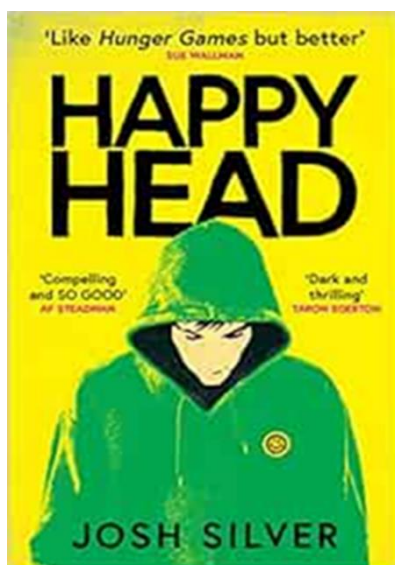


CHS Library Newsletter – Issue 52

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

Library life has certainly been extremely busy over the last few months and so lots to share with you in this issue. We have celebrated many awareness days, enjoyed visiting authors, created student/teacher VLOGs, enjoyed #WriteaSmile successes and much more. Easter holidays are here, is a perfect time to relax and curl up with a great book and so I have included lots of great reading recommendations and resources within this issue. Don't forget to check out Sora where an exciting new collection have landed. Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter.

Featured Book Reviews



Happy Head – Josh Silver

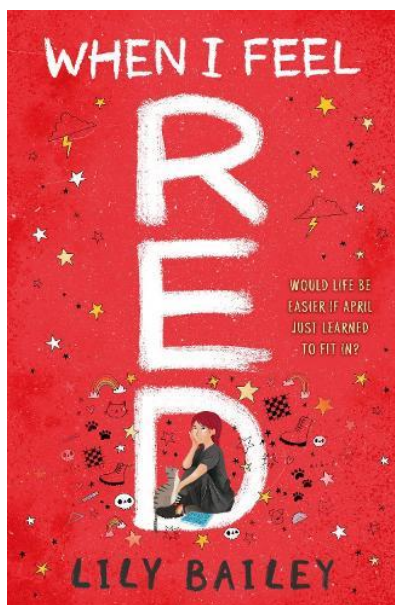
Dystopian/LGBT/Young Adult

Suitable for age 12+

We are in an epidemic. An epidemic of unhappiness. Friends, here is the good news: Happy Head has the answer. When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn; Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until it's clear there may be no escape...

This book is on the Always Available Ebook and Audio Book list on the Sora App.

You can also view our student/teacher VLOG on our YouTube channel here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G41yIQmpyDs>



When I Feel Red – Lily Bailey

Real Life/Neurodiversity/Dyspraxia/Friendship/Family

Suitable for age 9+

Now that she is in Year 8, things have got even worse. She is much more likely to be trying to rescue an animal in need than worrying about who's dating who at school, which April just finds BORING. Plus, her lessons feel like they are in a foreign language, and it suddenly seems impossible to make it through the week without landing in detention.

As family worries and classroom romances ramp up, it feels like everyone around her is pulling away - even her best friend Ben. But when the pressure's on, can she find a way to fit in *and* still be true to herself?

Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Lots of activities took place throughout Children's Mental Health week in February to raise awareness. We continued to spread messages of kindness and positivity through our #WriteaSmile postcard project combining literacy with looking after our wellbeing. We carried out a 'Drop Everything and Read' activity, and created featured book displays. We also wrote to friends and family and this time also to students in our partner Trust primary schools. We also visited St Hughes primary school to deliver #WriteaSmile postcards and talked to their young people and staff about our wonderful project. CHS students Kaya Read Y10 and Poppy Smethurst Y7 shared postcards. Mrs Lisic St Huges Head teacher said:

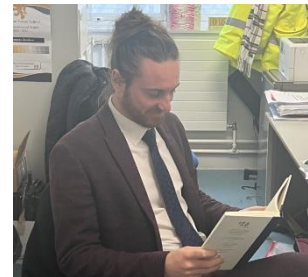
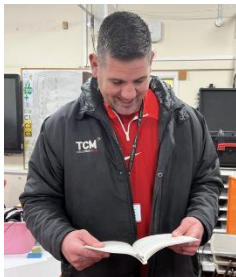
"What a lovely initiative this is to share kind thoughts and actions. The children in Year 5 and 6 genuinely enjoyed the visit from the ambassadors from Crompton House School and were delighted with the postcards. It really modelled to the children our school ethos statement of 'being the change you want to see in the World', through showing students who are giving of their time to improve the wellbeing of others. The initiative certainly spread joy from one school to another".

