



January 2025



Coopersale Hall School

Newsletter

Head's Message



As we enter the last month of winter, pupils at Coopersale Hall have been thinking about new beginnings. In assembly, we shared Hans Christian Anderson's tale of The Snow drop, a flower determined to grow, despite of adversity. It was a good opportunity for the children to reflect upon the importance of resilience.

We have also been celebrating the Lunar New Year or 'Spring Festival', including the tradition of sweeping away the old and starting afresh, welcoming in good fortune.

Pupils made lanterns and red paper cut outs to welcome in the Year of The Snake. I certainly hope that our efforts bring prosperity and good luck to our resilient Year 6 pupils, who have been sitting 11+ examinations, both at Coopersale Hall and elsewhere and I wish our pupils and parents the best with their applications.

With best wishes



Mr. Paul Wilson

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UKF Enjoy the Frost

The cold weather hasn't stopped the children in UKF from exploring outside.

The children were keen to put on their wellington boots and discover the texture of the grass while the frost was still outside. They made patterns with their footprints and noticed that the grass was crunchy and white rather than soft and green.



Reception MS Enjoying Science

During their Science lesson this week, Reception investigated different chemical reactions. They used some test tubes, pipettes, water, vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and different tablets, observing what happened when they mixed these substances together. The class looked and listened for changes and reactions. It was a very exciting lesson!



Eco Wellies & Woodlands Club

The after-school club, Wellies and Woodlands, has been busy making bird feeders by coring apples and pushing pumpkin seeds into the skins. They used string to tie them to some of the trees in the quiet garden. At their next meeting they will check back to see if the birds and other wildlife have enjoyed them.



Handa's Surprise

Reception Billington have been learning about Handa's Surprise. Here they are tasting different tropical fruit such as pineapple and passion fruit. They also acted out Handa's walk in the school grounds, taking the parts of different animals and fruit.



Year 1 Learning about England and Hannukah

Year 1 have started drawing and painting flags for the different countries that make up the United Kingdom in their Computing lessons. They have been learning more facts about England such as the famous landmarks in London and traditions such as an afternoon tea. They learnt how to bake scones and enjoyed taste testing them with strawberry jam.

In their RE lessons the children have been learning about the Jewish festival of light. One of the Year 1 parents spoke to the children about Hannukah. She showed them a menorah, talked about the foods eaten and explained the meaning of the words on the dreidel. The children asked her some very interesting questions and how to play a game with the dreidel including winning gold coins in this game. After the talk, the children enjoyed decorating their own mini dreidels.



Year 2 Visit The Royal Gunpowder Mills

On Monday 20 January Year 2 had a wonderful trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills. The classes learnt all about gunpowder and also had time to build their very own rockets and were able to fire them too.

Parker in 2H became a record rocket builder, when his rocket went the furthest that anyone who worked at The Royal Gunpowder Mills could remember. Well done Parker!

Some facts:

- The Royal Gunpowder Mills is the same size as 110 Football Pitches.
- Gunpowder is made from saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal.
- The first recorded account of fireworks was in 1044 in the Far East.
- The Royal Gunpowder Mills also looks after a herd of fallow deer that enjoy the site.

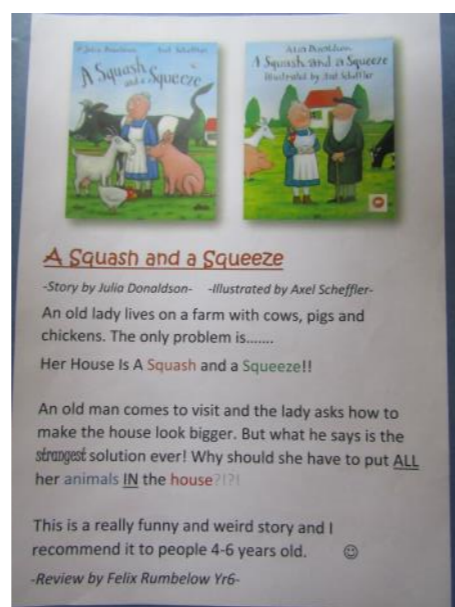
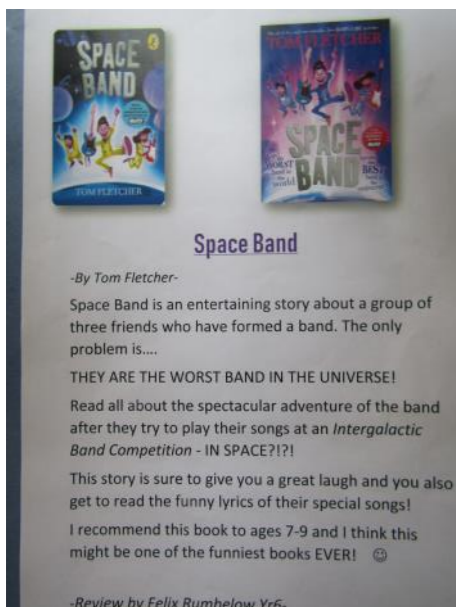


Coopersale Reading Ninja House Challenge

This term, KS1 and KS2 pupils have been invited by Felix (6B), our Library Prefect, to take part in the Coopersale Reading Ninja House Challenge!

