



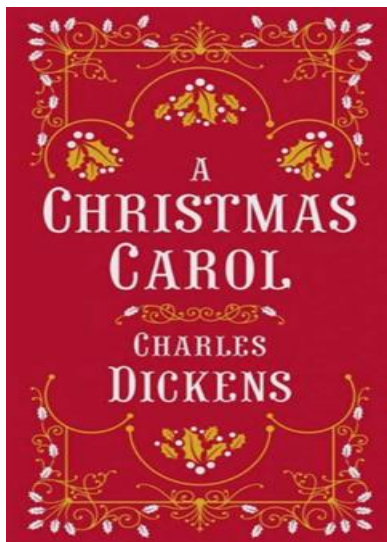
## CHS Library Newsletter – Issue 56

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

As the year draws to a close, we welcome you to issue 56 the final CHS Library Newsletter of the year. Library life has certainly been extremely busy over the last few months and so lots to share with you in this issue. We have hosted bookfairs, Christmas Movie Nights, run our famous 12 Days of Bookmas Advent competition and much more. Christmas is a perfect time to relax and curl up with a terrific 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 of magazines of have landed along with new book additions. Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful 2025.

### Featured Book Reviews

#### [A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens](#)



**Christmas/Ghosts/Classic/Historical/Fantasy/Family**

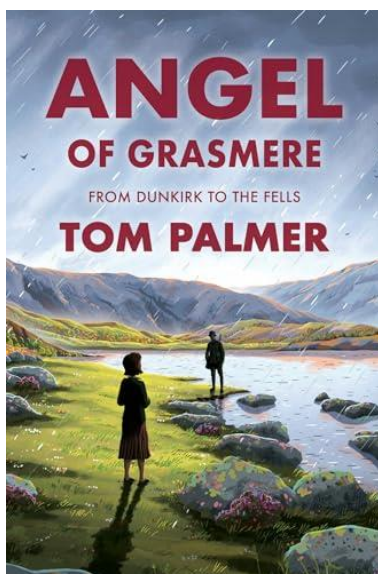
**Suitable for age 10+**

'If I had my way, every idiot who goes around with Merry Christmas on his lips, would be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. Merry Christmas? Bah humbug!'

Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, and he learns he will be visited by three spirits – Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come – who reveal to him his own miserable existence, the opportunities he wasted in his youth, his current cruelties, and the dire fate that awaits him if he does not change his ways. Scrooge is faced with a choice: death or redemption.

I absolutely love this classic tale! This book is on the Always Available Ebook and Audio Book list on the Sora App.

#### [The Angel of Grasmere – Tom Palmer](#)



**Fiction/War/Family/Friendship/Dyslexia friendly**

**Suitable for age 9+**

Tarn grapples with the loss of her brother at Dunkirk as she faces the threat of Nazi invasion in the Cumbrian countryside in this gripping wartime tale from Tom Palmer. July 1940 – as Tarn struggles to come to terms with the loss of her beloved brother in the chaos of the British retreat at Dunkirk, she and her friends scour the hills around their Lake District home, watching for any signs of the long-dreaded Nazi invasion. But as the war drags on, with little good news from the front, the locals become aware of someone carrying out anonymous acts of kindness, such as saving a flock of sheep from a snowdrift and getting help for an injured farmer who might otherwise have died. With no one claiming credit, they come to think of this unidentified stranger as a kind of guardian angel, but when his identity is finally revealed, can Tarn come to terms with the truth...?

Tom Palmer is an amazing award-winning children's author who has visited our school to talk to our students. Tom's books are great for struggling and reluctant readers, and I can't recommend his books enough.

## #WriteaSmile and the Northcare Charity



The #WriteaSmile postcard project is going from strength to strength thanks to our wonderful students and the kindness of our parents, carers and local community. We raffled a hamper at our annual Christmas Fair with the proceeds going to the North Care charities Care this Christmas Campaign. The campaign raises funds towards providing a gift to every patient who will be in hospital over Christmas across our local hospitals, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford and Bury. One of our parents won the hamper who then after a being in hospital himself last Christmas donated the hamper back to Oldham Hospital so they could continue to raise funds. Rory Green, Daniel Steel, Imogen Parry, Jacob Fitton, Lucinda Brogden and Oliver Stannard in year 7 also made Christmas cards and bookmarks to sell in school with the money raised contributing towards the charity.

CHS raised over £700 for the charity! A huge thank you to every who bought a ticket or donated to this worthy cause. You can find out more about the North Care charity here. [Care this Christmas :: NorthCare Charity](#)



## #WriteaSmile & Oldham Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival 2024

The #WriteaSmile postcard project created by our Student Book Council travelled back to the annual Oldham Parish Church for Christmas. Students wrote festive messages of kindness, support, and encouragement which we used to decorate the CHS tree donation which was on display at the church. Visitors to the Oldham Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival were able to take a card to keep and hopefully raise a smile whilst enjoying the wonderful carol services taking place during the festival.



