



Copythorne CE Infant School

Newsletter October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe we are already nearing the end of the first half term! I have been so impressed at how quickly the children have settled back into school and adjusted to the 'new normal' of school routines. As you will know, our teachers and LSAs have worked incredibly hard to ensure that our learning environments and approaches to teaching were ready to support all children in returning to school, after such a long period of uncertainty. It has been brilliant to see how our resilient learners have settled, engaged and moved forward. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us! The start of Reception is one of my favourite times of years and we have all been really impressed at how the children have settled into their new classes.

Governance

Our Federation is led by a committed body of governors, with a vast skillset, who not only represent a cross section of our community but also work strategically to evaluate the success of all the schools within the Federation and lead the direction for improvement (they also count as my boss!) Over the past number of years, Marie Kirk has been The Chair of Governors and given up many hours of her own time in order to ensure that our schools are performing at their best. I would like to thank Marie for her work over the years and let her know how her time and efforts have been invaluable to the development of the Federation. We have now appointed a new Chair of Governors, Jennie Wright, who previously was nominated on the governing body as a parent governor. Jennie has been a governor for many years and I look forward to working alongside her.

Covid

I would like to thank the patience of every parent and family we work with, as we continue to navigate through such challenging times. As with every organisation around the country we are continually reviewing, adapting and amending what we are doing, to ensure that not only all our school community are safe, but also that we are providing the best provision for our children. My thanks to everyone who has followed government guidance, sought a covid test when needed and informed the school of the outcome. It is all our responsibility to act and do the right thing and this has helped to ensure our schools are safe and can remain open and fully staffed.

We will continue to send out updates regarding covid as things change and alter. There is a bank of information on our website including how to register for home kits and guides to help you know when and when not to send your child into school.



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As always, if your child is ill, please let them rest and get better. However, should your child be isolating because of close contact with a positive case or a family member showing symptoms, please use your child's tapestry account to access work, tasks and challenges to ensure that your child is able to keep up with their learning. If you are not receiving any communication through tapestry, or have issues accessing content sent by your child's class teacher, please phone or email the school as quickly as possible so that we can help resolve this.

For more information on our distance learning approach, you can read our policy on the website, under the curriculum drop down menu.

Online home learning

We have had great feedback from parents who have accessed some of our online platforms for learning, including programmes such as Reading Eggs and Mathletics. These can provide a great way to support your child at home, as well as at school, to catch up on lost learning time. This year, all schools have been allocated funds to spend on enhancing provision, to support children in making the best progress possible. As part of this spend, we have opted to purchase a subscription for every child, within the federation, to use both in school and at home. Your child will soon have a password and user name coming home for your use.



New starters 2021

If you know someone who is looking for a school place for September 2021 please encourage them to make contact with the school office. Unfortunately, all schools in Hampshire have been asked to not show new families around, however each school's Head of Learning will be hosting a number of group zoom meetings, to talk about their school and we are currently exploring some other exciting opportunities to show off the work we do. We will soon be offering virtual tours of all our schools and look forward to showing off our fabulous schools to as many people as possible – watch this space....

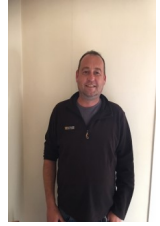
Harvest

Thank you all for you Harvest offerings! They have been gratefully received and will make a real difference for families in our community.

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Good bye and welcome

Graham Ratcliffe, our site manager who works across all our schools is retiring at the end of this month. We have been greatly appreciative of all he has done. Graham always performs above and beyond what is asked of him and we wish him the best of luck for the future. We welcome Leon White as his replacement. Leon comes with a wealth of experience (having been in a similar post at the Mayflower Theatre) and we look forward to working with him.



Relationship Education

Over the Summer, Mrs Thomas (Copythorne Infant School) has been busy finalising our relationship policy and PSHE policy. These are currently posted on our website, under the curriculum – curriculum documents sections. These policies have not yet been formally agreed by the Governing Body and are currently on the website for consultation. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please email thoughts to your school's admin team.

