

# Coopersale & Theydon Garnon C.E Primary School



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## Newsletter – February 2024

### Year 3-6 weekly Cross country

Years 3-6 have really been enjoying their weekly runs in the forest for their cross-country lesson. Each week there is a different focus, such as speed, pace etc. Some children can already see big improvements in their running ability, and we can't wait to see this continue. This will carry on into Spring 2, still on a Tuesday, so please make sure your child comes dressed and prepared for this each week.

### National Storytelling Week

From 29<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we celebrated National Storytelling week. As part of this week, all children took part in an oral storytelling challenge. They were given 5 props, and they had to make up a story involving all of the props in some way. It was fantastic to see such imagination and creativity coming from the children, and the sessions were really enjoyed by all. The children also had the chance to take the lead with reading and picking their next 'end of day story' they would like us to purchase for them. They had to research, persuade and then vote for their favourites.



### Safer Internet Day – 6<sup>th</sup> February

**Safer  
Internet  
Day 2024** | **Tuesday  
6 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

This half term we joined in with Safer Internet Day. The children took part in a range of activities and challenges which got them to think carefully about different situations they could end up in online, and what the safe way to react/respond would be. When given a survey about online safety, 50% of our children said their parents do not know everything they do online on their devices, therefore, we urge you to please monitor your child's device to make sure they are kept safe in the online world.

If parents would like any support with keeping children safe online, please see the online safety section of our school website for lots of helpful links.

<https://www.coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk/parents-pupils/online-safety>

## **Coopersale Hall Relays**

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 16 pupils across Years 3-6 took part in the Coopersale Hall Relays competition. They had to each run a distance (400m Year 3/4 and 800m Year 5/6), before passing the baton to their next team mate to continue. This was by no means a sprint, and the course was hilly and muddy, but all pupils represented the school with pride. They all tried their very best and we are very proud of you. Here, you can see the teams pictured together at the event.



## **Sports Hall Athletics Years 3/4 and Years 5/6**



On 7<sup>th</sup> February, over 45 pupils from Years 3-6 went to Epping St John's Secondary School to take part in the Epping Primary Indoor Sports Hall Athletics. In the morning was Year 5/6 who brought lots of energy to kick us off. The children took part in a range of track and field events including: relays, triple jump, javelin, speed bounce and lots more. The children ended up coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall from all teams competing, however, as the next level of the competition splits into small schools and big schools, we were placed 1<sup>st</sup> as the small school with the most points of the day! This means all children will get the opportunity to be re-trialled to take part in the next stage of the competition which is the Epping and Ongar finals. Any children picked to take part will be invited to some lunchtime practise sessions with Miss Nicholson to help us improve even further.



Year 3/4 attended in the afternoon with even more energy and enthusiasm than the morning group! The children ran their hearts out and ended up placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, and again 1<sup>st</sup> for small schools. Unfortunately, this age group does not have a next level for us to qualify for, but we are so proud of how well the children did. It is great to see so many children becoming keener with sports and wanting to come along and represent their school.

## **Miss Nicholson set to take on the London Marathon in April!**



A personal message from Miss Nicholson.

I will be running in the London Marathon in April. Yes, I am crazy; and yes, this will probably be a one-time thing. However, I am doing this to help raise awareness for a very special charity, 'Children with Cancer UK'. The training is hard, especially having never been a runner before; but I hope to raise lots of money for this fantastic charity.

I will share my race number with you all once it is released, in case you are going into London to see the event and would like to track me and give me some support along the way.

I hope you all wish me lots of luck, support, and jelly babies on my journey! If you would like to make a donation to my fundraiser, I would be incredibly grateful and you can do so by using the following link: <https://2024tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/gemma-nicholson>



## **Reception**

We have had lots of fun exploring the world in Reception Class this half-term. For our stunning start, we watched Happy Feet and created penguin collages using a range of different materials. We then 'travelled' to Africa to learn about our key text 'Handa's Surprise'. We had lots of fun retelling the story and tasting the fruit from our story.



Lastly, we have learnt about China and all about Chinese New Year in class. The children have created some beautiful home learning posters all about these countries and enjoyed exploring different rhythms and sounds during our themed dance lessons. We have also had lots of fun celebrating pancake day in class this week- we loved practising our counting and pancake flipping skills!

## **Year 1 and 2**

We have enjoyed continuing our learning journey on real life superheroes. As part of our English work, we learnt all about Florence Nightingale and used this information to produce a fact file all about her, and why she was a real-life superhero. We have also been doing lots of geography work about the different continents, oceans, and looking at how some places are similar, and some are different to where we live.



