



The Coppice Whole School Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a good week and are very much looking forward to the weekend and the half-term break with your children. It's been a long half-term and the children are definitely ready for a rest and recharge. However, you can be really proud of them for their hard work over the course of the last eight weeks and much has been achieved. Thank you too to all of you for your support of both the school and your children.

Talking of achievements, we are very much looking forward to celebrating these with your children when we hold our first Celebration Assemblies of the new academic year over the course of the first week back after the holiday. These are always lovely occasions and Mrs. Ashwell and I are very much looking forward to presenting lots of certificates, Team Point medals and Subject Trophies to children from Nursery through to Year 6.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire final opportunity:

Please don't miss the final opportunity to give us feedback on your child's and your experience of The Coppice by completing our Parent and Carer questionnaire. We are extending the deadline to Monday 3rd November to enable us to gather as many responses as possible. If you haven't completed the questionnaire already, please do so using this link:

[Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2025/26](#)

Uniform for after half-term - important:

Just a reminder to all Parents and Carers that after the half-term break, children will be expected to wearing the standard school uniform - Summer uniform is no longer an option. A reminder of what these expectations are, can be found by clicking the link below:

[Coppice Uniform Expectations \(Sep 2025\)](#)

Thank you in advance for ensuring that your child is set up for the colder months ahead and please remember that we have lots of spare pre-loved uniform should you need anything. Just ask at the school office.

A huge thank you to the family of former Shawhurst Infants and Coppice Teacher Pat Rayson.

I had the absolute pleasure and privilege of meeting with the daughter and husband of former Shawhurst Infants and Coppice Teacher: Pat Rayson on Wednesday afternoon. Sadly, Pat, who was a much-loved and favourite teacher of many ex-pupils of our school, passed away in August and, without doubt, she will be greatly missed by all who those who knew her.

I was therefore humbled when Ted Rayson and Nicola Macleod (nee Rayson) contacted the school to say that they wanted to make a donation to us on behalf of Pat's family and friends, including her other son: Gregor. The donation was the money that was collected from all those who attended the celebration of her life.

The amount donated was £200.00 and we all agreed that this money would be spent on purchasing some new books for the children in our school. I have therefore decided that it will be spent on books for our youngest children who are in our Nursery and Reception year groups. Pat was passionate about reading to, and with children, so to buy some new books to inspire our youngest children and further engage them with reading feels like a fitting tribute to her. We will also be putting labels in the front of these books to acknowledge the fact that they were given in Pat's memory.

Without doubt, Pat is a wonderful example of a teacher who inspired many, many children and the comments that were written about her following her passing were amazing. To have been remembered in the way that Pat is is truly an incredible legacy to leave. We are therefore greatly honoured to receive this donation on her behalf.



Online Safety - very important one-page special!

As the half-term holiday approaches, it is an excellent time to offer some helpful online safety advice and tips for all Parents and Carers, in order that you can support your children to be both safe and sensible when being online and using devices. Much of the information is taken from the NSPCC website which has a wealth of really helpful advice. The link to the more detailed NSPCC online safety pages can be found here:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

As technology evolves quickly, it can be hard to keep up – but regular, open conversations make a big difference. There will be times when children need advice or support, especially when navigating the online world. They might come across harmful content or be contacted by someone they don't know, which can be confusing or upsetting.

As a Parent or Carer, it's important to step in when you feel they need a nudge in the right direction. Whether it's about what they're sharing, who they're speaking to, or how they're feeling online, consistent conversations help build trust and confidence.

***Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online:**

1. Start with the positives

Being online can be a great way for children to learn, be creative, and stay connected with friends and family. Recognising these benefits helps keep conversations balanced and encourages confident, safe use of technology.

2. Find the right time and place

Choose a calm moment to talk, such as during a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the conversation when emotions are high or during a disagreement.

3. Use child-facing resources and advice

Support your conversation with age-appropriate tools, videos, or guides. These can help children understand key messages and make the discussion more engaging and relevant to their stage of development.

4. Ask about their experiences

Use open questions like:

'Have you seen anything online that made you uncomfortable?'

'Who do you chat with online?'

'Are they people you know offline?'

'How do you feel when using certain apps or games?'