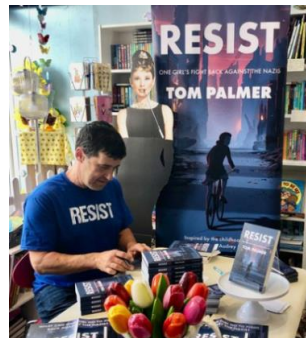




## Tom Palmer – Children’s author – Gift a book for Christmas

Tom Palmer is a brilliant children’s author of some of my favorite books. Tom visited CHS in 2022 and gave a fantastic talk to our year 7 and 8 children. Every Christmas Tom Palmer gift’s 50 signed, giftwrapped books to children across the UK who may have experienced or experiencing a particularly difficult and challenging time. It is a wonderful initiative that has brought immense joy to CHS students who were selected to receive a book following staff nominations. Three students Orla, Lucas, and Billy received a beautiful handmade Christmas card and signed copies of books. A massive thank you to Tom and family for this incredibly thoughtful gesture, wishing you a very merry Christmas from the CHS community.

Tom has a great website full of free resources and information, you can find out more about Tom here <https://tompalmer.co.uk/>



## Christmas Movie Night in the library

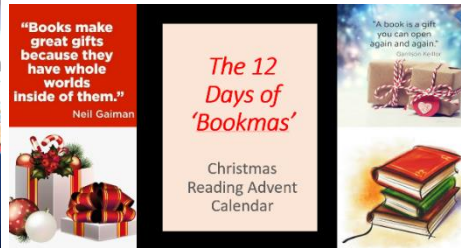
Students had a wonderful time at our annual Christmas Movie Night which takes place in our school library. We watched Nativity and ate popcorn, chocolate, and savory snacks. The children danced and sang along to the movie! It truly was a magical evening.





## 12 Days of Bookmas

Students are enjoying our '12 Days of Bookmas' reading for pleasure advent calendar during the last days of term. Each day, form tutors have shared the book blurb for a recommended read with their class and one lucky student has won a copy of the book to take home and keep. Early Christmas presents! You can view our Bookmas Advent calendar here.



## Scholastic Book Fair

In November, we once again hosted our annual Scholastic Book Fair and students had an exciting time browsing new books from our Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to parents, carers, staff and students, book sales were around £750 raising over £300 towards free books for our wonderful school library! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair this year! If you are looking to gift books this Christmas, you can continue to support us by purchasing from the Scholastic online shop and nominating our school when making payment. A percentage of the sale again contributes towards free books for school. [Scholastic Book Fairs - Scholastic Book Fairs](#)



## Non-Fiction November 2024

Non-Fiction November is an annual celebration of information books for children organized by the Federation of Children's Book Groups. The whole month celebrates all those readers that have a passion for information and facts and attempts to bring nonfiction celebration in line with those of fiction. The theme this year was 'Why Don't You,' you can find out more on the website [here](#). The National Literacy Trust also have great resources around NonFiction November click [here](#) for more information. I have listed some recommended reads below.





## Library Success – Autumn 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. I am pleased to announce the students below have borrowed the most books and will look forward to receiving a reward during our 'rewards Assembly's' this week! I have also included our most popular book titles and authors.

In addition, we have our library superstar of the term **Layla Dowd** 9Cr1, an outstanding librarian. Layla has really shown student librarian leadership this term and has helped to guide other newer librarians. Layla uses her own initiative to complete jobs without prompting. She is also a great ambassador for the #WriteSmile postcard project.

### Top Library Borrowers by Year and Form –Autumn Term 24

#### Top borrowers

- 7RI2 – Martin Metaj - 37
- 7Co2 – Majid Ali - 24
- 8Co3 – Max Edwards - 30
- 8Or1 – Joshua Naylor - 26
- 9RI2 – Anigba Tarsha - 54
- 9Cr1 – Emma Cowling - 48
- 10RI1 – Zoya Iltaf - 19
- 10Co3 – Gift Omogodo - 4
- 11RI2 – Kaya Read - 2
- 11Cr2 – Shreeya Sisodia - 2

#### Highest Form Borrowing

- **7RI2 – 109**
- 7Co2 – 85
- 8Or1 – 44
- 8Co3 – 40
- 9RI2 – 103
- 9Cr1 – 54
- 10RI1 – 19
- 10Co3 – 4
- 11RI2 – 2
- 11Cr2 – 2



**So far year 7RI2 are smashing it by a mile, again and have won every term!**

### Top Library Titles and Authors Borrowed

#### Most popular books borrowed

1. Heartstopper Vol 2 – Alice Oseman
2. Heartstopper Vol 1 – Alice Oseman
3. Fourth Closet Five Nights at **Freddy's** – Scott Cawthon
4. Heartstopper Vol 3 – Alice Oseman
5. Adventures of Dog Man 2 – Dav Pilkey