In Year 1 and 2 we have been enjoying our Art lessons. We looked at the work of Gaudi to inspire us. Emily: "We used the clay, I used this cutter that had little spikes on it. It made holes in the clay. I rolled it and did tic-tac-toe". Judah: "Gaudi used mosaics, glass and tiny pieces in his art to make it beautiful. He used lots of different colours too".



## **Year 3 and 4**

We have loved learning about the Ancient Egyptians! As part of our English work, we had to write our own version of the classic fairytale Cinderella, but we retold it with an Egyptian twist – Cinderella on the Nile. Our stories were so great that we shared them with pupils from Year 2.



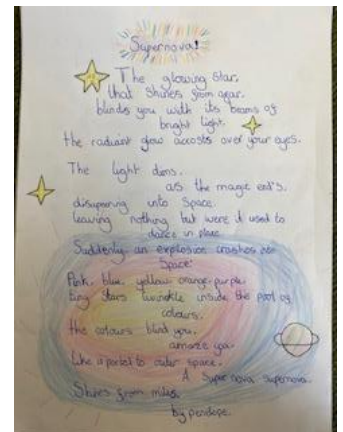


We also created freeze frames to re-enact when Howard Carter found the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. We tried hard to get into character and imagine how he would have felt upon his discovery. We also had a historian from Epping Museum come to teach us about exploring the past through artefacts. We had to look at the clues and work out who the tomb belonged to. We each gave evidence from the artefact we were allocated. On Ancient Egyptian day we explored the market and made Egyptian artefacts out of clay and wax. We learnt about the Egyptian army and the court of Tutankhamun.



## Year 5 and 6

We have been enjoying our new learning journey 'Adventures through Space and Time', focusing mainly on The Maya and space. We spent time exploring, designing, and refining ideas for our Mayan masks and practiced different clay techniques, ready for our final piece of art. As part of our science learning, we acted out the orbits of the earth, sun, and moon and then we wrote transcripts to go along side this. The children have been amazed by how incredible space is and learning about the planets and other celestial objects. We used this research to aid us when writing our very own space poems.



For National Story Telling Week, the children had to create a story, including 5 random objects given to them, and then retell this story to the class. All of the stories were very creative, and we are proud of what they produced and their enthusiasm.



## **PTA events and updates**

Thank you to all the volunteers that stayed to help out at the PTA discos. These events cannot happen without the help and support of other parents. A big thank you also goes out to the PTA members for organising these events, we know it takes a lot of time on your part so a huge thank you for all you do to support the school and the pupils. NOTE: next bake sale is now 1<sup>st</sup> March (not 16<sup>th</sup> February)



SPRING TERM 2024	
DATE	EVENT
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	PTA meeting (9am start)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024	Spring Term Discos (after school)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Bake Sale (after school)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Mother's Day Gifts (school time)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Adults' Quiz Night (evening time)

SUMMER TERM 2024	
DATE	EVENT
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PTA meeting (9am start)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Bags2School collection
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Bake Sale (after school)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Father's Day Gifts (school time)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Summer art competition (due date)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Summer Fayre (after school)

Thanks to the PTA fundraising, the school has just been able to secure funding for some of our school and home learning subscriptions for next year. We have also been able to purchase new visualisers for all classrooms; these help to model work to pupils as well as share and praise pupils work on the big screen in class. This funding support will be such a help to pupil's learning experiences so thank you PTA!

## **Key Dates for Spring 2 half term**

26 <sup>th</sup> February:	Pupils first day back for Spring 2 half term
1 <sup>st</sup> March:	Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 Wonder Dome
6 <sup>th</sup> March:	World Book Day (Dress up day on 6 <sup>th</sup> March) (changed from 7 <sup>th</sup> March due to school clashes)
8 <sup>th</sup> March:	Year 1 and Year 2 Sportshall Athletics
13 <sup>th</sup> March:	Cheerleading and Dance club to dance festival
15 <sup>th</sup> March:	Comic Relief (Red nose day) – non-uniform
15 <sup>th</sup> March:	Coopersale has talent show
19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March:	Year 6 Bikeability
21 <sup>st</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> March:	Book fair in school hall
22 <sup>nd</sup> March:	Year 3 and 4 Easter production to parents (session times TBC after half term)
26 <sup>th</sup> March:	Class photos
27 <sup>th</sup> March:	School closes at 1.15pm
27 <sup>th</sup> March:	Parent consultations 1.30pm-7.30pm
28 <sup>th</sup> March:	PTA Easter Egg hunt
28 <sup>th</sup> March:	Easter Communion in the hall
28 <sup>th</sup> March:	Last day of Spring 2 half term
15 <sup>th</sup> April:	Non-pupil day (Teacher training)
16 <sup>th</sup> April:	Pupils first day back for Summer term

*Please note, dates may change for some events due to unforeseen circumstances. Our School Jotter app will keep you up to date with school communications... do download the app if you haven't already.*