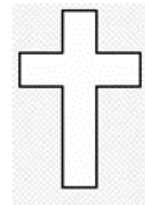
Currently, I am minimising my movements between schools and spending longer periods at each school due to current covid guidelines (as well as wearing a fetching visor when walking around the school). Please feel free to speak to me on the gate if you have any concerns or questions, or contact your child's school office and they will be able to put you in contact with me if needed. In the meantime, I continue to look forward to seeing what each and every child achieves over the coming year!

Kind Regards



Mr Mat Bowen

Executive Headteacher



A Prayer for our schools

We give you our school.

We give you all the teachers and staff who work here,

We give you all the children who study here.

We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Message from Mrs Thomas

Well what a fantastic start to this academic year! It is so good to be back together again and it has been an absolute joy to hear the children talking about their learning, play and everything else they are so keen to share with those around them. I have noticed a real buzz of excitement and learning in all our 'classroom bubbles', and so many smiles and cheery 'good mornings' on the way into school. I am continually impressed and in awe of the resilience and positive attitude to school and learning that the children have shown over the last few weeks.

All of the staff in school have shown commitment and enthusiasm amidst the relentless pressure and hard work that our current situation demands. They are working under immense pressure to maintain control measures, keep your children safe and still continue to plan and deliver exciting and meaningful teaching and learning, despite all the restrictions and barriers along the way.

Please know that everyone at Copythorne Infants genuinely wants the best for your children and they are really enjoying working with all of you. Thank you for all of your support, it is a very uncertain and anxious time for all of us, but as we continue to show love, respect and compassion to each other, we can all move forward together.

Jan Thomas –Head of Learning.

Absence due to illness

If your child will not be attending school due to illness, please ensure that you inform the office by 9.30am. Remember that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they need to remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode.



As we have pupils in school with severe nut allergies please ensure that no items containing nuts are included in your child's packed lunch. Many thanks .

Inset days for 2020-2021

Friday 13th November

Friday 12th February

Friday 23rd July



We use Parentmail to send out information about events, trips, reminders, newsletters and after school club information. If possible please check your Parentmail account every day as this is also how we will inform you if there is an emergency closure.

You can also check our school website, <https://www.oakscelearningfederation.co.uk/> for the school calendar, policies, curriculum overviews, information and the school lunch menu.



A portion of fresh, chilled milk at mid morning break provides protein, calcium and other vital nutrients, important for your child's growth and development. It is also a great way to bridge the gap between breakfast and lunch, rehydrating your child and helping them to concentrate in class. It is free up to the age of 5 and then it is chargeable.

For more information or to register your child please visit : www.coolmilk.com



Please do not park in front of this sign which is on the gate to the right of the school. It is designated for use by disabled drivers only.

Data Collection Forms

We will be sending out your data collection form with your Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Purple Mash log in details. Please can you check the information is correct and complete the Parentmail form titled "Data Collection Forms", letting us know of any amendments required.

Please only use Parentmail and

DO NOT RETURN THE FORM TO SCHOOL.

How To Contact Us

Our telephone number is 02380 813340 and our E-mail address is adminoffice@copythorne.hants.sch.uk

If we have rung and you have missed our call, please do not use 1471 as this sends the call to our fax machine and we are very often unable to answer.



Is your child eligible for pupil premium funding?

Your child may be entitled to a sum of money, paid to the school, with the aim to boost their learning. This money is used by the school, to fund provisions with the aim of helping children in receipt of the pupil premium funding reach their best potential.

If you receive any of the following benefits you may be eligible:

Universal credit (provided you have a net income of £7400 or less)

Income support

Income-based jobseekers' allowance

Income-related employment and support allowance

Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guaranteed element of state pension credit

Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit

and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

There are many benefits to your child receiving pupil premium benefits, including **free uniform items** and **funding for school trips**. For a more comprehensive break down of how the federation spends this money, please see the pupil premium strategy, published on the website.

If you have any further questions, please speak with the school office team. They will be able to help you apply, or you can apply directly via the attached link and school will get notified if you are eligible:

Remembrance Sunday

Although our children will not be taking part in the Remembrance service at St Mary's Church, Copythorne this year due to Covid restrictions, we will provide a wreath which will be laid on our behalf. We will also be selling poppies in school and will provide further information on this after half term.



Flu Vaccine

This year all children at Copythorne Infant School will be offered the opportunity to have the flu nasal vaccine in school. The school nursing team will be visiting on Monday 7th December to immunise those children whose parents have given their consent. Your consent needs to be given online this year due to Covid regulations and the link and codes to do this are below.

<https://www.southernhealthimmunisations.co.uk/forms/flu>

The unique code for your child's school is **SH116282** Submit your form by **05/12/20** to ensure your child receives their vaccination. If you experience any problems accessing the form, telephone **02380 475221** and the team will be happy to help.

The vaccination is free and recommended for young children every year, and will be given by a quick and simple spray up the nose.



Thank you

The Basics Bank at Testwood Baptist Church have asked us to say a huge thank you for all of your Harvest donations. This is a very difficult time for a lot of people, so your help is very much appreciated.



Unfortunately due to Covid 19 restrictions we will not be collecting Christmas shoeboxes this year for Honeypot House. If you would still like to help this local charity, please go to their webpage where there is an option to donate.

<https://www.honeypot.org.uk/?>

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Kestrels

All the children have had an excellent start to their time in Kestrels. The children have been having a super learning experience at Testwood lakes, exploring the habitat in our local nature reserve.

As a contrast they have been learning how to play African drums and percussion instruments with expertise from Hampshire Music Service.



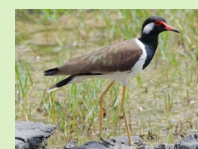
PE Kits

Please can you ensure that your child's PE kit is the Copythorne colour of blue / white t shirt and shorts. We are increasingly seeing children in football kits and different coloured tops. Many thanks.



Lapwings

The children are settling in well and enjoying being in their new class room with their new teacher. Please could we ask again that no books or toys are brought in from home, we are noticing an increased number in bookbags which are then being taken out in class. We are all working very hard to reduce the risk of infection entering the school, so your cooperation in this matter would be very much appreciated.



Swallows Class

The children have made a fantastic start to their first term in school. We have been getting to know our new classroom and learning how to use everything. The children have been learning about the importance of being independent, tidying up, showing friendship and sharing.

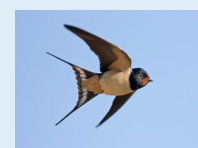
Thank you for encouraging them in being so independent in the mornings. Please continue to encourage your child to practise zipping up their own coats and putting on their own shoes. Please make sure all shoes are named as they take them off periodically throughout the day and they all look very similar!

Lastly, if you haven't done so already, please activate your Tapestry link so that you can view your child's learning journal.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask a member of the YR team.

Many thanks

Swallows team





Thursday October 22nd	All day	Year 2 Woodland Learning project
Friday 23rd October	8-8.30am	Virtual Open Day
Friday 23rd October		Last day of Autumn 1 Term
Wednesday 28th October		Little Oaks Club - holiday club
Sunday 1st November	Midnight	Hampshire site open for applications for Year R and Year 3 2021
Monday 2nd November		First day of Autumn 2 Term
Thursday 5th November		Bonfire Lunch
Friday 13th November	All day	Inset day. School is closed for staff training
Monday 7th December	am	Flu immunisations
Tuesday 15th December		Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December		Last day of Autumn 2 Term
Monday 4th January		First day of Spring Term 1

Term Dates for 2020/21

Autumn Term 1	Thursday 3rd September	Friday 23rd October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 2nd November	Friday 18th December
Spring Term 1	Monday 4th January	Friday 12th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 22nd February	Thursday 1st April
Summer Term 1	Monday 19th April	Friday 28th May
Summer Term 2	Monday 7th June	Friday 23rd July
Inset Days School Closed	Friday 13th November 2020 Friday 12th February 2021 Friday 23rd July 2021	



Bonfire menu
Thursday November 5th

Beef burger in a bap

Or

Vegetarian sausage in a hot dog roll

**Served with sweetcorn, baked beans and
crinkle cut wedges**

Gingerbread man or fruit