



Christmas Reading Newsletter 2024



Welcome to the Coppice Academy Christmas Reading Newsletter. We have had another busy half term of reading activities, competitions and challenges. It has been brilliant to see how enthusiastically all the pupils are getting involved and showing their love of reading and books! In this issue we focus on all things festive and there is a very special book recommendations list for you to check out! Wishing you all a peaceful, fun and book filled Christmas holiday!

Looking at the latest data on reading at Coppice, we can clearly see that we are making steady progress and that is not only down to us in school, but to you, the parents and carers who share books and listen to your young readers and sign planners each evening to enable us to track and support your child's reading journey. The number of children reading at least three times a week are improving steadily and as always it is brilliant to see the faces of the weekly class reading champions when they receive their book prize from the book vending machine.



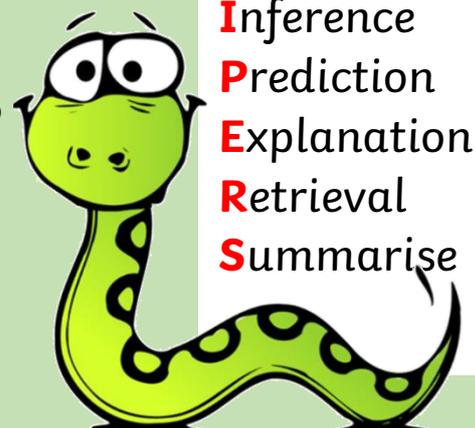
During December, there has been the added lure of a choice of a mystery Christmas book from Miss Wright's Festive Brussel Sprout bag instead of just the usual vending machine (although it is also still packed of some amazing books!)

Curriculum News

Since September we have been using a new way of teaching Shared Reading. VIPERS is an acronym to aid the recall of the 6 reading domains which make up the UK's reading curriculum.

The 6 domains focus on the comprehension aspects of reading. It helps to ensure that pupils are asked targeted questions across all of the 6 areas. They allow the teacher to track the type of questions asked and the children's responses to these which allows for identification of key areas of strength and areas for further development.

There has been a really positive response from both pupils and staff and we are hoping it will continue to help us be the best readers we can be.



Library Updates...

The fantastic updates to our Library have continued as our new "Welcome to the Library" sign has been installed, outside the door to showcase new and exciting reads that we have ready to be borrowed and enjoyed!



We are also looking to expand the ways in which our children can dive into a great story, through listening to audiobooks on loan through our Reading Cloud Library system – so we will keep you posted on this exciting new opportunity.

New displays will be going up in the Library in January. To highlight both fiction and non-fiction great reads.

Please do let us know if you have found a great book so that we can keep the library up to date and an exciting place to be.



Top 3 Reading Classes in Autumn 2 are:

1st Place – **5F**,

2nd Place – **5W** and

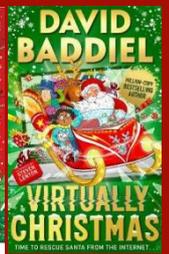
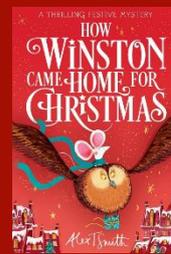
3rd Place – **6S**



Christmas Themed Class Readers



December has seen us try something new at Coppice – a Christmas Class Reading book. Everyone has been loving reading the year group book – so this is a new tradition that will definitely happen again next year!



LoveReading

BUY BOOKS. CHANGE LIVES

A reminder that as part of ensuring our school remains up to date with best of children's literature, we have a book club through Love Reading.

If you would like to buy books for your child and support us here at Coppice Academy, while doing so, we would greatly appreciate your contribution.

When you make your purchase on the site, please select Coppice Academy as your chosen school.

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

Little Wandle

Little Wandle is the scheme that we use to help our younger pupils to become confident and fluent readers possible. If your child takes part in daily phonics sessions it is especially important that you, as parents and your child's most important teacher, are encouraging them to read but also that they see you reading too!

