly magical performance, showcasing their hard work and talent. They spoke their lines confidently, sang beautifully, and remembered all their actions, bringing the story of the birth of Christ to life in a heart-warming way.

Miss Gowland and her team were immensely proud of the pupils for their delightful singing, dedication, and effort in creating such a lovely nativity production.



Key Stage 1 Presentations & School Council Elections

The Key Stage 1 children, elected by their classmates to represent them on the School Council, had the opportunity to present their chosen charities during a Key Stage Assembly hosted by Mrs. Stanley. Each pupil introduced their selected charity, explained its purpose, and encouraged the audience to reflect and vote for their preferred choice.

After the presentations, the pupils reflected on what they had learned and voted for the charity they felt most passionate about supporting. The winning charity was **Little Life Savers**.

However, recognising the importance of all the nominated charities, pupils suggested organising an event later in the year to raise funds that could be equally distributed among the other charities. Mrs. Stanley praised the School Council members for their confident and heartfelt presentations, as well as the thoughtful engagement of the pupils in considering the value of each cause.



Honing Our Hockey Skills

Our pupils have been actively developing the skills they need to excel in hockey.

Years 1 and 2 are currently using plastic sticks as they learn the basics, including proper stick handling and correct body positioning. Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 (KS2) pupils have progressed to using wooden sticks.

Pupils are being taught to achieve accuracy and power when hitting and stopping the puck. Mr. Barham has placed particular focus on mastering the long, low lunge and the sweeping technique, ensuring that everyone learns these essential foundations correctly.



Year 1 Tally-up Houses in Epping

Year 1 has been learning about different types of homes as part of their topic work. On Monday 11 November, equipped with clipboards and pencils, the children set out down the lane and along Bridge Road to identify various types of houses.

Mrs. Stanley and Mrs. Vora were delighted by how engaged the children were in their topic work, how sensibly they walked along the streets.

Well done Year 1, it was a wonderful trip and the sun was shining!



Movie Night

On Monday 18 November, pupils from Years 5 to 8 enjoyed a Movie Night organised by the FOCHS team. The school hall was transformed into a cinema-style venue for the screening of *The Addams Family II*. Upon arrival, pupils walked the red carpet and collected their pre-movie treats from the kiosk table. They then settled comfortably on bean bags, ready to enjoy the film together.

The atmosphere in the hall was fantastic, with everyone eagerly anticipating the movie. A big thank you to the FOCHS team for thoughtfully transforming the hall and organising such a memorable event, which was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all in attendance.



Christmas Post Boxes Year 6

Year 6 were challenged to make decorative post boxes for their prefect classes.

I made my post box by wrapping it with some festive paper and gluing pine cones and leaves to give it a wintry touch. Our classes were proud of our efforts and are looking forward to posting their cards soon. Ayla 6B

I decided to make Santa's Grotto. After making the template and windows, I added some candy canes and other Christmas ornaments. I am very happy with the end result. Felix 6B.



Oak-Tree Maths Challenge

On Wednesday, 20 November. Mrs. Zylstra took her enthusiastic mathematicians to participate in the Math's Challenge at Braeside. The pupils were in high spirits and excited about the event.

The Maths Challenge is a fantastic in-house competition held annually, providing a fantastic opportunity for pupils to highlight their mathematical skills and enjoy a day of friendly competition.

Mrs. Zylstra was very proud of everyone from Coopersale Hall School who participated in the Maths Challenge and was delighted that our team achieved the winning score.

A big well done to all our pupils for their hard work, focus, and determination throughout the competition.

Participants:

- Year 6: Xander, Iman, Felix
- Year 5: Carter, Reeve, Edward
- Year 4: William, Oliver, Ben
- Year 3: George, Jenson, Suzie



Battlefields Trip

Our senior pupils travelled to Ypres in Belgium last week for their annual Battlefields Trip. Accompanied by Normanhurst School, everyone travelled by coach and ferry through France to the Salient area of Belgium to learn about the individual stories of soldiers and their families.

The trip's first stop was the Canadian National Vimy Memorial – a memorial site in France dedicated to the memory of the Canadian Expeditionary Force members killed in WW1. It also serves as a place to commemorate Canadian soldiers killed in France with no known grave. Whilst here, the children got to experience walking through a set of preserved front line trenches.

The second day of the trip was spent at the Somme, with pupils visiting the High Wood memorial. They then travelled to the Lochnagar Crater, which is still in existence today. This highlighted the impact of mine warfare in the Great War.

Pupils witnessed a special commemoration ceremony at the Commonwealth graves in Ypres. Our schools took wreaths of poppies which were laid at certain memorials and graves to pay our respects to the fallen.

Our coach passed through Passchendaele to visit the museum to experience life in the communication trenches in WW1. After the museum stop, they went to Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery to learn about the different allies and nations that fought in the war. Some pupils were able to identify their family surname on the memorial there.

It was an amazing trip – pupils learned about France and Belgium, about the war and about all the individuals who risked their life for their country.



Years 7 & 8 Meet the Reindeers



Pupils from Years 7 & 8 were excited to meet Blitzen and Steve the reindeers. They enjoyed learning fascinating facts about these amazing animals. Mrs Robinson-Smith was particularly impressed by the thoughtful questions the pupils asked and by how attentively they listened.