Their mission is to read the books recommended by Felix and create an A4 poster featuring their favourite character from the selected stories. Each book includes quiz questions to answer, and we encourage everyone to share their thoughts - Did you love the book? Would you recommend it to others? Every participant will earn House points, and all posters will be proudly displayed on the library board for everyone to admire.

Feeling adventurous? - Julia Donaldson, Tom Fletcher, or Rick Riordan! Felix will also share his thoughts about the book you pick for him. The winning House will be announced at the start of next term, along with the most enjoyed book recommended by Felix, as voted by all the children.



Exploring Science in Year 5

Mrs. Carter has been highly impressed with the standard of homework submitted by Year 5 on the topics of Food Chains and Animal Life Cycles.

Pupils are currently conducting research on individual animals. Using their cross-curricular skills, they are creating PowerPoint presentations which explore their chosen animals in greater detail. The children will present their work to their classmates, sharing and appreciating the facts and details their peers have discovered.



Tag Rugby Drills

During PE, Mrs. Taylor ensured that Year 5 were well prepared to enjoy their lesson.

"We really enjoyed reviewing the rules of tag rugby. We learned that we needed to hold the ball with both hands. We also became confident in how to pass the ball, where to position ourselves on the pitch, and exactly how to pull off our opponents' tags without committing a foul!" **Arlo**

"The drills were great fun because we put everything we had revised into practice. This made the drills fast-paced, and everyone understood their roles." **Fred**

Well done, Year 5.



Years 7&8 Visit the British Library

We split into three groups and travelled on the London Underground to Kings Cross. We were greeted at the British Library by our tour guides. We entered the Medieval Women exhibition and used our worksheets to explore the private lives, public lives and spiritual lives of famous and not so famous women of the period. Key highlights included:

- The Book of the Queen by Christine de Pizan: The first professional woman author in Europe.
- The earliest known example of Joan of Arc's signature, never previously displayed outside of France.
- Julian of Norwich's The Revelations of Divine Love: the first work in English definitively authored by a woman.
- On Women's Cosmetics: a recipe book likely to have been composed in Southern Italy in the 12th century with recipes for hair dye remover, face creams and breath freshener.

When the tours finished, we explored the gift shop, making some interesting purchases. We all had so much fun and are very grateful to Miss Long for organising such an interesting trip.

By Amelia & Jack



Recommended Reading Lists

The following are two lists of book recommendations. One which has been curated by Ms. Long for English based on your child's year group and one that the Senior teachers have kindly created with their students in mind!

With World Book Day around the corner and The Annual CSH Reading Race under way, why not check some of these out?

Modern Fiction Year 7

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne
 Marcus Rashford - The Breakfast Club Adventures
 The Silver Sword - Ian Serraillier
 Boy - Roald Dahl
 Chinese Cinderella - Adeline Yen Mah
 Skullduggery Pleasant - Derek Landy
 Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson
 Welcome to Nowhere - Elizabeth Laird
 The House with the Chicken Legs - Sophie Anderson
 Rooftoppers - Katherine Rundell
 The Outsiders - S.E Hinton

Modern Fiction - Year 8

Rapunzella – Ella Macleod
 The Bone Sparrow – Zana Fraillon
 A Monster Calls - Patrick Ness
 Eight Pieces of Silva – Patrice Lawrence
 The Weight of Water - Sarah Crossan
 Nowhere Boy - Katherine Marsh
 The Girl of Ink and Stars - Kiran Millwood
 Saint Death - Marcus Sedgwick
 The Night Diary - Veera Hiranandani
 Small Steps - Louis Sachar
 Where the World Ends - Geraldine McCaughrean
 I am David - Anne Holm
 The Girl From the Sea - Molly Knox Ostertag

Non-Fiction - Year 7

Lionesses: European Champions (Ultimate Football Heroes) - Emily Stead
 I am Malala - Malala Yousafzai
 Marcus Rashford - You are a Champion
 The Extraordinary Life of Alan Turing - Michael Lee Richardson

Classic Fiction - Year 7

The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett
 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll
 The Railway Children - E Nesbitt
 Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson

Non-Fiction Year 8

Frank - The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank
 A Street Cat Named Bob—James Bowen
 Notes from a Small Island - Bill Bryson

Classic Fiction - Year 8

Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens
 The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemmingway
 The War of the Worlds - H.G. Wells
 The Jungle Book - Rudyard Kipling
 The Hobbit - J.R.R. Tolkien

Subject Teacher Book Recommendations

Mrs Robinson-Smith recommends to read for **History:**

- Big Ideas Simple Explained
- Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- The Time Traveller's guide to Medieval England by Ian Mortimer
- The Mayflower and the Pilgrims' New World by Nathaniel Philbrock
- BBC History Magazine
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Mrs Mulinder recommends to read for **Art:**