5. Make it part of everyday life

These chats don't need to be formal or one-off. Regular, relaxed conversations help children feel supported and more likely to speak up if something worries them.

***Supporting Children with their use of technology:**

There are no exact rules about the right age to give your child access to technology. Every child is different and will mature in their own time and Parents/Carers need to make choices about whether and when to grant greater independence and freedom.

It's really important to consider:

-The age you give your children their own device.

-The access your child has to online platforms and services.

Things to think about:

Enable access to devices with limited features - Device usage can be kept to those with limited capability. This could include tablets without data and non-smart phones that only allow calls and texts.

Keep tech use visible in the home - Try to keep tech use in shared family spaces or used with bedroom doors open. This will allow you to support your child and be more aware of what they are doing online.

Follow age ratings – Apps, sites and games come with age ratings which are important to follow. You can find out the age rating on the website for the platform or by visiting [Common Sense Media's reviews](#). Many popular Apps, sites and games are 13+ so it's important to check and follow these to keep your child safe from inappropriate content.

Use safety settings – Explore the in-app and device safety settings with your child and check them regularly to make sure they are still in place.

Revisit parental controls – as children grow up and need the internet more for schoolwork you may want to adjust your [parental controls](#). Keep checking these regularly to make sure they are in place.

Have regular safety conversations – age-appropriate online safety conversations should be happening regularly. Visit [talking to your child about online safety](#) and [tackling challenging conversations](#) to gain further advice.

Build healthy habits - acknowledge the positives it brings as part of your safety conversations and agree rules and boundaries together as a family.

Speak to phone providers - If your child owns their own smartphone then contact the service provider to make sure it is registered as a child's device. This means additional safety restrictions can be put in place.

Explore healthy habits together – Healthy habits work best when all the family agrees to following them. This could be agreeing to charge devices away from beds to support sleep and not using devices during mealtimes to help take breaks.

Share help and support - Make sure your child knows about services that can help like Childline. You could start by sharing the [online safety advice content](#) and the [Report Remove tool](#) created by the IWF and Childline.

“Restart a Heart” training for Years 5 and 6:

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 took part in ‘Restart a Heart’ life-saving training today. Restart a Heart Day takes place on and around 16 October each year. The Resuscitation Council UK along with the British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, NHS England, Save a Life for Scotland, Save a Life Cymru, and Northern Ireland Ambulance work together to help raise awareness of cardiac arrest and teach CPR.

Nurse and trainer: Ali Spencer taught the children how to administer CPR. We hope that no one ever needs to use these skills but it may save a life if this is ever the case. The children greatly enjoyed this incredibly important training and our thanks goes to Ali for her time and excellent delivery. This is something that we do every year and will continue to do so due to its importance. For further information on this wonderful project please follow the link: [Restart a Heart Day 2025 - BHF](#)



Celebration Time

Huge congratulations goes to Isabella, Curtis and Corey (all from 6L) who earned their orange and yellow belts in kickboxing last weekend. Their success reflects their hard work, discipline and determination. Well done to all three of you!



Star of the Week - Hot Chocolate



Attendance Figures

TOP ATTENDANCE 13th-17th Oct (last week)		
	1D	98.97%
	5RM & 6D	100%

TOP ATTENDANCE 20th-24th Oct (this week)		
	2P	99.00%
	3K	99.03%

Music Listening and Appreciation

This week's playlist was:

Halloween

- 1) Danny Elfman - This is Halloween (1993)
- 2) Bobby “Boris” Pickett and the Crypt-Kickers - Monster Mash (1962)
- 3) Bow Wow Wow - I Want Candy (1982)
- 4) Sheb Wooley - The Purple People Eater (1958)

Next week's playlist is:

Remembrance

- 1) Edward Elgar - Variations - ‘Nimrod’ (1898)
- 2) George Butterworth - The Banks of Green Willow (1913)
- 3) The Military Wives - Wherever You Are (2011)
- 4) The Farm - All Together Now (1991)

That just leaves me to wish you all an enjoyable weekend with your children. We look forward to seeing all of the children, and you, bright and early on the morning of Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards,

Mr.Hutt (Headteacher – The Coppice Primary School)