

Coopersale & Theydon Garnon C.E Primary School



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Newsletter – March 2024

Year 3-6 Cross country



A big well done this half term to all of the children in KS2 that took part in our cross-country event at Ongar Primary School. There were over 70 runners in each category, and some of our pupils' placed really well. We were so proud of the determination you showed. The course was wet, muddy and hilly but nobody gave up and everyone tried their best! A final shout out to Penny in Year 6 who did extremely well in coming 6th out of 74 Year 5/6 girl runners!

Dance Festival

This year we entered two performances into the Primary School Dance Festival at Epping St John's School. The team in blue below, are the Year 5/6 cheerleading team that attended Miss Nicholson's cheerleading club in Autumn term. They worked with her to put together this routine that showcased all their skills and talents. The performance included handstands, cartwheels, forward and backward rolls and even stunts. The performance was brilliant, and the team really wowed the audience. The team in black are a group that attend the Christine Mark's after school dance club on a Tuesday. They have learnt a dance from their dance teacher, and again they were great at performing in time to put on a great show for us all. We hope there will be more opportunities to carry on cheerleading in the future. If you are interested in signing your pupil up for the Christine Marks dance club, keep an eye on Jotter at club sign up time to enrol them.

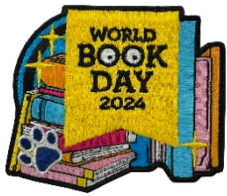


Football League



Since September, a team of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have been participating in a monthly football league against several other local primary schools. On the first Monday of every month, the team would attend Shooters to compete in two 20-minute matches. Some of our competitors were extremely good and we had to pull out all the stops! As the league draws to an end, I am pleased to share that we came 5th out of all 10 schools that took part. Well done everyone, and thank you to the parents for your commitment in bringing the boys every week – I, and them, really appreciate it.

World Book Day



We all thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day! I also love to see how much children enjoy reading in our school, and how they get excited to visit our library area and regularly change their books.

Thank you to everyone that logged onto Miss Nicholson's bedtime stories. There were over 60 children on the 7pm Zoom call!



The costumes on the day were fantastic! We had so many unique and unusual ideas this year. The children also enjoyed playing 'pairs' to see if they could spot anyone else on the playground wearing the same outfit as them!

We also loved inviting all our parents in to enjoy reading with us in the mornings. It is so important that we all work together to value the importance of reading, but even more importantly to promote a love of it so that we can create life-long readers!

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March



Thank you to everyone who supported us in our fundraising efforts for children in need. We raised £29 on our online 'Just Giving' page, and £94.40 in cash donations. This means we managed to hit our £100 target by raising a total of **£123.40**.

Coopersale has Talent

As part of Comic Relief, we all celebrated the way we do best – with our Coopersale has Talent Show! This year we had a record number of children audition across the school! This is fantastic to see the confidence and braveness to perform in front of their class in so many of our pupils. As always, not everyone can compete in the finals and this year it was a tough competition. We had singers, gymnasts, puppet shows, hoverboards, back somersaults and music production.

Well done to everyone who took part this year – you all thoroughly entertained us! Pictured here are our top three acts:

Bronze: Millie (Wild card Year 5) singing Drag Me Down.

Silver: Scarlett and Olivia, Robyn and Sadie (Year 5) Performing as Gymfusion.

Gold: Renee, India, and Bella (Year 4) Dancing as The Hover Girls.



Reception

We have had a very busy and exciting half-term in Reception! We have particularly enjoyed our Space topic this half-term. We have enjoyed writing about our dream planets, creating space pictures and seeing our solar system come to life during our planetarium school experience. We loved the Wonderdome and were very excited when we got to go inside! The children amazed their teachers with their wonderful home learning projects all about the planets.



The children have also enjoyed learning about the Easter Story in our RE topic and enjoyed making salt dough crosses with Reverend Olivia and Emily. Lastly, we loved dressing up for World Book Day and enjoyed sharing stories with our friends.