We're teaching every child to read with



Book Nook Competition



Just before the Autumn half term break, you were challenged to design and build your own Book Nook. It could be based on any theme and feature a range of different materials. We wanted to be amazed!



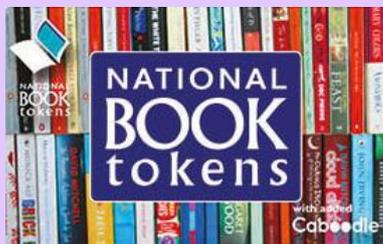
Wow! Copping you didn't disappoint the book nooks (that are now on display in the Library) are incredible! So much careful thought, time and detail went into making them and both Mrs. Green and I couldn't be prouder!



The one downside was it was really hard to pick just one winner – so we decided to award one winner per year group and then one overall winner!



1st Prize is a Choice of a Book Nook kit or a Book Token to spend on more books and each runner up got a Book Token too!



Our Year group winners from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
James, Jasmine, Kaylie and Idil

Overall Winner Jeremy Yr6 created
an amazing Space Book Nook



What Should I Read Next?



Reading Genre Focus

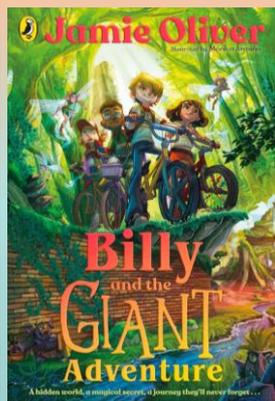


This reading newsletter we are focusing on the adventure genre. Just what we need when we're stuck inside because of the chilly and wet winter weather. So, sit back relax and strap yourself in for a wild ride with the characters in our recommended reads!

On her tenth birthday, Meticulous Jones – known to her friends as Metty – receives her fate, as all children do, in the form of a magical tattoo on her hand. She hopes for something a tattoo that will symbolise travel, or discovery, or adventure. What she gets is a skull, balanced in the palm of a violet glove. Metty's fate is to become a murderer.

Metty is swiftly hidden away by her father, Moral Jones, in a remote Welsh farmhouse, with only a miserable housekeeper (who's terrified she'll become Metty's first victim) for company. But when Moral goes missing, his sister – Aunt Magnificent – arrives to sweep Metty off to the glittering city of New London. Metty is mesmerised by the magic and enchantment of the city. But when she starts to hear rumours of a mysterious and dangerous organisation known as the Black Moths, she wonders if they might be connected to her father's disappearance – and to her own fate ...

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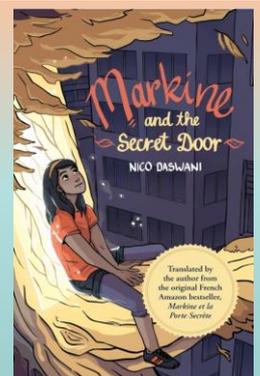
One pinch of adventure, a dash of friendship, a sprinkle of mystery and a HUGE spoonful of magic. Billy and his friends know that Waterfall Woods is out of bounds; strange things are rumoured to have happened there and no one in their village has ventured past its walls for decades...

But when they discover a secret way in, Billy and his best friends, Anna, Jimmy and Andy, can't resist the temptation to explore! Only to quickly discover that the woods are brimming with magic and inhabited by all sorts of unusual creatures, including a whole community of sprites who need the children's help!

With magical battles, a long-lost mythical city, fantastical flying machines, epic feasts and one GIANT rescue, get ready for an adventure you'll never forget!

A whimsical adventure for readers aged 8 to 12 that inspires courage, self-esteem, and a love for the natural world. Newly translated by the bilingual author from the original French Amazon bestseller, *Markine et la Porte Secrète*, this story has captured hearts worldwide.

12-year-old Markine has a secret she can't share—especially since she's been called a dreamer, and worse, a liar. Her hidden power comes from Alma; a majestic cedar tree whose branch touches her bedroom window. But when a series of extreme heatwaves force the mayor to order the city's trees cut down to prevent fires, Markine faces a heartbreaking dilemma: how can she protect the tree that has become her soulmate? Is she ready to embark on the most fantastical adventure of her life?

