



Welcome to the first edition of Reading Matters at Coppice, the half-termly newsletter that focuses on all things related to reading in our school.

My aim is to use this platform to share key messages about reading, as well as book reviews and recommendations, messages from authors and news about the latest developments in reading at Coppice.

I hope that this newsletter helps to further develop the reading community in school and strengthen the reading culture between school and home.

WHY THE BIG FOCUS ON READING FOR PLEASURE?

Put simply, reading is the master skill that makes all other learning possible.

Research from OECD (2002) identified reading for pleasure as the most important and reliable indicator of children's future success.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only **perform better** in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a **broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge** and a **better understanding of other cultures**.

In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Furthermore, in their report 'Mental Wellbeing, Reading and Writing' (2018), The National Literacy Trust found that children who enjoy reading and writing have **significantly better wellbeing** than their peers.

Success starts with early reading and learning to decode fluently through synthetic phonics. Unless children can read they can't learn to the full. They can't discover their own talents and interests. They can't lose themselves in Wonderland with Alice or in Middle Earth with Gandalf.

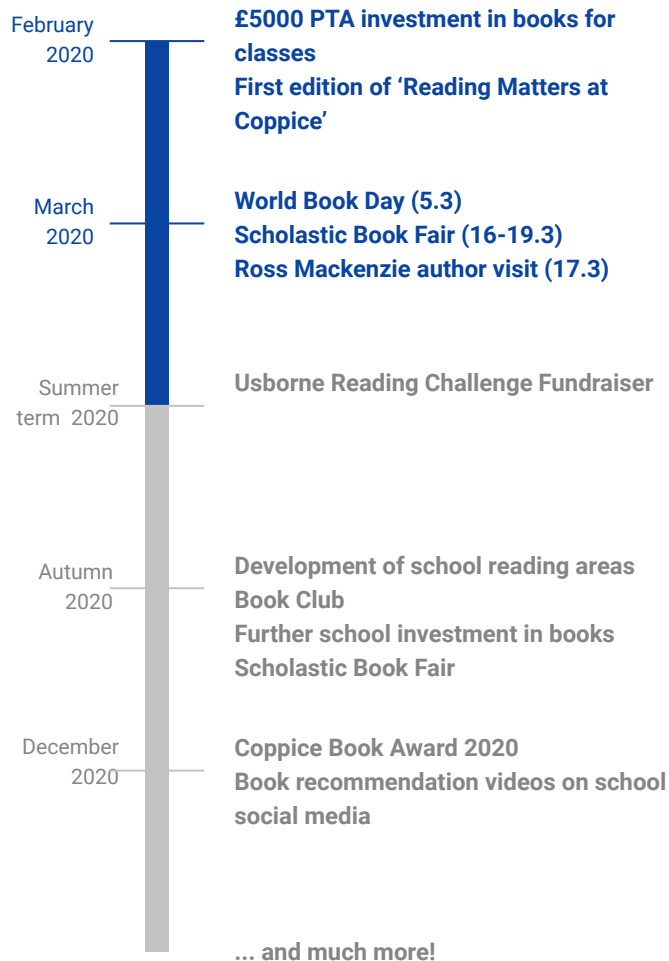
They are held back from exploring the limits of their imagination and creativity

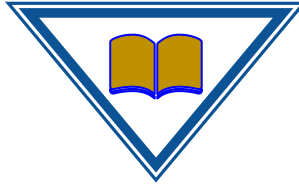
They live with that for the rest of their lives. We know where failure to learn to read well can end up. Boredom and frustration translate into higher rates of exclusion, which in turn can lead to higher rates of unemployment.

THE COPPICE 'YEAR OF THE BOOKWORM'

While our school has always achieved a good level of success in reading, we want to push this even higher by putting reading for pleasure at the heart of the school.

With this in mind, I want to treat World Book Day this year as more than just an event: I want to use World Book day as a spark for a year where time, effort and money is invested into enhancing the reading for pleasure culture in our school. Some of the plans for this are indicated below:





WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day 2020 is on Thursday 5th March. In contrast to previous years, we will not be asking for children to dress up as characters this year.

Instead, we invite children to come to school on the 5th in pyjamas and dressing gowns and to bring a favourite book with them. They can also bring slippers, a cushion and/or a teddy. This is to ensure that part of the day can be used for cosy reading for pleasure.

There will be no charge for this non-uniform day: we warmly encourage parents, if you're able to, to spend any money that would've previously bought costumes on books for your child/ren.

If children don't want to come in their pyjamas/dressing gown, they can choose to come in school uniform. If the children do come to school wearing their cosy clothes, it is important that you ensure that they have a coat and appropriate footwear for break and lunch times.

