

CHS Library Newsletter – Issue 53

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

Can you believe we are almost at the end of the academic year! With Summer 1 term at a close and a half term break to enjoy, I am pleased to share with you the latest issue of our library newsletter. We have celebrated awareness days, enjoyed visiting authors, created student/teacher VLOGs, and are excited to announce CHS has been shortlisted for a prestigious TES community award for #WriteaSmile successes! With half term upon us, I hope you enjoy catching up with library life this term and remember that wherever you may be this half term, holidays are a perfect time to relax and curl up with a terrific book. As always, don't forget to check out Sora where the annual 'Sweet Read' collection (details below) has landed. Wishing you a happy and peaceful half term!

Featured Book Reviews

[While the Storm Rages – Phil Earle](#)



Historical fiction/War/Animals/Friendship/Bereavement

Suitable for age 9+

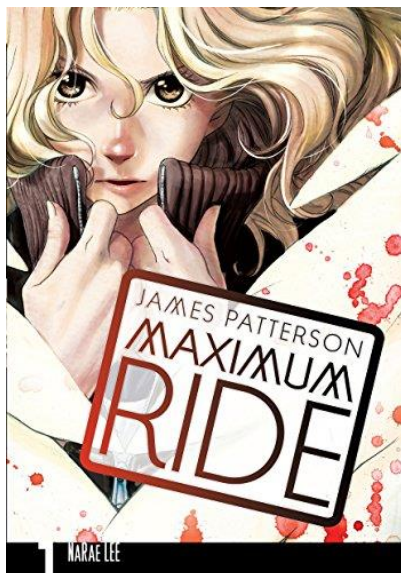
As Noah Price's dad marches off to fight, he asks his son to honour one vital promise: that he will keep their dog, Winn, safe. No matter what. Noah agrees, but his best intentions are crushed when the government advises people to have their pets put to sleep as part of the war preparations. Children are heartbroken, queues outside vets' surgeries stretch for miles. But Noah is a resourceful and impetuous child. He won't just do what he is told. Far from it. With his two friends in tow, he makes a pledge. To go on the run, and save as many animals as he can, whatever the cost.

So begins the most thrilling of adventures, involving a stolen ark, a motley crew of animals and a crashed Spitfire. Can Noah possibly save the animals, and lead them all to the promised land?

This book is available on the Sora App.

You can also view our student/teacher VLOG on our YouTube channel here <https://t.co/JC2ZzYZT8i>

[Maximum Ride Series – James Patterson](#)



Comic Book/Graphic Novel/Dystopian/Fantasy/YA

Suitable for age 12+

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the 'Flock' - Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel - are just like ordinary kids - only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time - like when Angel, the youngest member of the 'Flock', is kidnapped and taken back to the 'School' where she and the others were genetically engineered by sinister scientists. Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, California, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare - this one involving fighting off the half-human, half-wolf 'Erasers' in New York City. Whether in the *treetops of Central Park* or in the *bowels of the Manhattan subway system*, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives. Along the way Max discovers from her old friend and father-figure Jeb - now her betrayed and greatest enemy - that her purpose is save the world - but can she?

Author Visit – Phil Earle

In April we were lucky enough to be visited by award winning children’s author Phil Earle. Phil has written around 24 books for young people with his most recent best seller *When the Sky Falls* and our featured book *While the Storm Rages*. He shared with year 7 and 8 how he himself wasn’t a keen reader until he discovered comic books and graphic novels leading to a love of children’s fiction. In view of this we have featured book 1 in the *Maximum Ride* graphic novel series above. Phil talked about the power of storytelling, reading, creative writing, and how the book ‘*Holes*’ changed his life forever inspiring him to become a writer. It was a wonderful visit, and we thank Phil for coming to see us. You can read more about phil here. [About | Phil Earle - Author](#)

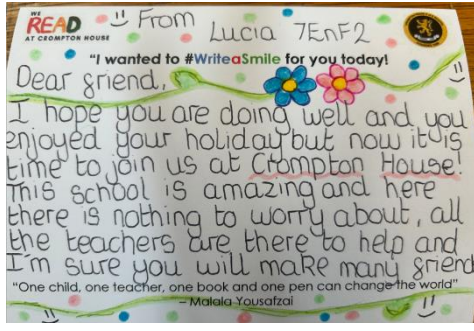


Phil Earle Author Visit



Mental Health Awareness Week 2024

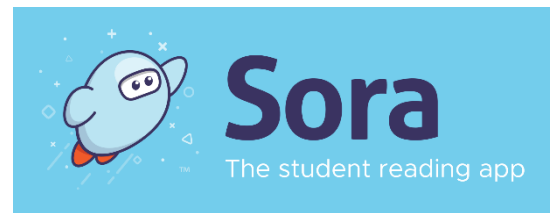
Lots of activities took place throughout Children’s Mental Health week in February to raise awareness. We continued to spread messages of kindness and positivity through our #WriteaSmile postcard project combining literacy with looking after our wellbeing. We carried out a ‘Drop Everything and Read’ activity and created featured book displays. Our current year 7 students wrote #WriteaSmile postcards to distribute to new year 7 students that will be joining us in September. The postcards are full of positive, encouraging messages about what they have enjoyed most during their first year at CHS. The post cards will be given to new students during our Borough Transfer Days in July. View our #WriteaSmile video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vPbkyUytso>



Sora – Sweet Reads 2024

Half term is on 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.

Sora 'Sweet Reads' are back for the summer. From May 13th through to August 25th Sora have curated a selection of over 150 'Sora Sweet Reads' e and audio books that will be 'Always Available' with multiple copies of books and therefore no wait time necessary. The collection is prominently displayed within Sora for easy access and curated to encourage young people to keep reading all summer long. Check them out [here](#) and enjoy.



Sora Reading Recommendations

In keeping with the comic book and graphic novel theme, check out the unbelievably amazing collection on Sora. During 'May – nga (Manga) May' there are over 500 age-appropriate comic book, graphic novels, and manga books to choose from all totally free of charge. You can find log on instructions here. <https://bit.ly/429sGtiSoraLogOn>



[#WriteaSmile – Tim Brighouse Community Initiative TES Award 2024](#)

We are super excited to announce that the #WriteaSmile postcard initiative has been shortlisted for a prestigious TES Tim Brighouse Community Initiative Education Award. CHS is one of eight schools in the whole of the UK to be shortlisted out of many for the work we have done within the community with our postcard project, be that with other local schools, hospitals, residential care homes, church community and much more. Many CHS students have been integral to the project including Kaya Read helping to make it successful and we are extremely proud. Mrs. Hegarty Head of School said:

“We are immensely proud and honoured to be nominated for this prestigious award. The recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff and community. It reflects our commitment to excellence in education and the nurturing of a caring and supportive learning environment.”

The winners will be announced on Friday 21st June in London at the awards ceremony. You can learn more about the TES awards here <https://www.tes.com/en-gb/schools-awards>

You can check out the article online here! [Oldham News | Main News | Crompton House school shortlisted for 2024 Tes Awards - Oldham Chronicle \(oldham-chronicle.co.uk\)](#)



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