- Art A Children's Encyclopedia - 3 Aug 2017 - by DK
- The Art Book by Phaidon Editors
- 100: The Work that Changed British Art: Works that Changed British Art - The Saatchi Gallery
- Art Forms in Nature (Dover Pictorial Archive) by Ernst Haeckel
- Great Women Artists by Phaidon Press Limited

Mrs Robinson-Smith recommends to read for **Religious Studies:**

- Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder
- Life of Pi by Yann Martell
- The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
- The Philosophy Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained by Will Buckingham
- The Philosophy Files by Stephen Law

Mrs Robinson-Smith recommends to read for **Geography:**

- Africa is not a Country by Dipo Faloyin
- The Almighty Dollar by Darshini David
- Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall
- A life on our Plant by David Attenborough
- The World's most amazing places - National Geographic Kids
- Horrible Geography Series
- National Geographic Magazine

Subject Teacher Book Recommendations Continued.....

Mrs Zylstra recommends to read for **Maths:**

- How Many Mice Make an Elephant? by Tracey Turner and Aaron Cushley
- Murderous Maths 10 Books Collection Box Set - Poskitt Kjartan Horrible Series
- Maths with Bad Drawings by Ben Orlin
- How to Be a Math Genius: Your Brilliant Brain and How to Train it
- 365 Penguins
- Guinness World Records 2024
- Alex's Adventures in Numberland

Mrs Cooper recommends to read for **Science:**

- Unlocking the Universe by Stephen Hawking, & Lucy Hawking
- The Extraordinary Life of Neil Armstrong
- The Extraordinary Life of Katherine Johnson
- Roald Dahl: George's Marvellous Experiments by Roald Dahl
- Blue Planet II by Leisa Stsewart-Sharpe, Emily Dove (Illustrator)
- The Green Planet by Leisa Stewart-Sharpe, Kim Smith (Illustrator)
- On the Origin of Species by Sabina Radeva

Ms Long recommends to read for **English:**

- Little Women by Louisa M Alcott
- The Silver Swoard by Ian Serraillier
- Lionesses: Europa Champions (Ultimate Football Heroes) by Emily Stead

Mr Wilson recommends to read for **English:**

- Art of Fiction - David Lodge

Year 7 Castles

Year 7 have completed their 'Castles' project. For four weeks their home learning tasks have been based on exploring different types of castles during the medieval period, focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of each building style and how easy, or otherwise, it would be to attack them. The project culminated in pupils using left over Christmas boxes and household waste to recreate a castle design of their choosing. Pupils then presented their final pieces to Mr Wilson and provided a speech about what they had created. Mr Wilson and Mrs R-S were very impressed by the efforts that had gone into these creative pieces of work.



Speak Out - Stay Safe NSPCC Assembly

Coopersale Hall School is proud to participate in the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe programme, which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and teach them that they do not have to face their worries and struggles alone.

Each class took part in a virtual assembly led by NSPCC representatives. The sessions explored the steps children can take to share their concerns with a trusted adult, either within or outside of school. The virtual assemblies were intentionally paused at various points to encourage discussion, allowing children to reflect on and engage with the important messages being presented. Additionally, the assemblies provided guidance on contacting Childline and explained how Childline counsellors support children in alleviating their fears, worries, and concerns.

These virtual assemblies are an effective tool for reinforcing key safeguarding principles, empowering children to speak out and stay safe. At Coopersale Hall School, we are deeply committed to safeguarding the well-being of every child in our care, ensuring they feel safe, secure, and happy in their learning environment.



School Council & Eco-Council Meeting

It was wonderful to see the School Council and Eco-Council come together to discuss their objectives and goals for 2025. They were all enthusiastic about considering their classmates' opinions and voicing them in their respective meetings.

Luca, the Year 6 Head of the School Council, ensured that all points raised and discussed were recorded on the agenda. Rayane, the Head of the Eco-Council, helped chair the meeting and made sure everyone had the opportunity to share their thoughts.

Everyone is looking forward to seeing how their ideas will be put into action during the academic year.



Happy New Year from all at FOCHS! We hope you had a wonderful break and are refreshed and ready for what 2025 brings.

FOCHS Information - We are currently in the process of creating a FoCHS newsletter for you all so you can see what events we have done, how much money we've raised and where we plan on spending the money throughout the school.

FOCHS Volunteers - We are always on the look out for new members to join the team, whether that be the committee or our volunteers team who help on an ad hoc basis. If you're interested or want to know more then please reach out to your class rep for more information.

Senior FOCHS - We are evolving as a school and therefore as a parents association we also need to evolve. We have put on several events since September and tried to include the senior years. Some of the feedback from parents and children is that the events aren't quite targeted for their age group. Moving forward we feel the best way for senior years to benefit from any events and funds raised would be for them to have their own FOCHS team. We would be happy to meet and support anyone that would like to be involved.

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 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 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>

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.

Get in touch

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

Jenna Mitchell

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