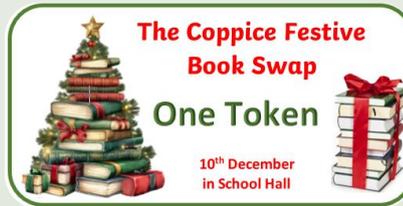


When Zoey adopts Ziggy, she thinks she's bringing home a super-smart golden doodle, but there's something extraordinary about this dog that sets him apart from all the rest. For one, Ziggy can talk - but only Zoey can understand him!

From the moment they team up, Zoey and Ziggy become an unstoppable duo, taking on the bustling streets of San Francisco, outsmarting mischievous thieves, and even shaking up the local dog show. But beneath all the fun and laughter, there's a deeper mystery - something about Ziggy that even Zoey doesn't quite understand.

Why does Ziggy always seem to know exactly what to do? How does he manage to stay one step ahead of everyone else? As they tackle midnight intruders and high-tech dog shows, the bond between Zoey and Ziggy grows stronger, but so does the enigma surrounding her extraordinary friend.

Christmas Book Swap



Our Christmas Book Swap took place on Tuesday 10th December. There were some fantastic books brought in so we are extremely grateful and send a big thank you to all the children and parents for their donations that made the book swap so successful. We had a great range of fiction and non-fiction across all the age range of pupils sat at Coppice, as well as a great selection of Christmas themed books that proved to be very popular.

In addition to the donations made we were also lucky enough to be gifted over ten boxes of books from "The Children's Book Project". The Children's Book Project works with settings across the UK to redistribute thousands of new and gently used books to children and their families.



They collect books from families that have grown out of theirs, and then organise them by age and stage prior to gifting to children via their schools and other organisations.



So, in addition to the bonus token they all received, for each book they brought in the children were given a token. They then used their tokens to choose a one book per token from the book swap to take home to enjoy.

The hall was buzzing with excitement as each class entered to look at all the books on offer. You can see some of the pictures below. It was so great seeing how enthusiastic and excited everyone was and there were lots of smiling faces as they left clutching their new books.

We are definitely going to be running another book swap next



"There were so many books to choose from, it was fantastic!"

"Can we do this again please? It's so like having a shop in school"

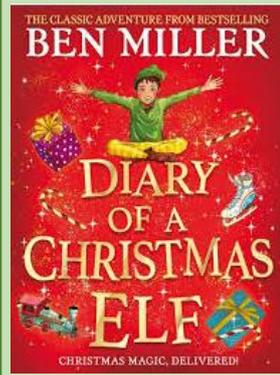


"I loved that there were non-fiction books too"

Coming in Spring...

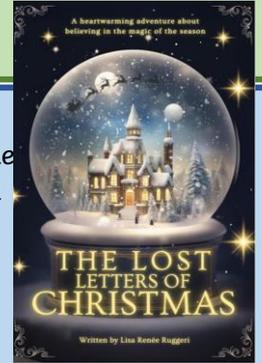


TEACHER'S FAVOURITE FESTIVE READS...



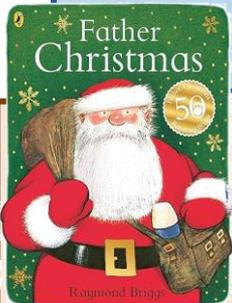
This book is a magical and heart-warming story perfect for the festive season. It follows Tog, an ambitious elf, who dreams of joining Santa's elite workshop team. Tog's journey is full of challenges, excitement, and valuable lessons about kindness, teamwork, and believing in yourself; something we hold dear at Coppice. Ben Miller's storytelling will hook you in! There is adventure, humour and Christmas spirit, making it an ideal read. The book captures the magic of Christmas while delivering timeless messages of resilience and friendship. It is one that comes off the bookshelf each year in the Green family household and will be enjoyed for years to come.

