

# THE OAKS CE LEARNING FEDERATION

# NEWSLETTER

February  
2025

## 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.*



## A Message from Mr Bowen

As always, it feels like the last half-term has whizzed by, and it's hard to believe that just a few weeks ago, we were still in the swing of Christmas. Easter is on the horizon and lighter mornings are on the way. School life remains as busy as ever and there is lots of information to share in this newsletter!

## Federation News

It has been a busy half-term across all our schools, and unfortunately, a wave of illness has affected both pupils and staff. As many of you will know, this has led to occasional staffing challenges. These situations often arise unexpectedly, sometimes only becoming clear once I am already on my way to school. When this happens, our priority is always to ensure that teaching and learning continue smoothly.

One of the key benefits of having mixed-age classes is that teachers collaborate closely, delivering the same lessons across different classrooms. This helps minimise disruption to learning. However, it also means there is sometimes little time to notify parents of staff changes before the school day begins. We appreciate your understanding when these situations arise, as they are unavoidable.

Last week, Copythorne underwent its statutory SIAMS inspection. I would like to extend my thanks to all the parents who provided feedback and spoke with the inspector, as well as to the whole Oaks team, who work together to ensure that provision is the best it can be. We were extremely pleased with the positive feedback received and look forward to sharing the inspector's findings with the entire Oaks Federation community.

We have also had a visit from Ofsted at St Michael & All Angels. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to speak with the inspectors and complete our parental survey. The inspector commented on the positivity of the feedback from the families we serve and we were all very grateful for all the lovely comments! We are looking forward to sharing the outcomes of the inspection as soon as we are permitted.

Well done to our Year 1 and 2 pupils who took part in our Inter-Federation Dodgeball Festival! The games were full of energy and excitement, and the children worked hard during their practice sessions with ACE Sports. We are thrilled to announce that Year 1 teams from Copythorne and Netley Marsh shared first place this term, while Netley Marsh won in Year 2. Fantastic effort from everyone!

## Staffing Changes

While we are extremely happy for Mrs Buchan, our finance officer, we are also (very selfishly) sad to announce that she will be retiring at Easter. After 31 years of dedicated service at Copythorne and across the wider Federation, she will be greatly missed by both staff and families.

Following a rigorous recruitment process, we are pleased to announce that Miss Instrall, currently based at St Michael & All Angels, has been appointed to the role of Federation Finance Officer. She will begin a transition period with Mrs Buchan after half-term. As a result, we welcome Mrs Anglaret, who will be joining St Michael & All Angels School as our new admin officer at Lyndhurst.

Additionally, we have appointed Mrs Wheeler to replace Mrs Abbot at Copythorne. She will be working in Fox Class alongside Mr Cooper. We warmly welcome her to the Copythorne team!

## Toys and Precious Items

We completely understand that, from time to time, children like to bring items from home. However, we would like to advise parents not to send their child into school with toys or precious items, as we cannot guarantee their safety. It is very natural for young children to lose items, forget where they put them, drop and break things, or pick up something attractive and pop it in their pocket (be it a pebble or a ring). Although we absolutely believe that part of development at school is taking responsibility and learning right from wrong, this is a developmental process for all children. Therefore, before sending any personal item to school with your child, we ask you to consider: how would they feel if it was lost or broken? This is always a possibility for any item brought into school.

*"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*

## Financial Support

We recognise the financial pressures many families are facing. Our schools can offer small discretionary grants to support families in need. If you are struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out - we are here to help ensure all our children are warm, well-clothed, and well-fed this winter. Please speak to any member of staff you feel comfortable with.

We also have a range of nearly new clothing, including school jumpers, available at each of our schools. If you need any spares, please ask at the front office.

## School Tours

Although our official tours have ended, we are still happy to show prospective families around our schools and share more about the work we do. Places are available in various year groups across the Federation. If you know anyone looking for a school place - whether for September or mid-year - please encourage them to get in touch.

## Moving On!

All parents of Year 2 children should have now applied for their child's junior school place. (If you haven't yet, please pop in, and we can talk you through the process.) Mr Noble, our Year 2 lead, has already started to talk about what the transition to Bartley will look like. However, we also know that some children will be moving to different schools. If your child will be transferring to a different setting in Year Three, please let the class teacher know. This will help us plan transition activities, including opportunities to build relationships with other children across the Federation who are choosing the same pathway.

