



Copythorne CE Infant School

Newsletter January 2023



Our School Vision



Connected through the values of love, respect and compassion. Three separate schools, we journey together to grow physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, so that everyone can fulfil their potential.

We strive to preserve the wonder of childhood, whilst ensuring our children are future ready.

“Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed for the lord your God is with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9

Message from Mr Bowen

And just like that, another half term has whizzed by! Easter is on the Horizon, the days are getting longer and the weather...well, coats are still very much needed each day.

I hope you have a relaxing half term and look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 20th January.

Morning Gates and security

We have a number of gates around school with various locks and codes on. This is to ensure that the site remains secure at the beginning and end of the school day but also during the school day. We use codes to ensure that in an emergency all staff members are able to quickly release locks and evacuate, if needed. Could we please ask, that at drop off and pick up, you support us by not allowing your child to play with or tamper the locks. This helps ensure that the locks do not get damaged and also supports behaviour expectations at school.

Rwanda

You may be aware, but earlier this year I was approached by one of our education directors at the diocese of Winchester and Portsmouth to accompany them on a learning exchange to Rwanda over the half-term holiday. We have talked to the children at school about this and they have helped prepare lots of things for me to take out and share with children in a variety of schools. This includes recorded songs, games, pictures and prayers, which we will show the children, in the schools we visit. In return the children we visit will do similar, for us to bring back and share with the children in our schools.

The trip is designed to not only support our ongoing curriculum but also with an aim of forging a link, which will support our young learners growing understanding of the wide world!

Hopefully your children will be able to talk about this as the coming weeks pass by, and despite what many children have said, I will be coming back after half term!

Swimming

Last year, we used our PE premium funding to provide swimming lessons for Year Two during the summer term. This year we are also going to extending this to Year One. Please keep an eye out for a letter on parent mail, which will explain how we facilitate lessons further.

Packed Lunches

Can I please remind parents that as a school we encourage healthy eating, therefore our policy is no sweets, chocolate/chocolate bars or fizzy drinks please.

Parents Meeting

I would like to thank everyone who responded to our parent consultations survey. We have had an overwhelming response in favour of face to face meetings. Therefore, our next parent consultation evenings will be face to face, this provides a great opportunity to look through your child's work, first hand. However, if you are unable to meet face to face, please speak with your child's teacher or email the school and, where we can, we will still try to facilitate virtual sessions.

I would like to remind all parents and guardians, that these meetings are opportunities to have open and honest conversations about our pupil's successes, challenges and next steps. As a result, we ask for children not attend these meetings, in order for conversations to be as open as possible. We are also aware that the planned evenings for parents consultations will potentially be disrupted by teacher strikes, therefore we will be hosting parent consultations on **Tuesday 28th February** and **Wednesday 1st March** Between 3.30 and 6.00.

Thinking day

World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place on every 22 February since 1926.

It remains a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world. One of the traditions of Thinking Day is that members of the Guiding movement wear their uniforms to school to show others that they are part of the movement. Therefore, if your child is member of rainbows or brownies, they are invited to come to school in their uniform on **Tuesday 22nd February** and will be asked to talk a little to their class about what they do at their group.

Teacher Strikes

As mentioned before, I was extremely grateful to my team for the advance notice they were able to give regarding strike action. This allowed us to risk assess to best of our ability and give advanced noticed of disruptions to school. Currently there are a further three planned days:

- Thursday 2nd March (Schools in the southwest, southeast and London region)
- Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March (England and Wales)

As yet, I am not aware of teachers intentions. I believe the industry is waiting to see what impact and next steps come from the actions taken. I shall endeavour to keep all parents as informed as possible as we approach the next proposed date for industrial action.

Diary Dates

Monday 20th February	PTA AGM
Wednesday 22nd February	Year 2 parents circuit training 9.15am
Wednesday 22nd February	World Thinking Day
W/C 27th February	World Book week
Tuesday 28th February	Parent consultations (all year groups)
Wednesday 1st March	Parent consultations (all year groups)
Wednesday 15th March	Family worship St Mary's Church @ 9.15am
Friday 17th March	PTFA—Mother's day shopping room
Friday 17th March	Red Nose day
Thursday 23rd March	Praizin Hands Easter visit
Friday 24th March	Year R—Longdown Dairy Farm visit
Tuesday 28th March	Easter Service St Mary's Church @ 2.00pm
Friday 31st March	LAST DAY OF TERM
W/c 15th May	Walk to School Week
Monday 17th April	First day of new term
Wednesday 19th April	Family worship St Mary's Church @ 9.15am
Thursday 20th April	Year 1 Swimming
Thursday 27th April	Year 1 Swimming
Monday 1st May	BANK HOLIDAY—School closed
Thursday 4th May	Year 1 Swimming
Monday 8th May	KINGS CORONATION—School closed
Thursday 11th May	Year 1 Swimming
Wednesday 17th May	Family worship St Mary's Church @ 9.15am
Thursday 18th May	Year 1 Swimming
Monday 22nd May	Year 1 Inter Fed Sports Competition (parents welcome weather permitting)
Tuesday 23rd May	Year 2 Inter Fed Sports Competition (parents welcome weather permitting)
Thursday 25th May	Year 1 Swimming
Friday 26th May	LAST DAY OF TERM

Term Dates 2022/23

Spring Term 2	Monday 20th February 2023	Friday 31st March 2023
Summer Term 1	Monday 17th April 2023	Friday 26th May 2023
Summer Term 2	Monday 5th June 2023	Friday 21st July 2023
Inset Days School Closed	Monday 26th June	