Mrs. Green



This magical story takes us on a journey with a girl called Sadie, after she discovers a forgotten bundle of letters in her new home. When she reads them, she stumbles upon a mystery that could change the town forever. With the help of a mischievous little elf named Noel, Sadie sets off on a magical journey to restore the lost spirit of Christmas. I loved this book because it is funny, touching and shows just how powerful and moving writing can be.

Miss Wright



I have many fond Christmas memories of 'Father Christmas' by Raymond Briggs. The story of a grumpy, grouchy Father Christmas - whose holiday is disturbed when he realises it is Christmas Eve! Cue much panic and frenzy as he tries to travel the world and deliver every present in time for Christmas Day.

Mr. Smith

THE POLAR EXPRESS



It's an enchanting journey through time and imagination. My kids loved me reading this book to them on Christmas Eve, because that's when the young boy embarks on a magical journey to the North Pole. The boy was given a bell that had fallen off Santa's sleigh. He was told that only people who truly believed in the magic of Christmas would hear it ring. When my children went to bed, my husband used to jingle a bell, just in case they were still awake. They would be really excited getting up Christmas morning. We always asked them if they heard the bell...

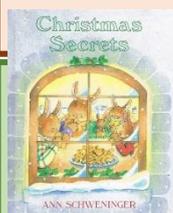
Mrs. Sheldon



My favourite Christmas book is Stick Man. I only read it for the first time this year to my son but he absolutely loves the rhyming and repetition. I love reading about the adventures Stick Man unwillingly gets himself involved in and the Christmassy twist at the end! There is a great TV adaptation too.

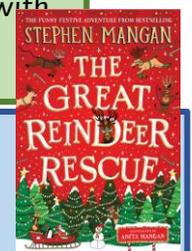
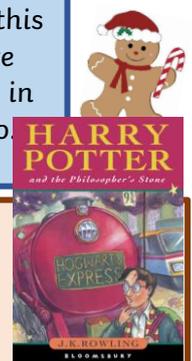
Mrs. Abbott

As many of you know, this is one of my favourite books and it's no different at Christmas. This is because Harry celebrates his first true Christmas at Hogwarts and receives his first ever Christmas present - the Invisibility Cloak! Who wouldn't want to spend a Christmas at Hogwarts?! **Miss Ridsdale**



I have many fond memories of this story. I have had the book since I was in Year 3 and read it to all of my children when they were little, now I get to share it with children at school too!

Mrs. Cole



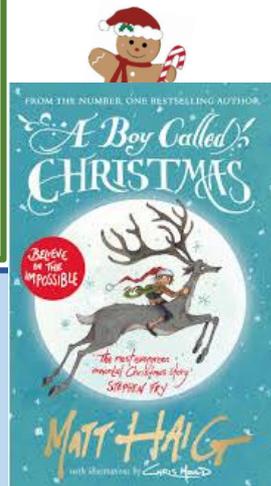
My new favourite is The Great Reindeer Rescue, which we have been reading in class. I love the jokes and the fact that the new reindeer Dave cannot stop talking. Rudolph and his adoration of himself is hilarious too! **Mr. Fraser**





"The Night Before Christmas" is a book I cherish, especially during the holidays. I love reading it with my family, sharing the joy and magic of its timeless story. Its vivid imagery and cozy, rhyming verses create a special tradition, filling our home with warmth, laughter, and the spirit of Christmas.

Mr. Fowler



"A Boy Called Christmas" is a favourite because it's such a lovely story about the courage, adventure, snow, kidnapping, elves, more snow, and a boy called Nikolas, who isn't afraid to believe in magic.

Miss Sleeman

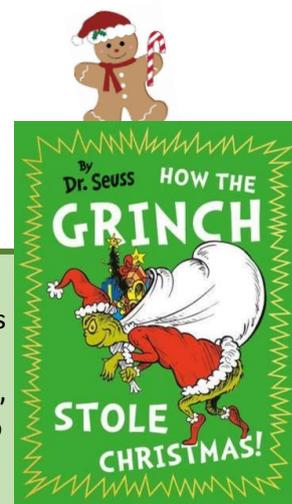
The Smelly Sprout



by Allan Plenderleith

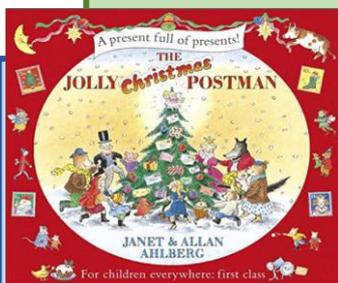
My favourite Christmas book is "The Smelly Sprout". I love it because even though no one loves the little sprout he finally finds someone who wants him.