## Volunteering at School

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in school already! Volunteering is a great way to learn about our teaching strategies and make a big difference for our learners. If you're interested in becoming a regular volunteer, please visit our website, where you'll find information on how to get started, including the required safeguarding training:

[Volunteer Information](#)

Mark  
YOUR  
Calendar

## The Hampshire Hedge Project

Previously, Copythorne School took part in The Hampshire Hedge Project, and we're excited to share that the project has invited all families across the federation to take part in another Youth Hedge Planting Action Day. This will be held on Wednesday 19th February, from 10am to 3pm at Stanleys Own Scout Hut in Copythorne. For more information and to sign up, please visit:

[Youth Hedge Planting Action Day](#)



## World Book Day

We're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March, with lots of exciting activities planned throughout the week to encourage a love of reading. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book and bring the book with them to share in class.

## Comic Relief

We're excited to be fundraising for Comic Relief and invite all children to take part by dressing in their brightest, boldest colours on Friday 21st March! Every contribution helps to support vital causes, and your generosity truly makes a difference. Donations can be made via our JustGiving page:

[JustGiving - Oaks Federation](#)

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## Parent Forums

Thank you to everyone who attended the most recent parent forums. It was great to be able to feed back on some of the key actions from the last meetings and to gather questions and thoughts to support our thinking in the current climate of education.

Our next forums will focus on supporting learning at home, particularly reflecting on the actions agreed in the last forum, what is going well, and what more we could be thinking about.

**All parents are welcome to attend any of the following forums:**

**Thursday 13th March, 8:45am - St Michael & All Angels**

**Thursday 13th March, 2:30pm - Netley Marsh**

**Friday 14th March, 9am - Copythorne**

## Easter Services

Our Easter services are planned for the following dates:

**Monday 31st March, 2pm - Netley Marsh**

**Wednesday 2nd April, 2pm - Copythorne**

**Thursday 3rd April, 2pm - St Michael & All Angels**



## Celebrating Learning Together

We are keen for you to share in your child's learning at school and will be hosting two sessions over the coming weeks.

### Key Stage 1

We invite you to a brief talk about using feedback to support learning journeys. This will focus on the types of comments and questions we, as adults, can use to help children reflect on their learning and make meaningful connections.

Following this, you will have time in the classroom with your child to look at their books, celebrate their learning, and structure questions to explore their understanding of the work we have covered.

**These sessions will run from 2:30pm, starting in the hall before moving into classrooms, on the following dates:**

**Monday 17th March – St Michael & All Angels**

**Wednesday 19th March – Netley Marsh**

**Thursday 20th March – Copythorne**

### Reception

For our Reception children, we will explore the power of play in developing problem-solving, language, and collaboration skills. This session will focus on the role of adults during play, followed by time in the classroom where your child can share the different areas of learning in their environment.

**Dates to follow.**

## Diary Dates

Stay up to date with upcoming events by visiting our website:  
[Diary Dates](#)

Dear God

We thank you for your love and your promise to be with us.

At school or work, at rest or play, help us to feel near to you and hear your voice.

Guide us to always do our best in every situation and to love one another.

Amen

17th February – 21st February	Half Term
Monday 3rd March	Year 2 Football Festival
Wednesday 5th March, 9am	Family Worship in School
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13th March, 8:45am	Parent Forum at St Michael & All Angels
Thursday 13th March, 2:30pm	Parent Forum at Netley Marsh
Friday 14th March, 9am	Parent Forum at Copythorne
Wednesday 19th March, 2:30pm	KS1 Celebrating Learning Together
Friday 21st March	Comic Relief
Monday 31st March, 2pm	Easter Church Service
Tuesday 1st April	Parent Consultations
Thursday 3rd April	Parent Consultations
Friday 4th April	End of Spring Term
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Summer Term
Wednesday 7th May, 9am	Family Worship in School
Monday 12th May	Year R Sports Day
Thursday 15th May	Year R Countryside Education Trip
Monday 19th May	Year 1 Sports Day
Tuesday 20th May	Year 2 Sports Day
26th May – 30th May	Half Term
Wednesday 4th June, 9am	Family Worship in School
Monday 9th June	Class Photos
Saturday 14th June	Forest Fest (Summer Fayre)
Saturday 28th June	Netley Marsh Carnival
Wednesday 2nd July, 9am	Family Worship in School
Friday 4th July	Summer Party
Friday 11th July, 2pm	Year 2 Leavers Party
Friday 18th July	End of Summer Term