#### Most popular authors

1. Kohei Horikoshi
2. Dav Pilkey
3. Alice Oseman
4. Scott Cawthon
5. James Patterson



## Accelerated Reader Successes – Autumn term 2024.

Each term we are monitoring and rewarding student achievements on the Accelerated Reader Reading for Pleasure platform. This relates to students who have read the most words within books and therefore becoming 'Word Millionaires.' This also includes students who have accumulated the most points during quizzing on the books they have read. Next year we will be including 'Most Improved Students' within reward criteria, so watch this space. More information on the Accelerated Reader program here. [Accelerated Reader | Renaissance Learning](#)

### Word count winners – Autumn Term

#### Students that have read the most words

- Year 7**
- Lewis McAndrew **615,018**
  - Jack Heath **532,706**
- Year 8**
- Jason Codjoe **1,423,134**
  - **Thoryn** Evans **863,547**
- Year 9**
- Matthew **McCreech** **1,007,105**
  - Poppy Jastrzebski **743,906**

#### Form that have read the most words

- 7S1 – Mr Musgrave – **3,406,975**
- 7F3 – Mr Pearson – **2,787,625**
- 8F2 – Mrs Ritchie-Holland – **3,352,075**
- 8F1 – Mrs Holt – **2,524,727**
- 9S1 – Mrs Pearson – **4,208,170**
- 9F2 – Mrs Whittington – **3,488,565**



### Most quizzing points winners – Autumn Term

#### Students that have gained the most quizzing points

- Year 7**
- 7EnF3 - Lewis McAndrew – **81.5**
  - 7EnS1 - Jack Heath – **69.2**
- Year 8**
- **8EnF2 - Jason Codjoe – 203**
  - 8EnF3 - **Thoryn** Evans – **116.6**
- Year 9**
- 9EnF2 - Matthew **McCreech** – 144.6
  - 9EnS1 - Poppy Jastrzebski – 90

#### Forms that have gained the most quizzing points in total

- 7S1 – Mr Musgrave – **446**
- 7F3 – Mr Pearson – **359**
- 8F2 – Mrs Ritchie-Holland – **475**
- 8S1 – Mr Pearson - **464**
- **9S1 – Mrs Pearson – 525.7**
- 9F2 – Mrs Whittington – **513.6**

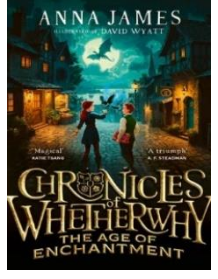
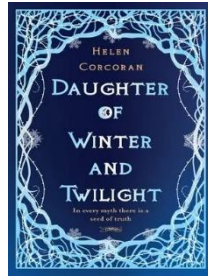
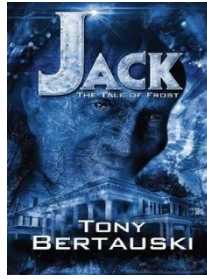
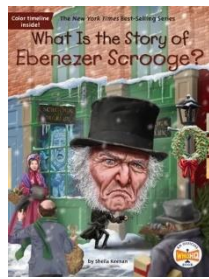
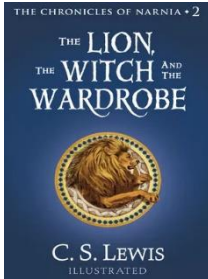






## Sora Update

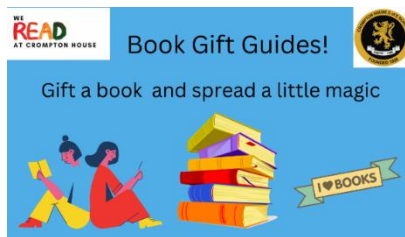
The festive season is on us, time to relax and unwind with a good book! A reminder that Sora is our totally free online library packed full of over 4000 e and audio books for our students to use. Sora have recently added a fantastic magazine package, everything from National Geographic to baking, sport, fashion, crafts, it really is great! There really is something for everyone. **Check out their ‘When the Weather Outside is Frightful’ collection and cozy up over Christmas!** You can find a reminder on how to log onto to Sora on our school website here <https://bit.ly/429sGtiSoraLogOn>



## Gift a Book this Christmas.

As a final note to you, as the year draws to and close, why not gift a book for Christmas. 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 Christmas! [LAST MINUTE BOOK GIFTS! \(cromptonhouse.org\)](https://www.cromptonhouse.org.uk/last-minute-book-gifts)

*“What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more”– 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](mailto:c.cullen@cromptonhouse.org)  
Twitter: @CLearningzone #CHSFamilyReads #WriteaSmile