Mrs. Morgan



How the Grinch stole Christmas is my favourite Christmas book for many reasons. I love the combination of heart-warming and villainous characters and the journey that the Grinch goes on in the book. Dr Seuss' skill as an author and his silly rhymes have been making me laugh since I was young, when my mum would read this book to my sisters and I, in the build up to Christmas. I now enjoy reading this to my young nieces who love it too!

Miss Carr

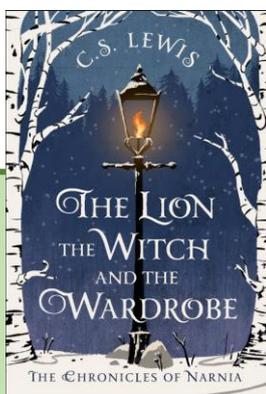
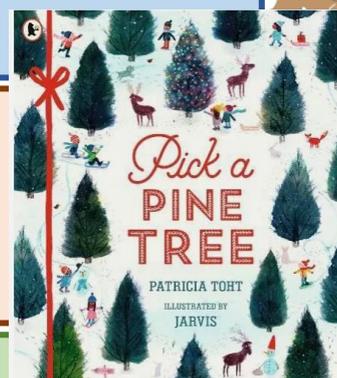


The Jolly Christmas Postman is my favourite Christmas book because it's interactive and magical. The book's design, with its small envelopes and letters creates a sense of excitement and involvement, always wondering which character is going to receive their post next and what will be in it.

Mrs. Edwards

This book sums up the true meaning of choosing a Christmas tree and decorating it with loved ones. Beautifully written and with fantastic illustrations, it's a real treat. My favourite page is the last one where there is a fabulous pop-out surprise!

Mrs. Didcote

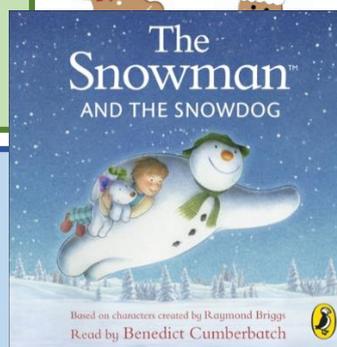


My favourite Christmas story is "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". The return of Father Christmas to Narnia, gifts the four Pevensie children the items they need to defeat the White Witch, with Aslan, and bring an end to the winter in Narnia.

Mrs. Knought

This book is full of feelings and captures the magic of winter - imagine building a snowman and a snow dog, and they come alive and take you flying through the air for a snowy adventure. How beautiful it is, I recommend this to everyone!

Mrs Chu





Christmas Puzzles

Here are some Christmas puzzles, some book and reading themed, to keep you entertained over the Christmas break. Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS IDIOMS

ACROSS

2. Eat, drink, and be _____
3. Deck the _____
5. The more, the _____
7. Cold enough to freeze the tail off a _____
9. Like turkeys voting for _____
11. All the _____ of the season
12. As snug as a bug in a _____
14. Good things come in small _____
16. Like a kid in a _____ store
17. Wrapped up like a _____
18. Bah, _____!