Year 1 and 2

In Year 1 and 2, we have been learning about the world around us. In English, we have been writing letters imagining we are in the jungle! In geography, we have been learning about the continents and the physical features within the continents. We used physical maps and online maps to help us. We went on an expedition, just like many of the famous explorers we were going to be learning about did. We found a box of abandoned objects on the field; we suspected they were left there by a real explorer!



In Art, the children created a clay tile before decorating it with a pattern designed by themselves but inspired by the work of Gaudi.

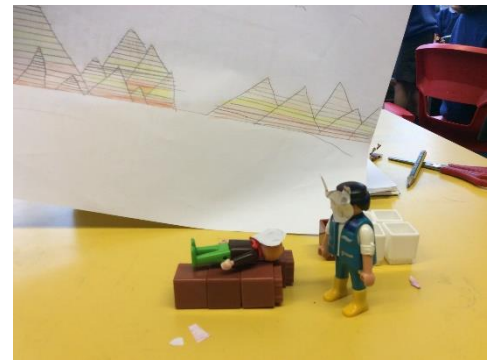
We recently went on two trips which we thoroughly enjoyed: one to Grange Farm and the other to an athletic sports trip. At Grange Farm we learnt about plants, flowers and trees that grow in the wild. We even got to try pond dipping. We were amazed at how many different things we found living there! During the athletics event, we got to try a number of different sports including throwing, jumping, running and speed stepping.



Year 3 and 4

In Year 3, we have been writing explanation texts. We watched animations to recall the stages of the process then we worked in teams to create our own animation film clips showing how to mummify someone. We had to be very patient and organised as we had to make our own props and masks for the dolls and take lots of photos of each stage.

In science, both classes have been learning about the human digestive system. The first stage of digestion is chewing with our teeth. We learnt the names and roles for different types of teeth and then investigated how to keep our teeth healthy. We looked at the impact of different drinks on tooth enamel. Our results were disgusting! We learnt that squash had the most acid in and damaged enamel the most and caused the most staining.



Year 5 and 6

In Year 5 & 6 we launched the half-term with a visit from The Wonderdome Planetarium. We were able to experience close-up looks of the solar system using imagery from telescopes. The sessions were led by an astronomer who has worked with NASA. We also took part in Mars Day which was organised by STEM Learning, in conjunction with the European Space Agency. One of the sessions was led by Tim Peake, astronaut. Another session was 'Astronaut Training' where the children found out what skills and experience would be needed to become an astronaut.

In DT we have been researching, designing and making chocolate bars, which ties in with our Mayan topic as chocolate originates in this culture. We had great fun in the market research stage, tasting and evaluating existing products before coming up with our own recipes.



PTA events and updates

A big thank you to the PTA for running a very popular and tasty bake sale this half term! The queue for cakes was huge and we all enjoyed a tasty Friday treat because of it!

There was also a great turn out for the adults' quiz night, which again proved very popular and was a great chance for our parent community to let their hair down and have some fun.

Thank you to the organisation that goes into both events and the crucial funds you help to raise for the school – we are extremely grateful of you.

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

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

Key Dates for Summer 1 half term

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| 15 th April: | Non-pupil day (Teacher training) |
| 16 th April: | Pupils first day back for Summer 1 half term |
| 17 th April: | Year 6 height and weight check |
| 17 th April: | Author 'Ray Star' in school workshops with Reception and Years 1,2,3 and 4 |
| 22 nd April: | Year 1 phonics parent workshops (8.50-9.05am and 3.20-3.40pm) |
| 26 th April: | PTA meeting in the school hall 9am – 10.30am |
| 26 th April: | Year 4 first swimming lesson of the term |
| 3 rd May: | Year 3&4 educational visit |
| 6 th May: | May Day Bank Holiday – school closed. |
| 13 th – 16 th May: | Year 6 SATs testing week |
| 15 th – 21 st May: | Mental Health Awareness Week |
| 15 th – 21 st May: | Dementia Action Week |
| 17 th May: | Treat Lunch Day |
| 23 rd May: | Pupil Annual Reports sent home to parents (Years 1 to 6) |
| 24 th May: | PTA Bake Sale after school |
| 24 th May: | Last day of Summer 1 half term |
| 3 rd June: | First day of Summer 2 half term for pupils |

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.