You can view our latest #WriteaSmile for Children's mental Health Week video here <https://youtu.be/yVeHqY9BtZI>



Drop Everything and Read

At CHS, we recognize the importance of looking after our wellbeing. Research shows that reading for 10 minutes every day has a substantial impact on our mental health and wellbeing, it helps us to relax and takes us on magical journeys. Whole school took part in 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) activity where students stop what they are doing and read material of their choice for a 10-minute period. DEAR activities take place each term to acknowledge the importance of reading for pleasure. Since January we have had two DEAR activities, one for Children's Mental Health Week and one for World Book Day.



LGBTQ History Month

LGBTQ+ History Month is a UK wide event that takes place throughout the month of February. As a school proud to be working towards the Rainbow Flag Award, Crompton House is committed to building an inclusive environment, where everyone belongs. As part of our celebrations, Josh Silver author of the YA book series Happy Head came to speak to our Year 9 and 10 students. Josh is an LGBTQ author from Manchester, trained at RADA and has performed in the West End. He changed careers and trained as a mental health nurse and then started to write. His book Happy Head is awarded the Amazon best YA book of 2023 and is being made into a movie! His next book Dead Happy comes out in May and he is just finishing his third. Josh said the following about our school:

"It was a real genuine pleasure to be at Crompton House. Not only did I feel immediately welcomed by the lovely reception staff but every staff member I met went beyond to make me feel welcomed. Obviously, the brilliant Claire Cullen proving that librarians are vital to young people having access to varied points of view through books, and her passion is infectious.

Sometimes I am scared as an LGBT author coming into church schools. However, at Crompton House I felt an active push towards inclusivity from all staff. The tone has been set by you all - as it should be - and I was so pleased and grateful. Often schools will say they are inclusive to tick boxes - but you are doing the real work. The kids were respectful and listened. This is a big achievement believe me - it has sadly not always been the case".

Josh also created a short video message you can view it here.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOBR_6ah5Ng



Library Success – Spring Term 2024

Since September, we have been monitoring which students are really enjoying reading for pleasure and hence borrowing the most books from our school library. Chocolate will be awarded to students who have borrowed the most books and will look forward to receiving their reward during our 'rewards Assembly's.

In addition, we have our library superstar of the Spring term **Emma Cowling 8C01**, an outstanding new librarian. Emma is a regular in the library who sees what needs doing and gets on with it so pleasantly. Emma uses her own initiative to complete jobs without prompting. Well done!