World Book Day vouchers will be given out on Friday 28th February. There are some brilliant £1 books available this year, so keep an eye out for these vouchers coming home.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
5 MARCH 2020

AUTHOR EVENT ON TUESDAY 17th MARCH

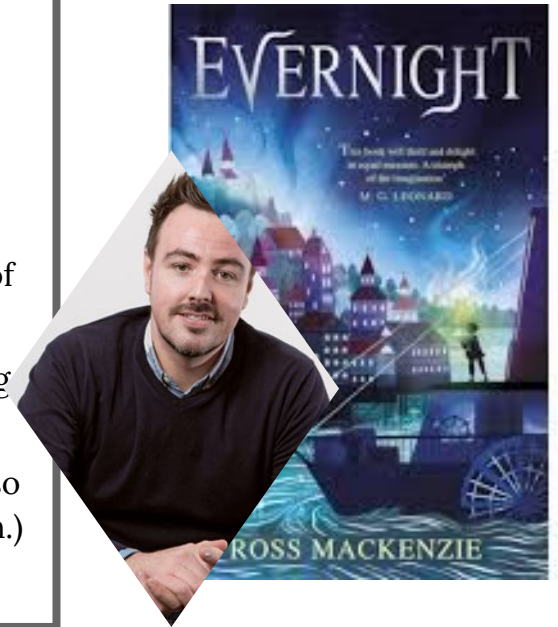
Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be attending an event in school with multi-award-winning children's author, Ross MacKenzie!

They will have the opportunity to meet the author, ask questions, and buy signed and personally dedicated copies of his new book, EVERNIGHT.

If you would like to pre-order copies of the books for signing from pgbb.co.uk/EVERNIGHT.

Deadline for pre-ordering is midnight 16 March. You can also purchase books with cash on the day. (Books are £7.99 each.)

We hope everyone has a wonderful and inspiring time!



ACCELERATED READER

Congratulations to our first 'word millionaires' of the year : Esme W (4W) and Joe H (6L)

Congratulations to 2CA, who have passed more quizzes (554) than any other class in the school!

Niall C (2CA) has passed 35 quizzes so far this year, the most in the school.

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school from Monday 16th until Thursday 19th March.

As well as offering a huge selection of quality children's books to boost children's reading, all purchases earn 25% of the order back as rewards/credit for the school to spend on books!



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - EYFS

Paddington's Post by Michael Bond (3 years +)

Based on the original stories by Michael Bond, a new Paddington adventure with real mail to open and enjoy! This funny interactive picture book explores Paddington's new life in London after travelling all the way from Darkest Peru and meeting Mr and Mrs Brown at Paddington station. Open the six envelopes inside and find out all about his new home, family and friends. These include Paddington's first letter to Aunt Lucy, a half-price voucher for his favourite buns, a very special birthday card - and more!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - Year 1 & 2

The Snow Dragon by Abi Elphinstone (6 years +)

You can be late for many things in life, but you should never keep an adventure waiting... In Griselda Bone's gloomy orphanage, daydreaming is banned, skipping is forbidden and Christmas is well and truly cancelled. But for Phoebe and her sausage dog Herb, is it possible that, just when things seem at their bleakest, magic awaits in the swirling, snow-filled air? Join them on an enchanting adventure in this beautifully moving story by the bestselling author of Sky Song and The Unmapped Chronicles, Abi Elphinstone, and renowned illustrator Fiona Woodcock.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - Year 3 & 4

The Boy Who Made the World Disappear by Ben Miller (8 years +)

Stories are often about a good person who does a Bad Thing, and this is no exception...

Harrison tries his best to be good. He doesn't steal, he always shares with his sister and he never cheats at board games, but Harrison also has a BIG flaw... He can't control his temper! So when he's given a black hole instead of a balloon at a party, Harrison jumps at the chance to get rid of everything that makes him cross. But when it's not just things he hates that are disappearing into the black hole but things he loves, too, Harrison starts to realise that sometimes you should be careful what you wish for...

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - Year 5 & 6

Asha and the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan

Rich in drama, and suffused in the spirituality and atmosphere of the author's native Northern Punjab, Jasbinder Bilan's debut is a delightful, hope-bathed treat for 9+ year-olds.

With money tight, Asha's father has gone to the big city to work in a factory, having promised to send money home, and to return to their village in the Himalayan foothills for Diwali. But when the money stops arriving and her mum runs into trouble with a lender, Asha makes a big, brave decision: she will cross the world's highest mountains to find her father. Accompanied by best friend Jeevan, and with the magical, protective presence of her nanijee - her grandmother's spirit bird - Asha sets out on a truly transformative journey of a lifetime.

Jasbinder's debut novel has recently been awarded the Costa Children's Book of the Year 2019.

Class novels for Year 3 to 6 for next half-term:

