



The Coppice Whole School Newsletter

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome back to all of you! I hope that all of you managed to have an enjoyable summer with your children and, like us, are looking forward with great excitement to the new, academic year ahead. It has brought my Deputy: Mrs. Ashwell, Assistant Head: Mr. Laight and me a huge amount of pleasure to stand on the gates at the beginning and end of the day in order to welcome both our children and their families.

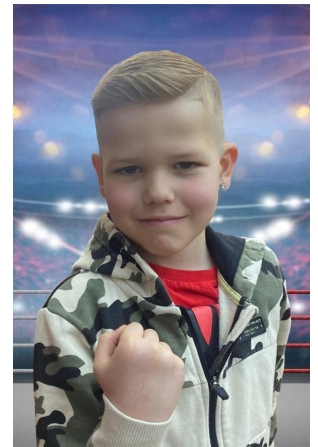
I sincerely hope that your children have come home feeling positive about the way that school has started for them. If there have been any wobbles though, please remember that it is early days and that things always tend to settle once the children are used to new routines and faces. However, if this doesn't happen after a week or two, please speak to your child's Class Teacher and we can put some support in place.

Tribute to Joshua Hillstead:

As you will be all aware from my communications over the course of the summer, our whole school community was devastated by the tragic loss of one of our Year 4 pupils: Joshua Hillstead.

Joshua's funeral was held on Monday and there was an incredible turnout by family, friends, parents and school staff for this truly special little boy. The service was beautiful and a fitting tribute to Joshua - it was obviously also extremely emotional and poignant.

In this first newsletter of the year, I want to include some of the words that Joshua's Parents released on the day of his funeral. They perfectly sum up Joshua and how everyone at school also saw this wonderful boy. As a school, we too feel incredibly lucky that he was part of our lives and we will forever remember him.



“You were the kindest, most caring, and most considerate and gentle boy, and we are so incredibly proud that we were lucky enough to be your parents. Even though it was such a short time, you filled our hearts with so much love and joy. Your cheeky smile and funny, crazy side were enough to cheer up anybody's day and to put a smile on their face! You were so special Joshy, so beautiful in every single way.”

Support for children moving forward:

Linked to the above, we have made sure that all of the children and staff affected by the loss of Joshua have been carefully and sensitively supported and we have accessed expert advice to ensure that we do things as appropriately as possible. We have also involved our Educational Psychologist who has been present in school over the first few days. This has proved to be invaluable and we thank her for her time. Our Thrive team are also providing additional support where required.

Please be reassured that should your child be struggling with any aspect of what has happened to Joshua, you only have to let us know via your child's Class Teacher, or any member of the School's Leadership Team, and we will provide as much support as possible.

The Coppice Way:

This week in school, all of your child's teachers and me, through my assemblies, have again started the year by talking to the children about our whole-school behaviour approach, which, as you know, is called '**The Coppice Way**'. Your child may well have mentioned some of this learning at home and it's great if they have. As you know, at The Coppice, we work hard to ensure that all of our children have a clear and consistent behaviour approach and expectation that they all understand. Therefore, importantly, we spend a lot of time explaining to the children **WHY** we have the routines, rules and expectations that we have as a school i.e. ensuring that our school is a calm, safe, happy place where everyone has the conditions they need to all learn without distraction and where everyone has equal respect for one another. This means equal respect for all of the adults in school (whatever their role) and for all other children regardless of whether they are their peers or not.

The whole system is based around ensuring that our children understand exactly what being '**Ready, Responsible and Respectful**' means and what it looks like in all aspects of school life. Alongside these '3Rs', we have other school rules and distinctive sayings that run alongside these e.g. '**Dress to impress**', '**Fantastic walking**' and '**First time every time**' so that the children hear the same consistent messages.

I have also talked again to the children about our Coppice curriculum 'drivers', which are the elements that we strive to ensure all of our children achieve and demonstrate during their time with us. These are to '**Aim high**' (have ambition); '**Know more**' (seek and gain knowledge); '**Ask questions**' (be curious); '**Keep Going**' (be resilient); and '**Be kind**' (show empathy). Please discuss these aspects of school life with your children and, where possible, reinforce the importance of them in your child achieving their potential and being the best version of themselves.

OPAL Play

Also in assemblies this week, we had a lot of very excited children when Mrs. Ashwell and I spoke to the children about the introduction of our OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) provision which we will be starting next week. Just to remind you all, the aim of OPAL is to provide a fantastic lunchtime play experience for all of the children in our school through a much greater range of activities and play opportunities. You will have seen the arrival of three new sheds on the playground to store resources (paid for by the PTA) and will also have heard that infant lunches are now being served out of the Infant hall to enable more time to play for all children. Lots more information will be shared with you over the coming weeks and months so don't miss it - exciting times!

Parent and Carer Information Evening next week:

We are greatly looking forward to seeing you all at next week's Parent and Carers information evenings for Years 1-6 where you will receive all of the information that you require regarding the year ahead. The days and timings of these sessions are:

Year 3: Tuesday 10th September 5.30 pm – 6.00 pm **Year 4:** Tuesday 10th September 6.10 pm – 6.40 pm

Year 2: Wednesday 11th September 5.30 pm – 6.00 pm **Year 5:** Wednesday 11th September 6.10 pm – 6.40 pm

Year 1: Thursday 12th September 5.30 pm – 6.00 pm **Year 6:** Thursday 12th September 6.10 pm – 6.40 pm

***Please note that these information evenings are for Parents and Carers only - we are unable to accommodate children as well or provide childcare.**

That just leaves me to wish you all a lovely weekend with your children, welcome back again and we look forward to seeing you all at next week's Parent Information Evenings.

Kind regards,

Mr.Hutt (Headteacher – The Coppice Primary School)

Music Listening and Appreciation

Parents and Carers can be involved too!

As a school, we want to continue to ensure that we value music greatly and that we constantly seek to further develop musical opportunities for our children. Our Music curriculum Leader :Mrs. Blundell, along with Mr. Lampard has therefore spent many hours developing a three-year listening to music curriculum. This curriculum encourages all of our children, from Nursery through to Year 6, to engage with different musical elements and genres every week and contextualise the songs/pieces and artists in different ways. Listening to and appreciating music is a key strand of the music national curriculum and the beauty of it is that it can also be discussed and developed further at home.

To enable you all to support your child with listening and appreciating music at home, from now on, each week, we will share the focus music and artists for the upcoming week on the whole-school newsletter. It would then be great, if you have the opportunity, to listen to the pieces with your child and discuss them e.g. in terms of how they make you feel, why you like/dislike them, the style or theme of the music, the instruments you can hear, your knowledge of the artist/s and any other thoughts that you may have. As you know, with music, there are no right or wrong answers - just enjoy sharing your ideas with each other!

This week's focus theme, artist/s and songs were:

New Beginnings

- 1) Coldplay - Up & Up - 2015
- 2) Natasha Bedingfield - Unwritten - 2004
- 3) The White Stripes - We're Going to be Friends - 2002

Next week's theme, artist/s and songs are:

Time Signatures

- 1) Scott Joplin - The Entertainer - 1902
- 2) Metallica - Nothing Else Matters - 1992
- 3) Julie Andrews - My Favourite Things - 1965
- 4) Dave Brubeck Quartet - Take Five - 1959