

The Coppice Newsletter



HAPPY, CONFIDENT AND SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS; WELL PREPARED FOR LIFE.

Dear Parents, Carers and children,

Thank you and keep up the good work everyone!

We just want to say a huge well done and thank you to all the children who have worked so hard over the last two weeks to engage with the morning briefings and to complete their online learning - you have been absolute superstars and we are extremely proud of you! We know that this is a very different way of working for you all but you are proving that with effort and motivation, anything can be achieved - keep it going everyone!

Our thanks and praise, of course, also extends to those Critical Worker children, who are still coming into school and working hard -you can feel very proud of yourselves too.

Finally, we want to say a massive thank you to all the parents and carers who have encouraged, supported and guided their children or grandchildren over the course of the last two weeks, whether their child has been in school or at home. We honestly do appreciate what a big ask this is of you but you are doing brilliantly too!

We will continue to contact parents, carers and children where we feel that the above isn't happening but please be reassured that this is only because of how much we care about all the children in our school. We want them all to keep their learning going and, equally as important, we want their relationships with both staff and other children to remain strong. All of these things will help the children greatly when they do return to school, whenever that may be. Obviously we all hope that this will be sooner rather than later!

Please continue to contact us at any point when you feel that you need our support with anything. We are all in this together and want to support our school community as best we can during these challenging times.

Kind regards and take care everyone,

Mr.Hutt
(Deputy Head)



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FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

If your financial situation has changed you may be eligible for FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM).

There are two types of FSM Universal FSM for all Reception, Year1 and Year 2 children. You will get these automatically but this type do not allow you access to free food hampers/vouchers during school closure. The other kind is means tested FSM. (You can still apply for this type even if you qualify for Universal FSM).

Who can apply for free school meals?

Free School Meals can only be awarded if you or your partner are claiming either;

- Universal Credit provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC

Working Tax Credit run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax

The best way to check your eligibility first, is to call this number for Worcester-shire Free School Meals - [01905 678154](tel:01905678154). They will be able to check your eligibility.

You would then need to fill in the online form if you are then able to apply.

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals

We, at school, will then be informed when the process has been completed and will be able to access the free school meal parcels for your child. But you do need to do all of the above first, to get the process started.

STAR OF THE WEEK

RL - LIBBY

1D - ALL OF YEAR 1 FOR A GREAT

1T - START TO THEIR

1RB - HOME LEARNING

3P - ISABELLA

3K - ISOBEL

3HK - MATTHEW

4W - CHARLIE

4J - ZOE

5G - BEAU

5MS - ELSA

6C - CHARLIE

6L - JAMES

6G - SARUJAN

THRIVE4ALL

As added emotional support for all parents and carers, we now have a Thrive4All tab at the top of the Coppice Home Learning platform page.

Feel free to pop on with your child should you want advice, shared activities or just an opportunity to connect with the Thrive team.

Mrs Small, Miss Carter and Mrs Fletcher

CLOSURE UPDATE.

I think we are all appreciating how tough things are getting, that we need to work hard as a community, pulling together and being as stringent as possible in our attempts to curb the spread of the virus. We are very grateful to parents who have heeded government advice - i.e. even if you're a key worker, keep children at home if you possibly can.

I think as the crisis has deepened we feel validated in having implemented and enforced the things we have. We must all continue with this.

We all know that home-schooling can be a trial. We're very lucky having many well-motivated children who are good independent learners and get on with things, and parents who are willing to find time to support. **Thank you to you all.** However, we are aware that this is not the case with every child, particularly with our younger children. It is heart-breaking that we cannot have all of our children back in the classroom and deliver proper lessons.

As said before, overwhelmingly, we have had such positive feedback about our home-learning, with parents appreciative of the hard work that has gone into delivering it and the efforts staff make to keep lines of communication open throughout.

Some parents have asked about 'live lessons' from their child's teacher. This is not mandatory. On the face of it, live lessons do seem a good idea. However, the great majority of primary schools, in particular, have decided against it. Delivering live lessons is not as straightforward as you might assume. I set out the reasons below. With many of our families having two or three children (or more) in the home, the availability of devices to receive live lessons is a limiting factor (i.e. live lessons could not be delivered if devices are shared).

We would also be reliant on the technology. It is not uncommon for the internet connection to fail. In addition, to deliver live lessons effectively, you need good quality video equipment, which is limited (smartphone cameras don't always 'cut it').

In addition, we are wary of piling extra pressure on our hardworking staff at this difficult time, effectively making them available to constant scrutiny. Though, as a Senior Leadership Team, we do observe lessons in school and monitor closely the quality of teaching, this is done in a measured way. Unions would be up in arms if we put a video camera in every classroom that was 'live' all of the time (there is an observation protocol that we adhere to).

The only school I know of that has trialled live lessons has been my son's school. Though commendable, I did not think it was particularly effective. It did not engage him anymore, I thought. The teacher had to focus their attention on the critical worker children within the actual classroom and the vulnerable children there. There are also issues around trying to communicate with multiple children (up to thirty) which, as anybody who has been in a Zoom meeting knows, is not easy to manage.