A big thank you to FOCHS for organising such a delightful event.

Published Authors

Last year, while the rest of the class were preparing for Magpie Manor, we stayed behind in school with Mrs R-S. We had the opportunity to enter the Young Writers Ancient Adventures competition. We had to write a 100 word short story based on our favourite period of history. Our work has been published, and this week our books finally arrived.

Henry - The Peasant's Revolt

Sofia - Salem Witch Trials

Ava - The Worst Day of My Life - A young mother mourns the death of her child who has been taken by the Black Death

Obialo - Bosworth Field

Reggie - Going Over - WW1 soldier in the trenches in preparing to face the enemy.



Anti-Bullying Week

During Anti-Bullying Week, the children learnt about this year's theme which is 'Choose Respect'. School assemblies were delivered by Mrs Bull and Mrs Stanley to highlight the meaning of bullying, which staff children can speak to if they have any concerns and what respectful and kind behaviour looks like. This forms part of this half term's focus in PSHE which is all about celebrating differences with kindness, compassion and respect.



House Science Challenge

Mrs. Carter was thrilled with the number of children who took the time to participate in World Science Day by submitting entries for the Science House Challenge. She was delighted to announce the scores for each house and reveal the winner during our Friday assembly. Results of the House Competition:

- **Willow:** 12 entries – 4th place
- **Chestnut:** 15 entries – 3rd place
- **Beech:** 16 entries – 2nd place
- **Oak:** 25 entries – 1st place and winners of the House Science Challenge.

The display was impressive, showcasing the pupils' hard work and creativity. It was wonderful to see their efforts proudly exhibited for everyone to admire and discuss.



Christmas Carol Service



A Big Thank You

Many thanks to the residents of Ashlar House, a local care home who very kindly contributed £21 to our collection for Save The Children Fund. This was very much appreciated.

FOCHS Treat Day

A selection of photos from the wonderful day that FOCHS arranged for the children. Meeting Santa was a magical experience and the children were delighted to tell him how much they were looking forward to his visit on Christmas Eve.



Hopefully all the children are in full festive spirit and enjoying the Christmas activities that have been taking place!

Movie night

Thank you to those of you that came to the movie night. It was a great event and the children enjoyed the cosy beanbags and treats. We appreciate all the support you have given us throughout the last term.

Christmas Gift Shop and Father Christmas Visit

The children loved coming to our pop up shop 'Elfridges' and purchasing gifts for their friends and family. We hope you enjoy receiving the gifts they've chosen for you.

We had Father Christmas and his reindeers come and visit the children. They got to tell him what they would like for Christmas and he could check out who was being naughty or nice! Fingers crossed all the children make it on the nice list...we think they've been very good this year!

Panto

Our visit to the panto at Chelmsford was fantastic. We had some great feedback from the children and teachers. We also had some lovely comments from the theatre about the children's lovely behaviour and manners.

Christmas Sales and Raffles

We appreciate all those people who entered the various raffles on offer and purchased reindeer food and Christmas cups. All the money raised will be spent on the school over the next two terms. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please feel free to send them our way.

Curry Night

After all the fun activities for the children, we thought it was only fair to put something on for the adults. We hope those of you that went along to the curry night had a great night and let your hair down. We will be doing more events for the parents in the future.

FOCHS volunteers

A special thank you to the team for all their hard work over the last term, which is always the busiest of the year. Your hard work and dedication to the team doesn't go unnoticed so make sure you put your feet up over the Christmas break - you deserve it!

FOCHS News

Second-Hand Uniform

Purchasing second-hand uniform is one more way that we can all do our bit to help the environment and reduce waste, so we really appreciate your support.

If you prefer, our order form can be downloaded from the school website: <https://www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk/cooper-content/uploads/2022/02/CHS-Second-Hand-Uniform-Order-Form.pdf>

If you wish to place an order, please hand in your completed form to the school office and we will let you know if the items requested are available. Please do not email any order forms to us. Once your order is confirmed, payment should be made to us electronically using the details on the form.

Our price list can also be found on the school website: <https://www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk/cooper-content/uploads/2022/02/CHS-Second-Hand-Uniform-Price-List.pdf>

We also very much appreciate any donations of good quality, school-branded uniform. Please leave it with the school office and one of our volunteers will collect it.

If you have any queries, please do speak to your class rep when these have been assigned.

Easyfundraising

Sign up to easyfundraising and you can donate to FoCHS every time you shop online, at no extra charge. Hundreds of retailers make donations and it is simple to sign up:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fochs>

Get in touch

If you are interested in getting involved this year, have some ideas or if you simply have a question, we would very much like to hear from you.

You can drop a note in the FoCHS letterbox near the school office or speak to any members of the committee:

Rachel Concadoro (Co- chairman & Treasurer)

Louisa Richards (Co-chairman)

Stacey Cummins (Secretary)

Kathryn Kumar

Susan Tetherton

Pauline Monksfield

Jessica Hayes

Natalie Gould

Rebecca Murphy

Cheryl James

Each year group has at least one FoCHS rep and the easiest way to get in touch is to message your year rep on WhatsApp

You can also check out our page on the school website:

<https://www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk/parents-pupils/parents-association/>



Tap and give us a follow on our social media accounts