

# Copplestone Primary School Newsletter

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Edition 82

15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Message from Head of School:

On behalf of us all, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The children have had some lovely end of term experiences including nativity plays, carol concert, Christmas lunch and a visit to Copplestone Church.

Thank you to all of the staff who have worked so hard to provide these opportunities, I really appreciate all that they do to help and support your children.

Thank you to the CPTA and other volunteers who have given their time so generously to support the school.

We look forward to seeing the children return to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Mrs Mackey



**Spotlight:** A seasonal poem from one of our year 6 writers, Elsie.

### Scarecrow Christmas

In winter fields  
A scarecrow sings  
The hopeful tunes  
Of lonely kings

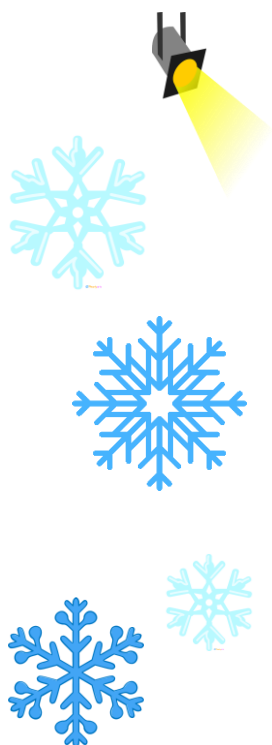
His Empty heart  
Is thin and cold  
His cruel rags  
Worn and old

In bed at night  
Children listen for  
Padded footsteps  
At the door

In our homes  
We sing out clear  
Warm words of joy  
And we know no fear

In other fields  
And different lands  
Living scarecrows  
Reach out hands

They live beneath  
The sun's harsh rays  
And they do not know  
Of Christmas Day



## Certificate Winners and Hot Chocolate Awards

### Certificate Winners – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Challenge - Jack - Rainbow Class  
Challenge - Albie - Green Class  
Confidence - Nola - Yellow Class  
Challenge - Elizabeth - Blue Class  
Community - Finley - Orange Class  
Caring - Saul - Red Class  
Curiosity - Harrison - Purple Class

### Hot Chocolate Awards – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Rainbow Class – William  
Green Class – Elsie  
Yellow Class – Archer  
Blue Class – Charlie H  
Orange Class – Esme  
Red Class – Archie  
Purple Class – Paige

### Certificate Winners – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Confidence - Ella - Rainbow Class  
Confidence - Sophie - Green Class  
Challenge - Oliver - Yellow Class  
Curiosity - Riley - Blue Class  
Curiosity - Elliot - Orange Class  
Creativity - Jacob - Red Class  
Community - Summer - Purple Class

### Hot Chocolate Awards – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Rainbow Class – Amos  
Green Class – Eliza  
Yellow Class – Edith  
Blue Class – Freya  
Orange Class – Freya  
Red Class – Max  
Purple Class – Bonnie

#### Pre-School:

We've had a very busy couple of weeks at Pre-School preparing for our Nativity with Rainbow Class, visiting Copplestone Church, a trip to the Theatre, a yummy Christmas lunch and a visit from Father Christmas.

The children have enjoyed all the festive activities including making Christmas biscuits and cards, decorating pine cones with glitter, learning new Christmas rhymes and have had lots of Christmas stories read to them at Carpet Time.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing the children return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

**Merry  
Christmas**



### Class Dojo:

Class Dojo is a very useful tool which we use to forge a strong link between home and school. We expect everybody to behave in a positive manner, engaging respectfully with the school and each other on Class Dojo, in the same way as they would face to face.



- Please be kind and polite.
- Do not send messages which are, or could be, construed as rude, insulting, aggressive, bullying or otherwise inappropriate.
- Do not send urgent messages – these should be directed to the office in the normal way, as teachers are teaching and may not see messages.
- Teachers have a work/life balance and parents should not expect a response outside of working hours, although some teachers choose to do this – it is not an expectation.

Where an incident relates to an inappropriate Class Dojo post by a member of the school community, we will delete the post and reserve the right to block the person.