Library Books borrowed – Spring term

No of books borrowed by year group

Y7 – 180

Y8 – 182

Y9 – 46

Y10 – 32

Y11 – 38

Totals 478

Top form groups book borrowing

• 7Ri2 – 54, 7Ri1 – 31, 7Co3 – 15

• 8Co1 – 43, 8Cr1 – 39, 8Ri2 – 32

• 9Ri1 – 10, 9Cr1 – 10

• 10Cr2 – 14, 10Cr3 – 13,

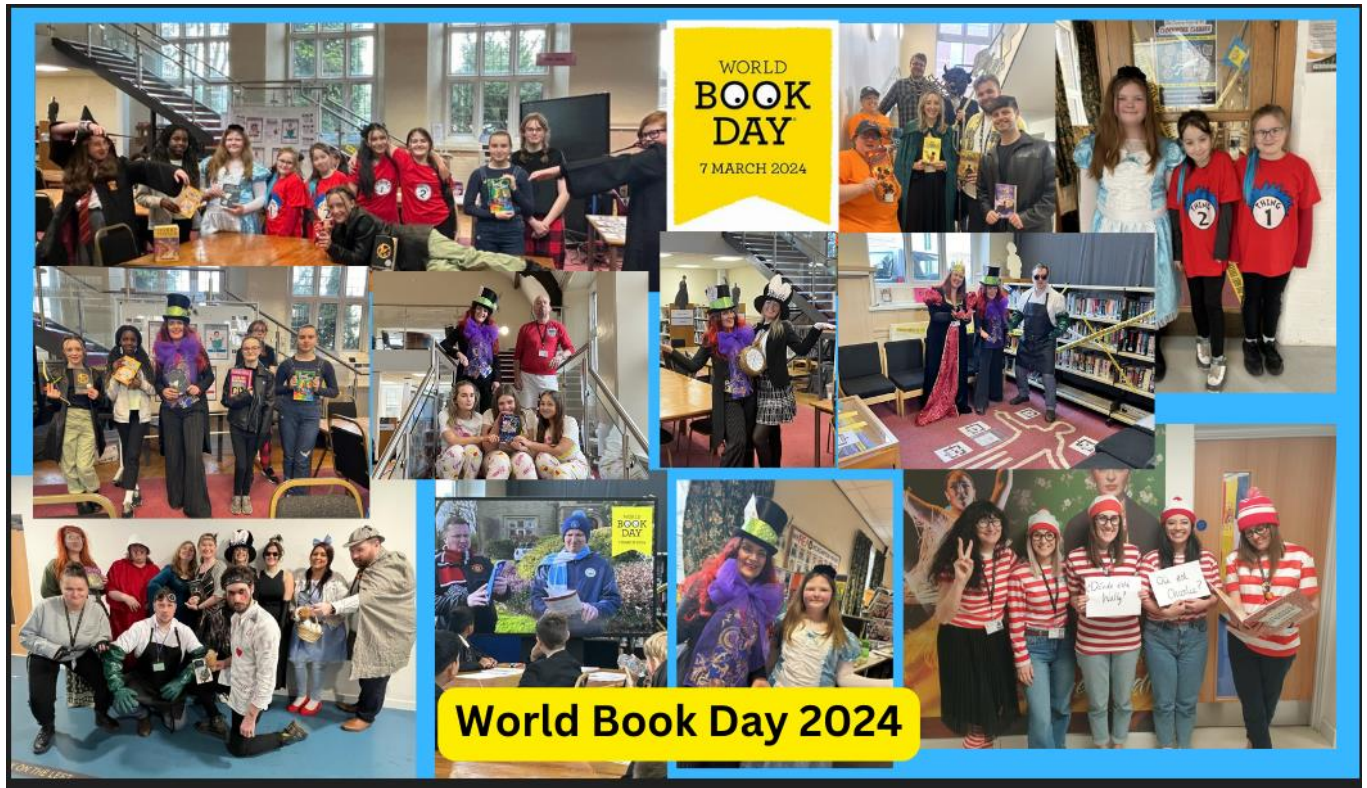
• 11Co2 – 8, 11Or1 – 7, 11Ri2 – 7

Winning Form 7Ri2 again 7Ri2 closing in!!!



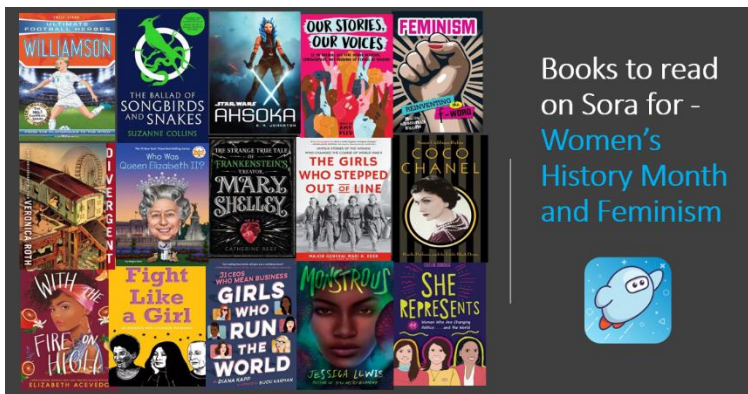
World Book Day 2024

On the 7th of March we celebrated World Book Day in style! Students in year 7, 8 and 9 came to school dressed as their favorite book characters. The school library was decorated and set up to carry out a fun Murder Mystery exercise during library lessons. Students enjoyed working in teams and polishing their inference and oracy skills. We also created a new World Book Day video starring staff and students, you can view the video here <https://youtu.be/ritRqdilsas>



Sora Update

Easter is on is upon us, time to relax and unwind with a good book! A reminder that Sora is our totally free online library packed full of over 4000 e and audio books for our students to use. In support of major awareness months, Sora have recently curated a fantastic collection of books around LGBTQ and Woman's History Month (examples below.) They have also included a fantastic magazine package, everything from National Geographic to baking, sport, fashion, crafts, it really is great! There really is something for everyone. You can find a reminder on how to log onto to Sora on our school website here <https://bit.ly/429sGtiSoraLogOn> examples below.



Books to read on Sora for -
Women's History Month and Feminism



LGBTQ+ History Month on Sora

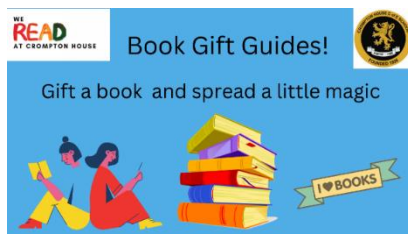


Gift a Book this Easter.

As a final note to you, why not gift a book for Easter instead of chocolate. Books take us on magical journeys, they are educational, inexpensive, and great for our mental health and wellbeing. I have attached a link to a list of book recommendations to help you a little on your way. Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter!

[LAST MINUTE BOOK GIFTS! \(cromptonhouse.org\)](https://www.cromptonhouse.org)

“The more that you read the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go” – Dr Seuss.



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.



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: @CLearningzone #CHSFamilyReads #WriteaSmile

