



The Coppice Whole School Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all of you after the half-term break! I hope that all of you managed to have an enjoyable time with your children, family and friends. Such a shame though that we've had so much wet weather to come back to!

Online Safety:

I would like to begin this week's newsletter by thanking the many Parents and Carers, from Years 4, 5 and 6, who have either spoken to me in person or emailed me to thank me for sending out the communication regarding online safety that was emailed on Tuesday. I didn't send it more widely at this stage as it was these particular year groups that I wanted to target due to the ages of the children. However, I feel that it is still important to share the key messages with all of you now. Basically, the communication concerned how we all need to work together to keep our children safe online. **Due to the this, I make an appeal for all Parents and Carers to:**

-Talk to your child about how to use their devices appropriately, how to make good choices and how to be kind.

-Regularly and consistently monitor what your child is doing on their devices. Your child should not be worried about you checking their phone or devices if they are behaving appropriately on it. Explain why you are doing this and that, as their parents and carers, you are just ensuring that they are safe.

-Use filters, parental settings and monitoring software to help you do the above where necessary.

-Don't let your child have unrestricted online access on devices in their bedrooms.

-Remove phones from your child at an appropriate time before bedtime so that they can get a good night's rest.

-Set sensible screen time limits for your child and stick to them.

-Hold your child to account and impose further restrictions or sanctions if you discover that your child is behaving inappropriately online. We are happy to back you up at school if you need us to.

-Reinforce the teaching we do in school which tells children to report any inappropriate activity to a trusted adult and requires them to come off line if they are feeling uncomfortable. This is far better than responding and trying to resolve things themselves, which can often lead to further problems.

In addition, to help all Parents and Carers navigate and understand the online minefield that your child could become exposed to, we have a number of parental guides on our website for online platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram and Tik-tok plus many others. These make clear the age-limits of these platforms, explain what they do and what the dangers are. They also explain how you can view your child's activity and how to set parental controls to limit their use of them. There is also information on how to report concerns.

The following link can be used to take you directly to the online safety page or you can navigate to it through the parent resources tab on the website.

<https://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/parent-resources/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-online/>

Finally, when making your decisions regarding what you give access to your child at home, please bear in mind the following:

The legal ages for the following social media accounts are as follows:

- **WhatsApp: 13 years old**
- **Tik-tok: 13 years old**
- **Snapchat: 13 years old**
- **Instagram: 13 years old**
- **Facebook: 13 years old**

Obviously, we know that some Parents and Carers allow their children to have access to apps, social media or games that are not age-appropriate. **As a school, we are firmly against this and recent incidents reaffirm our view.** However, as these permission decisions are choices that are made at home, we aren't then in a position to monitor the children's behaviour directly ourselves and very much rely on Parents and Carers to do this.

Ultimately, our messaging is all about keeping our children safe, ensuring that they are kind, make good choices and learn to appropriately use the technology that is going to be such a big part of their lives in the modern world. This is not about 'ban culture' but about education and safety. Thank you again for your support in helping us to do this. If we are all in this together, we can make a difference and allow our children to be exactly that: children.

Poetry Slam competition:

A stellar evening unfolded on Wednesday as five exceptional Year Six students: Rabia, Gregory, Harry, Mercedes, and Lucas took centre stage at the Birmingham Verve Poetry Festival. The opening event, hosted by the renowned Birmingham Poet 'Spoz,' witnessed the Grand Poetry Slam final at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Amidst an electrifying atmosphere, these young poets captivated a live audience, pitting their skills against eleven other schools. Their performance, a poem written titled 'The Fight,' explored the theme of the right to refuge, echoing support for refugees worldwide. The children poured their hearts and souls into crafting, rehearsing, and delivering this powerful piece. The judges could not praise their performance higher, commenting it was both 'unique' and 'amazing,'.

The audience of staff, parents and pupils all agreed that this was a fantastic night, and certainly one to remember. We are incredibly proud of the children, whose commitment, passion and creativity lit up the stage. Well done to 'The Limerick Leprechauns' - when it comes to solving the refugee crisis **"We WILL figure this out!"**

A huge thank you goes to the Year 6 team: Miss. Danby, Mrs. Abbotts, Miss. Cox and Miss. Gatfield for preparing the children so well and for accompanying them on the evening. The parents, who attended, said what a wonderful experience it was for the children and how proud they were of their them. Miss. Danby even got up on stage to say well done (see right) and proved to be a natural!



Year 5 Bikeability:

Some of our Year 5 children have recently been undergoing their 'Bikeability' training both in school, on the playground, and out on the local roads. Cycle training and road safety are crucial life skills and are something that we have done for a number of years now. The children have really enjoyed the training that they have had and have greatly impressed their three trainers, who came into school to deliver the course, with their fantastic listening, attitude and general conduct, which was described as 'outstanding'. We are extremely proud of these children for the comments that they received and the maturity they showed. Well done Year 5! More Year 5 children will be undergoing their training over the course of the next two weeks - we know they will be brilliant too!

Thinking Day and Founders' Day:

On Thursday, members of the Guiding and Scouting movement wore their uniforms to school to celebrate both World Thinking Day and Founders' Day, which are very special occasions for all of them. This is usually celebrated during half term but, with the early break this year, we were able to recognise these children in school. It was also fantastic to be able to get all of the children together for some special photographs to mark the occasion. I think that you'll all agree that the children looked fantastic in their uniforms, as did Mrs. Neighbour, one of our Lunchtime Supervisors, who is also a cubs' leader and is known as 'Tiger Lily'. Well done everyone!



Celebration Day Monday 2nd July:

This above also prompted me to think about a day when we can celebrate all the clubs and out of school activities that our Coppice children attend. This ties in nicely with our ethos that no child should leave the Coppice without us knowing and celebrating their own individual talents and interests. We celebrate children's achievements in their out of school clubs on our newsletter regularly but there are so many children who we are sure would also love to come to school dressed in their club kit/uniform and show them off. Therefore, we will be inviting our sports' team players: football, rugby, tennis, Gaelic football; our dancers: cheerleaders, ballerinas, Irish dancers, break dancers; our martial arts experts: Taekwondo, kickboxing, karate, judo, wrestling, boxing; Boys Brigade, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers; and any other organisation to do just that! **More information will follow nearer the time but, for information, we have put a date on the calendar: Tuesday 2nd July** so please put this in your diaries. This will be a lovely day and I can't wait to see the children arrive!

That just leaves me, after another very busy and enjoyable week at The Coppice, to say that I hope you all have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all bright and early on Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Mr.Hutt (Headteacher)

Star of the Week - Hot Chocolate



Attendance Figures

TOP ATTENDANCE

5th- 9th Feb (Previous week)

	1D	96.47%
	3L	97.36%

TOP ATTENDANCE

19th -23rd (This week)

	1B	98.00%
	3A	99.33%

Thank you for reading our Whole School Newsletter. Now click on the link below to access your Year Group Newsletters.

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