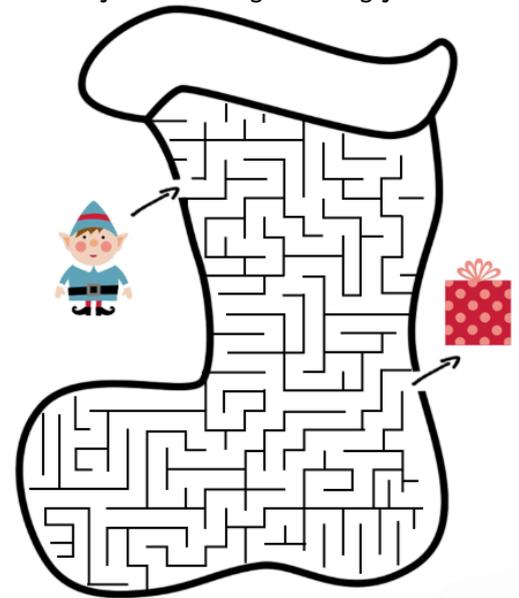
DOWN

1. Lit up like a Christmas _____
3. Don't look a gift _____ in the mouth
4. Feeling in the holiday _____
6. As busy as Santa's _____
8. Christmas came _____ this year
10. Don't get your tinsel in a _____
13. The proof is in the _____
15. Don't be a _____



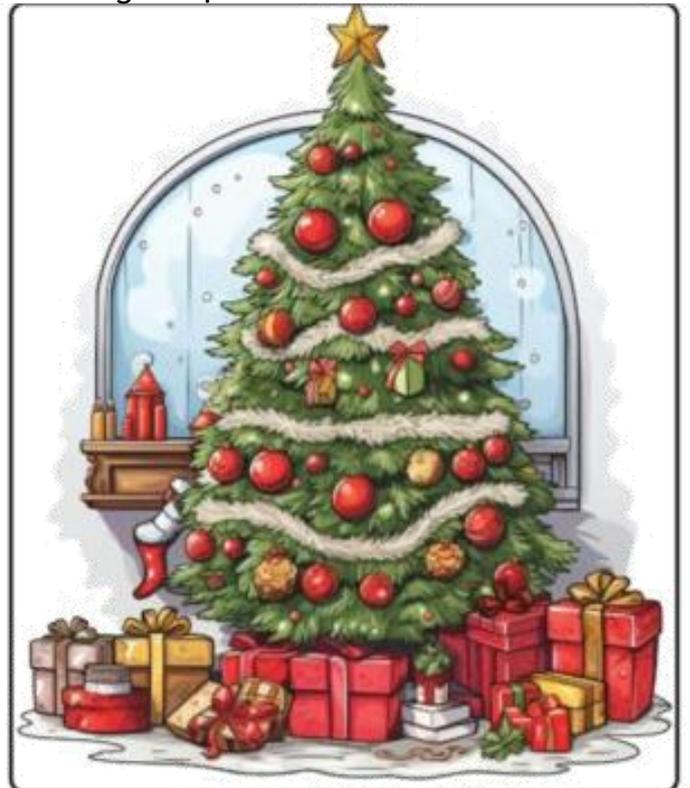
SANTA'S LOST CHRISTMAS BOOK!

Oh no! One of Santa's elves has misplaced Santa's Christmas Day gift with his new festive Book from all the elves! Can you help the elf find his way to the gift?



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 8 differences in the two pictures. Can you spot all 8?



CHRISTMAS BOOK-ISH CROSSWORD



Across

- [5] Mischevious little character who cause trouble when children are asleep
- [8] Book where Dave has replaced Blitzen on Santa's reindeer team?
- [9] The small green vegetable that many children dislike!
- [12] Pull with a bang for a joke , paper hat and little prize.
- [14] Story with Tiny Tim and Scrooge

Down

- [1] The song "Walking in the Air" plays across the animated version of the book.
- [2] Decoration introduced by Prince Albert in 1840
- [3] The poem that says Santa's belly "shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly"
- [4] What hung over the stable to show the shepherds where the baby lay in the Christmas Story
- [6] The things that Santa delivers on his sleigh
- [7] Traditional main meat for Christmas dinner
- [10] Green hairy creature who hates Christmas
- [11] This story started out as a ballet and involves King Rat a princess and a soldier.
- [13] What sound can the boy hear in The Polar Express?

WORDWHEEL

How many words can you find hidden in the word wheel? Remember each word must contain the central letter and can only be used once. Can you find the nine letter word?