Also, I know that a lot of our families appreciate the flexibility, in terms of time and pace, that our current system allows - this would not be the case with live lessons.

We think the best approach is our current one, with teachers delivering some pre-recorded lessons. We think pre-recorded is best as children can pause and replay if they do not understand. I think this explains things well: <https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-schools-online-learning-are-live-lessons-really-better-recorded-ones>

Changing tack slightly, regarding the morning briefing/registration that children attend remotely when starting their home-learning, please can parents observe a protocol? Parents should not be interrupting these meetings to communicate with the class teacher. We have had one or two (literally one or two) interruptions where parents have challenged inappropriately in front of a whole online class of children (and possibly other parents), which is wrong. If parents need to communicate with class teachers, they must do this individually via email (and they will receive a prompt response). We are thankful that virtually all of our parents do this anyway. As ever, we thank you for your ongoing support and continuing understanding during this difficult time. Take care.



Starting Well Partnership
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

Financial & debt help Bromsgrove & Redditch

High level debt help & support accredited by F.C.A. -

Help & support given on every type of debt, finding the best way forward, such as Debt Relief Orders & Bankruptcy. Advice includes maximising benefit income & budgeting.

Citizens Advice Bromsgrove & Redditch -
T: 0808 278 7890 (Mon - Fri, 10am - 4pm)
W: www.cabr.org.uk

Lower level support & help -

These groups provide informal / lower level debt & budgeting advice but can only assist to a certain point.

Libraries - offer help digitally

Age UK - T: 01527 570490 (Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm) W: www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf

REACH CIC - Liz Williams:
W: www.reachredditch.co.uk
E: REACHRedditch@outlook.com

SREN (Support Redditch Emergency Network) - Mike Rouse:
E: info@supportredditch.net

Batchley Support Group - Mark & Jan Barron:
E: batchleysgroup@gmail.com

Disability Support Project (DSP) - tends to be advice for people with disabilities:
T: 01527 351 021 W: www.dspuk.org.uk
E: info@dspuk.org.uk

Provided by:

NHS
Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Health and Care
NHS Trust

In partnership with:

REDDITCH HUNTER CHURCH
making
difference
www.redditch.gov.uk

**Sure Start
Children's Centres**
Worcestershire

Delivered on behalf of
worcestershire
county council



Family Learning Courses

Family Learning Courses are **FREE**

Spring 2021

Please check the **"been referred"** box to book on free

Please book onto each course by searching for the course title:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses or call **01905 728537**



Supporting you with Young Children

Fun Phonics - introduction to phonics in Early Years & ideas to use at home
Starts 4th Feb Thur's 1pm

Magnificent Maths - intro to Early Years maths & making resources to use at home
Starts 4th Feb Thur's 11am

Making & Using Story Sacks - supporting imagination and story telling
Starts 4th Feb Thur's 7pm

Zog's Fire Breathing Adventures - art & craft
Starts 19th Jan Tue's 11am

Supporting your Mental Health and Wellbeing

Marvellous Me - supporting you during lockdown
Starts 2nd Feb Tue's 1pm

Art in Your Heart - Colour Therapy
Starts 2nd Feb Tue's 7.30pm

Time for You - Mindfulness activities & offloading
Starts 28th Jan Thur's 7.30pm

Heartful of Art - more complex art for those with current knowledge
Starts 20th Jan Wed's 7pm

Supporting you with older children in Secondary School

Family Memories COVID-19 Time Capsule - making memory box to remember this time
Starts 2nd Feb Tue's 1pm

Numeracy Skills for parents - refresh old skills and learn new to support your child
Starts 1st Feb Mon's 7pm

English Skills for parents - feel confident to help your child at school by learning skills
Starts 4th Feb Thur's 7pm

Book & Cook - affordable cooking ideas
Starts 31st Jan Sat's 4pm

Supporting you with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Nurture course for parents of children with SEND - nurture your own health & wellbeing
Starts 1st Feb Mon's 7pm

Managing Mindfulness - anxiety management & coping with meltdowns - take away techniques
Starts 1st Feb Mon's 7pm

Stimulating Sense for SEND - ideas & activities
Starts 3rd Feb Wed's 7pm

TA strategies & Techniques for supporting SEND children - transitions, managing anxiety, timetables, increasing wellbeing & self-esteem
Starts 3rd Feb Wed's 7pm



worcestershire
county council

Online Learning

Our friendly Family Learning courses are currently online using 'Zoom' on your mobile phone, ipad, tablet or laptop. Your tutor will ring you before your course starts to **help you get online** for your course and can support you to access Zoom, help you check that you can use it ok and offer you any help you need.

ADULT LEARNING
WORCESTERSHIRE

CONTACT US

School office –01564 826 709

School email—office@coppice.worcs.sch.uk

OUR ONLINE LINKS

School website- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/>

Newsletter- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/>

PTA- <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/coppice/#.Wv1BYDQvypo>

Calendar- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/about-us/calendar/>

Suggestions box- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/about-us/suggestion-box/>

Official Facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/coppiceps/>

PTA Facebook group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/320191721984039/>