



The Oaks Learning Federation

Newsletter Autumn 2 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

A Message from Mr Bowen

It seems absolutely crazy that we are already at the end of our first half term and so much has already happened across our Federation! Key Stage One have done three days of Forest school, Year R are now in full swing, there have been a host of behind the scenes amazing work from different PTA groups, we have continued to work with our Local Authority lead partner on a host of priorities, welcomed new adults to the team, celebrated Harvest and completed our first inter-federation sporting event!

As always, all our children continue to make us proud and it has been an absolute pleasure to see the learning in each class and new friendships being made (as well as old ones being maintained). As we approach the half term holiday, I hope that all our families are able to enjoy some quality time together, whether it's welly walking in the autumn leaves, getting to kids cinema or lounging in the living room.

Our Vision in action

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.

Parent consultations

Now that the children have been in school for half a term, it is a great time to find out a bit more about what your child has been learning! Parent consultations are planned for **Tuesday 7th November and Thursday 9th November.**

We will be offering face to face meetings this year, however, should an online meeting be better, please do let us know. Time slots will be released shortly – if they have not been released already, so please look out for these to book your time slot with your child's teacher.

As we have done previously, unless there is a court order in place, we ask that parents do not book separate slots, to ensure consistency of message is delivered.

As always, I would like to remind all parents and carers, that if you have a concern about your child, please do not wait until parent consultation meetings. It is always better to speak about your concerns earlier, so that the school can help address them.

When is my child too poorly for school?

All children get poorly throughout their development. If we feel that your child is too poorly for school, we will phone and let you know. The NHS have produced excellent information to support parents with knowing when and when not to send your child into school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

I have also recently been shown another fantastic resource, which is aimed at signposting, providing information and supporting parents with a range of information from dealing with colds to supporting children who find it hard to sleep (it also comes in the form of a useful app).

<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/>

Keeping your child safe in a digital age

Many of you may know, but there has been an increased focussed on the role of schools in monitoring and filtering IT systems within school. Over the next few newsletters we will aim to send out information to help all our parents to have access to helpful information, which will also help to ensure that you are able to keep internet safety at the forefront of your thinking!

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-0-5s-Jan23.pdf>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-6-10s-Jan23.pdf>

Children's watches

Watches are a valuable tool and support the teaching of time. We are more than happy for children to wear watches for this purposes and will support children with their growing understanding of time. We would ask for those parents, who know that a watch is not a distraction to their child, to ensure that any watches worn at school do not have the capacity to take photographs. We work hard at school, to ensure that we are able to monitor children's use of IT and that no child or adult is put into a situation which could compromise our safeguarding practices.

Dogs on school sites

We love pets of all shapes and sizes and love to see people walking dogs on the way to school as part of their exercise routine. At the same time we have a number of children (and some staff) who are very nervous around dogs and this can make coming to school very difficult. It is a general rule for our school, that any dogs are brought onto site through a **pre-arranged agreement** in order for us to assess risk and use our knowledge of each child to assess what is, and is not appropriate. Therefore, we would like to send a polite reminder to all our families to be mindful and support us in not walking your dog onto the school grounds at pick up and drop off.

Parent logins

The majority of correspondence from school to parents come via Parent Mail or Tapestry. If you have any issues logging into any of the systems please contact your school office so this can be rectified.

Reporting absence—did you know can you report a child absence using Parent Mail for more information visit <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/applications/absence-reporting/>

Snacks

Can we please remind parents that any food coming into school must **NOT** contain nuts, we have a number of children and staff who have severe allergies.



School Open Days

We are currently running lots of school tours, for families looking for schools for September starters. As many of you will know, we continue to take children from outside of catchment areas and we would ask, if you know anyone who is looking for a school place for September, to let them know this and spread the word that tours are currently happening in all our schools!

[Copythorne](#)

[Netley Marsh](#)

[St Michael & All Angels](#)

New Lunch menus

We have new lunch menus for next term which will run from October 2023—April 2024. You will receive menus via parent mail and these are also available to view by going onto your school website and looking under the headings, 'Key Information', 'School Meals'.



PE Kits

After half term all three schools will now be getting changed for PE at school. Please ensure that all kit comes to school named and in a bag which can easily be stored on your child's peg.

PTA News

We are very lucky to have active PTA's across the Federation, who work really hard to raise valuable funds for our schools. Most recently we have held events at St Michaels and Netley Marsh.

St Michael & All Angels PTA—Scarecrow trail

Thank you to all who organised and took part in this year's scarecrow tour around Lyndhurst. There were so many amazing scarecrows (I won't tell you who my children voted for). Over £3000 was raised from this event and a further £250 was donated from one our lovely previous families, who sold cakes and jams over the weekend! Thankyou so much – all funds raised will continue to go towards our developing outdoor library at St Michael & All Angels school!

The PTA AGM will take place on Friday 10th November.

Netley Marsh PTA—Quiz night

A general knowledge quiz was held last week with 5 teams competing against one another. Thank you so much for a fun evening! We raised a total of £187.

Copythorne PTA

Copythorne PTA are looking for new members to join the committee to help plan and organise fundraising events. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 1st November details of venue will follow. If you are interested in joining the Committee please email:

adminoffice@copythorne.hants.sch.uk.

Harvest Festival

We hope you enjoyed our Harvest Festivals, we were incredibly proud of all of our children who took part and we would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated food for the various charities that we collect for, we know everyone is feeling the pinch of the cost of living crisis, which makes us all the more grateful for these donations.



Inter-Federation Football Skills

On Tuesday 17th October year 1 children across the Federation took part in the Inter-federation Football Skills competition. Everyone worked hard to show off their skills!

Well done and thank you to the team at ACE sports for helping us develop our Football Skills and to all the parents & carers who came along to help and support.

Year 2 Football matches were unfortunately postponed due to bad weather, we will advise of a new date once confirmed.

The Countdown to Christmas!



It may seem very early to mention Christmas, but rehearsals for Christmas plays will be starting very soon!

This year, our performances are planned for:

Copythorne—Wednesday 13th December at 2.00pm St Mary's Church

Netley Marsh Tuesday 12th December at 2pm St Matthews Church Hall (followed by the PTA Christmas fayre!)

St Michaels & All Angels—Thursday 14th December at 2.00pm at St Michael & All Angels church.

Charity fun run

On Saturday 14th October, Ethan, one of our pupils from Copythorne took part in the Great South Run's mini race to raise money for The Portsmouth DSA, his friends at Copythorne supported him by holding a non-school uniform day and raised £150.20p which helped Ethan meet his fundraising total of over £1000. Thank you everyone and well done Ethan! Portsmouth DSA are a fantastic organisation which helps fund training at a range of schools including our own!



New staff member

Parents of Copythorne will have noticed a new face to the school – We are thrilled to welcome Mrs O'Neil who will be working in Fox class at Copythorne Infants on Thursday's and Friday!

Dates for your diary

For a copy of Copythorne diary dates click [here](#)

For a copy of Netley Marsh diary dates click [here](#)

For a copy of St Michael & All Angels diary dates click [here](#)

Term Dates for 2023/ 24

TERM	FROM	TO
Autumn Term 2023	4 September 2023	15 December 2023
	Half term 23 October—27 October	
Spring term 2024	2 January 2024	28 March 2024
	Half Term 12 February—16 February 2024	
Summer 2024	15 April 2024	23 July 2024
	Half term 27 May—31 May 2024	
Inset Days School Closed	Monday 30th October 2023 Monday 20th November 2023 Friday 9th February 2024 Monday 24th June 2024	