### Blue Class Trip to The Eden Project – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

On our trip to the Eden Project we learnt how to be chocologists. When we went in the rainforest biome we had to dress up like Hope the farmer, Felix the scientist, Cocoa the Goddess and Cortez the soldier. We loved the bit where we got to eat chocolate and feel how it was, then after that we ate lunch. Then we went back to the rainforest biome and had another look at the place we first went and had a look at the other half of the rainforest. On the way back we were talking about how fun it was. **Lolita.**

When the chocolate was in my mouth it felt smooth and soft and I enjoyed it. We had to dress up as Hope the farmer, Felix the scientist, Cocoa the Goddess and Cortez the soldier. We loved getting sprayed by the waterfall at the rainforest biome. We had so much fun! **Evie-Mae.**





Was your child born between  
**1st September 2019 and  
31st August 2020?**

## How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at  
**[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)**  
from 15th November 2023 to the 15th January 2024

If you cannot access the school  
admissions website you can get  
more information by calling our  
Education Helpline on

**0345 155 1019**

or email: [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)



Even if you have already given  
details to a primary school, you  
must apply for a place through the  
Admissions Team. This is the only  
way to apply; other forms or lists  
held by schools will not count.

Devon  
County Council

### Christmas Events at Crediton Library:

#### Christmas Books Table

From Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd December you can come in and choose a book from the Christmas Books Table (as well as borrowing books from the library for the holidays!). On the Christmas Books Table there will be nearly new books for children and adults that have been donated by the public and wrapped up by library staff and volunteers. Apart from a brief description on the outside it will be a surprise for you to take away and keep! Anyone is welcome to choose one.

#### Christmas Craft

On Monday 18th December from 11am to 1pm you can drop in to the library and participate in a paper craft activity. This is a free event open to pre-school and primary aged children, but we request you book by Thursday 14th December via email on [crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or telephone us on 01363772578 if you would like to attend. We request that children under 8 are accompanied by an adult.

#### Christmas Trail and Colouring

We will have a Christmas trail up from Saturday 16th December, where you can come and find the pictures hidden around the library. There will also be Christmas colouring available.

We look forward to seeing you at Crediton Library and hope everyone has a very happy holiday.



*November whole school attendance was 95.6%*

### Achieve4All:

Achieve4All After School Club for the Spring Term (1st Half) is now ready for booking. See the details below:

Thursday 3.30-4.30pm

Year 3,4,5 & 6 Tag Rugby - Starts Thursday 4th January 2024

You can book these sessions by going to [www.achieve4all.co.uk](http://www.achieve4all.co.uk), scrolling down and clicking on **BOOK NOW**



## **January 2024**

2<sup>nd</sup> NON-PUPIL DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> ALL PUPILS RETURN

9<sup>th</sup> ~~12-2pm CLC Y5/6 Swimming Gala~~ **\*\*Postponed\*\***

10<sup>th</sup> Dogs Trust in School Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y4

23<sup>rd</sup> 11am-2pm CLC Y5/6 Netball Tournament (details to follow)

## **February 2024**

**12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> HALF-TERM**

w/c 26<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation Week

27<sup>th</sup> CLC Y1/2 Multi-skills Event (TBC)

## **March 2024**

w/c 4<sup>th</sup> Book Week

5<sup>th</sup> CLC Y1/2 Multi-skills Event (TBC)

7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day

11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Purple Class Residential to Skern Lodge

28<sup>th</sup> LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

## **April 2024**

15<sup>th</sup> NON-PUPIL DAY

16<sup>th</sup> All Pupils Return

18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Orange Class Residential to Bristol

22<sup>nd</sup> Reception and Year 6 Height and Measurement Programme

24<sup>th</sup> Tempest Class Group Photo's

30<sup>th</sup> CLC Y3/4 Handball Event (TBC)

## **May 2024**

6<sup>th</sup> BANK HOLIDAY

w/c 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATS

21<sup>st</sup> CLC Y3/4 Rounders Event (TBC)

**27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> HALF-TERM**

## **June 2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> All Pupils Return

12<sup>th</sup> Sports Day

25<sup>th</sup> CLC Y5/6 Athletics Event (TBC)

26<sup>th</sup> Reserve Sports Day

## **July 2024**

16<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Year 6 Performance

17<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Year 6 Performance

22<sup>nd</sup> 2.45pm Rainbow Class Graduation

23<sup>rd</sup> 9.15am Year 6 Leavers Assembly

23<sup>rd</sup> 3.15pm Year 6 Leavers Arch

23<sup>rd</sup> LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
2023-24 School Year



**Merry  
Christmas**



# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Dot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

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