

CHS Library Newsletter – Issue 55 Autumn 2024

“Loving God, Caring For Each Other and Achieving Excellence”

Welcome to a new academic year and a huge welcome to all our new students, parents and carers joining us at CHS. I hope you have enjoyed the summer. Issue 54 of the CHS Library Newsletter is ready to share I do hope that you enjoy it. September was a busy month settling back into normal school life, October is Mental Health Awareness Week, Black History Month and we have so many other literacy related activities planned in the coming months. You can find lots of great reading recommendations and resources within this issue and don't forget to check out Sora where an exciting new collection of terrific books has just landed.

Featured Book Reviews

Where Sleeping Girls Lie – Faridah Abike-Iyimidi

Fiction/Mystery/Mental Health/Thriller/LGBT/ age 14+



This was a mistake, the voice in her head whispered. You should never have come...

Sade Hussein is the new girl at the prestigious Alfred Nobel Academy. She has no idea what to expect of her mysterious new boarding school - an institution steeped in tradition and secrets. But she certainly didn't imagine her roommate, Elizabeth, to go missing on her first night. Or for people to think Sade had something to do with it.

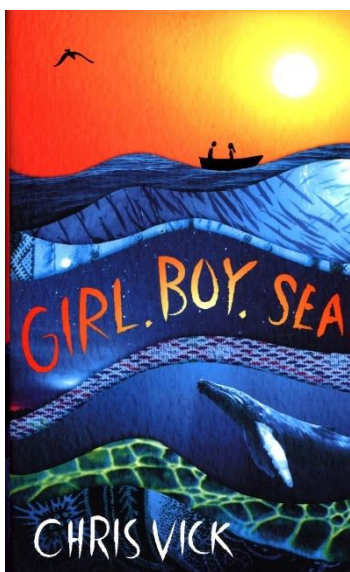
Suddenly everyone is talking about Sade, including the Unholy Trinity: the three most popular girls at school. Swept up in their circle, Sade can't shake the sense that there's more to Elizabeth's disappearance - especially as the teachers don't seem to care. And then a student is found dead.

It's clear there's more to Alfred Nobel Academy and its students than Sade could have imagined - and she must race to uncover the truth. But secrets lurk around every corner and beneath every surface...secrets that rival even her own.

[Girl. Boy. Sea – Chris Vick](#)

Fiction/Adventure/Journeys/Change/friendship

Suitable for age 12+



Bill is lost and alone on an endless sea after a storm sinks his yacht. His future seems as unpredictable as the ocean itself. Everything changes when he rescues another survivor from a different wreck. She is Aya from the nomadic Berber tribe.

As hope of rescue fades, Aya tells tales of magic inspired by Shahrazad, who wove 1001 stories to save her life.

In the grip of hunger, at the mercy of the burning sun and the deadly deep, they begin a heart stopping journey to find home...

This book was featured in our Year 7 Summer Reading Challenge. You can find out more and view our student teacher video review featuring Georgia Lett year 9 here. <https://bit.ly/GirlBoySea>

Library Success – Autumn 1 Term - 2024

We have been monitoring library usage involving which students are really enjoying reading for pleasure and hence borrowing the most books from our school library and the most popular books and authors. Graphic novels are once again top of the most popular reads. This half term, a total of **801** books have been loaned which is amazing! Well done to our top borrowers per year group below and to 7Co3 form who have loaned 77 books between them this term alone.

In addition, we have our library superstar of this half term Layla Dowd in year 9. Layla has really displayed leadership skills helping to teach and guide other newer librarians. Layla uses her own initiative to complete jobs without prompting even when they are not Layla's tasks to complete. Well done Layla!

Top Library Borrowers by Year and Form – Autumn 1 term

Top borrowers
7Ri2 – M.M - 27
7Co2 – Ali Majd - 18
8Co3 – Max Edwards - 11
8Ri2 – Hachimeru Wobo-Wobo - 11
9Ri2 – Tarsha Anigba - 41
9Cr1 – Emma Cowling - 29
10CO3 – Gift Omogodo - 3
11Cr2 – S.S - 6

Top Form

- **7Co3 – 77**
- 7Ri2 - 72
- 8Co3 – 28
- 8Or1 – 27
- 9Ri2 – 70
- 9Cr1 - 33
- 10Co3 – 3
- 10Ri1 – 3
- 11Ri2 – 2
- 11Cr2 - 2



Top Library Titles and Authors Borrowed

Most popular books borrowed

1. Five Nights at Freddy's Fourth Closet – Scott Cawthon
2. Heartstopper Vol 2 – Alice Oseman
3. Heartstopper Vol 1 – Alice Oseman
4. Heartstopper Vol 3 – Alice Oseman
5. Five Nights at Freddy's The Twisted Ones – Scott Cawthon

Most popular authors

1. Kohei Horikoshi
2. Alice Oseman
3. Dav Pilkey
4. Scott Cawthon
5. Matt and Tom Oldfield

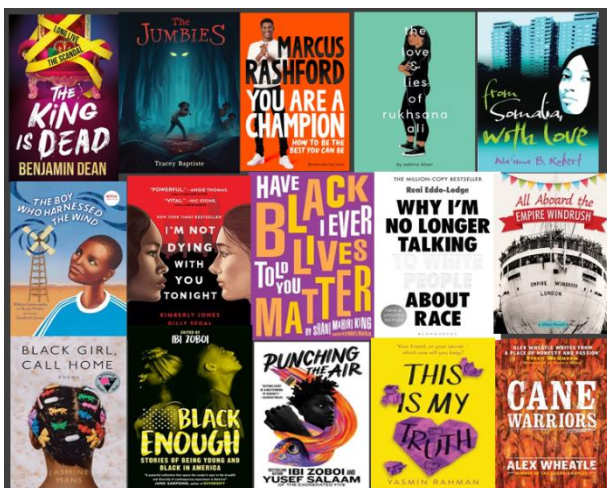


7Co3 are the winning form with 77 loans this term, shout out to 7Ri2 with 72 and 9Ri2 with 70 loans.

