

# Pupils get set to create a Kindle storm with novel

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A new book written entirely by pupils at Coombe Hill Junior School is ready to take Kindle by storm.

The Coombian Riddle went online this week, published as an ebook on Amazon.

Headteacher Mark Clutterbuck wrote the opening section of the story about two pupils who found a coin and a note in a flowerbed at school.

He said: "I had no idea where the story would go, but each class took a turn at continuing the story in the direction they wanted it to go – the result is far more imaginative and exciting than anything I could have imagined."

"It has proved to be so popular with pupils that, as a result, we have published the story as a Kindle novel and it will be available in other formats shortly."

"I am really proud that our pupils have created such a good novel."

During writers week at the school earlier this year, poet Valerie Bloom and author David Alric both suggested sentences to take the story forward.

Writer and illustrator Alex Milway also created an image, which is now the book's cover.

But the pupils were the



Our story: Headteacher Mark Clutterbuck with Eva Bolton, Lola Halsey, Caspar McKibben, Tom Ryan, Maha Masood and Aksayan Navakumar with the cover of the school's novel

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main driving force in building the story, with every student contributing an idea or sentence.

Year 4 student Lola Halsey said: "I liked how you had to

wait a whole week to find out what happened next when Mr Clutterbuck would read the next chapter in assembly."

Classmate Maha Massoud

added: "I like the way each class made it difficult for you to carry the story on, but every class managed it."

The story features the Coombians, a race of

time-travelling people, who use their skills for good across history.

The novel has been so well-received that the story will continue in a sequel.

## In brief

### MUDDY START:

To kick start the school year Kingston Grammar School first years went on a team bonding day. The group went to Walton Firs in Cobham to get stuck into archery, building and to tackle an adventure course. All participants ended the day covered in mud but with new friends.

### OPEN DAY:

Rokeby School is hosting an open morning for prospective pupils in October. There will be tours of the Kingston independent preparatory school and a talk from headteacher Jason Peck at the George Road site. To register interest and find out more, visit [rokebyschool.co.uk/news](http://rokebyschool.co.uk/news).

### TIME TARGET:

Attendance and punctuality will be the focus of one New Malden primary school this year. King's Oak Primary School headteacher Cathy Clarke told parents her aims in a newsletter sent out at the start of term. She is aiming for a school average of 97 per cent attendance this year.

### QUIET SPACE:

A new addition to Malden Manor Primary and Nursery School will be a quiet reflective area for children to use. Dubbed the Nest, the new building in the school playground is set for a grand opening next week.

### SCHOOL VISIT:

The Holy Cross School in New Malden is holding an open evening for year 7. The school is offering an opportunity to meet teachers and students and learn more about the school in Sandal Road. It will take place on Monday, September 28, from 5.30pm to 9pm.



Reading space: Author Mark Robertson with pupils at the new Fern Hill Primary School library

## Fantasy story writer opens library

A new library at Kingston's Fern Hill Primary School opened on Tuesday.

The new area is decorated

with mosaics, based on mythical creatures, which were designed and created by the pupils.

Mark Robertson, author of dragon-themed books, opened the library in Richmond Road this week.

## Visit to death camp inspires memorial art

Two sixth formers were so moved following a trip to a concentration camp in Poland that they set up a memorial at their school.

The pupils, from Tolworth Girls' School, took part in the Holocaust Educational Trust visit to Auschwitz concentration camp in February.

After they returned, Nisa Kahn and Merisa Dedja, both 17, decided to set up a memorial to the Holocaust at the school.

The memorial, a tree, has messages from pupils studying history at the school explaining why the Holocaust should be remembered.

A spokesman for the school said: "Nisa and Merisa have delivered a lasting, reflecting memorial for



Moved: Nisa Kahn and Merisa Dedja with their memorial

the school, in the hope of educating those to come about the horrors of the past."

## Top mark

A 10-year-old boy has achieved an A in GCSE maths.

Fardeen Siddiki, a year 6 pupil at Castle Hill Primary School in Chessington, took the exam five years early.

His teachers at Castle Hill now think he could be the youngest pupil in London to get an A this year.

Headteacher Lou Anderson said: "We are all really proud of Fardeen, he has worked incredibly hard on the challenges he has been set this year."

"In fact Fardeen enjoys maths so much he has even attended additional after school maths classes and clubs."