October is Black History Month and World Mental Health Awareness

October is Black History Month, intended to recognize and celebrate the contribution and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage. It's also an opportunity for people to learn more about the effects of racism and how to challenge negative stereotypes. October is also home to World Mental Health Day raising awareness about mental health around the world to mobilize efforts to support those experiencing mental health issues.

I have put together a collection covering both topics in our school library and detailed below the books you can access at home 24/7 on our online library Sora. You can find out more about Sora here [Log-on-instructions-2023.pdf \(cromptonhouse.org\)](https://www.cromptonhouse.org/log-on-instructions-2023.pdf)



Staff Summer Reading Challenge 2024

The Staff Summer Reading Challenge returned in force for 2024. Staff request a reading preference and I select a middle grade or young adult title based on what they enjoy often with surprises thrown in! Books are read over summer, reviews written, and a 'Book Selfie' taken in their favorite places to read. Many of the books travelled all over the world and then were returned to school along with photos and reviews to be displayed and shared in our school library. This enables colleagues to create a dialogue about the books they have read and recommend to our young people. This year, Mr. Wroe teacher of Mathematics won the challenge for the most creative reading photos and fantastic reviews. His is prize...a book of course!



Mental Health Awareness Week October 2024

Research shows that reading for 10 minutes every day can have a significant impact on our mental health. On World Mental Health Day 10th October, we carried out a DEAR 'Drop Everything and Read' activity where whole school staff and students stop what they were doing and read a book of their choice for 10 minutes. This was accompanied by our CHS #WriteaSmile student lead video combining literacy and reading for pleasure with awareness of mental health and wellbeing. Year 7 have been writing postcards to their old primary schools and all other students and staff can pick up a postcard in the library and send a positive message to someone in need. You can view our #WriteaSmile video [here](#)



Book Swap in the library

Here at CHS we love reading for pleasure and we are always looking for new ways to promote within our school community. CHS currently runs a 'Book Swap' in the library where children can bring along a preloved book that they no longer want and swap for another totally free! There is also a 'Book Swap Box' in the school grounds offering free books to students who may not want to visit the library but do want to read. If your child has a book at home that they no longer want but would like to give another student the opportunity to read what they have loved, they can bring it along to the library and swap for another totally free. **Look for the 'Book Swap' signs around school.**



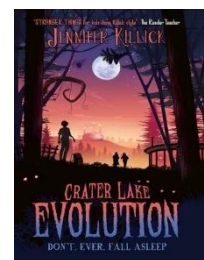
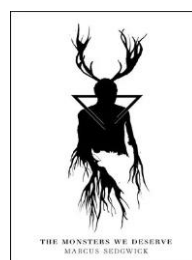
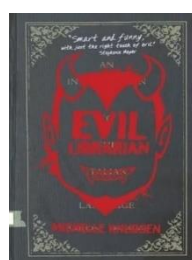
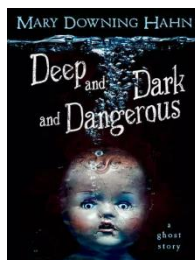
Scholastic Book Fair is coming back!

Look out for our annual Scholastic Book Fair coming into school from **11th November**. Each year, students and staff have a wonderful time browsing new books from our Scholastic Book Fair. For every book purchased, a percentage commission is given back to our school and so far thanks to parents, carers, and staff, we have managed to raise over £1000 towards free books to replenish our wonderful school library! It's a fantastic opportunity to gift a book for Christmas and support reading for pleasure. Thanks to everyone for your continued support. Find out more about Scholastic books here <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/>



Sora Update

Spooky season is here, time to scare yourself silly with a good book! A reminder that Sora is our totally free online library packed full of over 3000 e and audio books for our students to use. Sora have just added over 400 fabulous paranormal, supernatural and horror books there really is something for everyone. You can find a reminder on how to log onto to Sora on our school website here [Log-on-instructions-2023.pdf](#)



Great websites and Information

- Book Trust is a fabulous website full of reading related resources and activities
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>
- National Literacy Trust have some great information, activities, and a competition for younger readers <https://literacytrust.org.uk/>
- The Reading Agency developed the 'Reading Well' initiative which is a selection of books chosen by health officials helping young people to manage health and wellbeing including bullying. You can find out more about the title <https://readingagency.org.uk/> but we do have some of these titles in the school library.
- Sora our online E and Audio Book free library over 3000 e and audio books to choose from. More information about Sora <https://fast.wistia.net/embed/iframe/x1crca6t1n?videoFoam=true>



Share Your Literacy Activities with Me!

Share your book reviews, activities, artistic creations, or any other literacy related ideas, I would love to see them. You can contact/tweet me and email reviews etc. on the details below. Happy reading.

For more information contact Mrs Cullen - c.cullen@cromptonhouse.org
Twitter/X: @CLearningzone #CHSFamilyReads #WriteaSmile

