



The Coppice Whole School Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a good week and are looking forward to the weekend with your children.

Thanks to your support we won a Science Workshop!

You may remember that at the beginning of January, our Science Leader: Miss. Dixon asked for your support with a competition being run by an organisation called 'Wildworkshops' whose mission is to **'Reconnect children with the nature on our doorstep'**. They aim to help children discover the living world around them through intimate interaction and scientific investigation.

To try and win the prize of a free workshop event during British Science Week in March, we needed your help in securing as many votes as possible via the poll which was held via Facebook. This competition was open nationally so there were a fair amount of other schools entering.



Obviously, when you enter a competition, you often think that it won't be you who wins. Therefore, imagine our surprise when we received notification that out of all of the schools that entered, we came first! We secured 93 votes which was fantastic! Our fabulous PTA also helped a great deal with this by posting the link on the PTA Facebook page.

A huge thank you therefore goes to everyone who voted - thanks to you, your children can look forward to an up, close and personal experience with a range of British minibeasts!

Reading at home:

As we always say here at The Coppice, reading is 'the key to the door'. We truly believe that once a child becomes a fluent reader, their learning opportunities are limitless. Therefore, please continue to read with and to your child at home and encourage them to do some reading of their own **EVERY** day as this will be of tremendous benefit to your child in so many ways.

If you need any help with supporting your child with their reading, please speak to your child's Class Teacher and they will be able to help you.

2026 is the year of Reading!

Linked to the last item, I am letting you know that 2026 is officially the year of reading which is very exciting! This means that over the course of this year, we will be carrying out many, additional reading-related activities, in addition to the many that we already do.

We will, of course, let you know a lot more about these activities in due course but, in the meantime, keep reading as much as possible with your child - you won't regret it!

Attendance Reward Badges given out to Year 1 - 6 children - CONGRATULATIONS!

It was lovely to go around the classes this week to celebrate those children who made it into school every day last term.



In total, we had 147 children who received their bronze stars. This time last year it was 138 so it's great to have more children achieving this milestone.

Each term we celebrate 100% attendance so if your child didn't manage it in the Autumn term - they can still achieve a star in either Spring or Summer. Those who have now received their Bronze can work towards their Silver and hopefully their Gold 100% badge at the end of the school year.

If your child is wearing a bronze or silver badge from the last academic year, can these now please be removed and kept at home. 100% Gold badges can however still be worn until the end of the year.

Just to clarify that if your child is absent for either a morning or afternoon register, even if this is for a medical appointment, then they will be recorded as absent so therefore will not receive a 100% badge for that term. We appreciate that some Parents and Carers and children are disappointed by this. However, we have to do this to ensure that there are no grey areas with regards to the awards which would make the system unworkable. Thank you for your understanding with this.

A huge well done goes to all of the children who received this award on this occasion.

Voice 21 Oracy special

We are now into the second year of our very exciting Voice 21 Oracy journey and are continuing to drive forward with ensuring that our children receive a high quality Oracy education whilst they are in our care.

Why are we teaching Oracy?

As a school, we want the very best for our pupils and want them to develop the skills that they need in the modern world to both thrive and succeed. An ability to speak and listen at a high level is without doubt a vital skill in our pupils achieving this aim.

Oracy is a powerful tool for learning. By teaching students to become more effective speakers and listeners we empower them to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them. It is also a route to social mobility, empowering all pupils, not just some, to **'find their voice'** to succeed in school and life.

Our Teacher Education Day (TED) at the start of January, as it was last year, was dedicated to working with our staff to further develop their expertise in delivering a high quality oracy education.

So that we can keep you informed as Parents and Carers about our Voice 21 journey and also support your child at home, I am sharing some useful resources with you that both us, and your child, are using in school.

Teacher Talk Tactics for early language development



Instigate
Present an idea or open up a new line of inquiry

“I think ____
“Let's begin with ____
“I have a great idea, I'll go first ____
Invite: X would you like to go first?

Build
Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea

“X's idea made me think ____
“I'd like to know more about ____
“Yes, and ____
Invite: Can anyone add to that?

Clarify
Ask questions to make things clearer and check your understanding

“Do you mean that ____?
“I think you are saying ____
“So, what you're saying is ____
Invite: Do you have any questions about X?

Challenge
Disagree or present an alternative argument

“I don't think ____
“You said ____ but what about ____?
“I disagree with ____
Invite: Does anyone disagree with X?

Stretch
Add more detail; use more complex language or introduce new ideas

“Yes, it's ____ you could even say it's ____
“That's right, it's ____ because ____
“Yes, it's a ____
Invite: Can you tell me more about ____?

Speculate
Encourage creative or abstract thinking and consideration of alternative viewpoints

“I wonder what would happen if ____?
“Perhaps ____
“Do you think ____?
Invite: What do you wonder about X?

Suggest
Support thinking and problem solving by guiding next steps

“What if we tried ____ next?
“Have you thought about ____
“Let's give ____ a try
Invite: What do you think we should try?

Encourage
Offer praise to encourage and motivate

“You did such a good job of ____ now let's think about ____
“You really made me ____
“Your use of ____ was ____
Invite: What do you like about what X did/ said?

Teacher Talk Tactics



Instigate
Present an idea or open up a new line of inquiry

“Let's start the discussion by ____
“Has anyone considered ____
“Let's think about ____
Invite: - Who would like to begin our discussion?
- Does anyone have another idea?
- Would anybody like to share a different point?

Probe
Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas

“Why do you think ____?
“Could you provide an example of ____?
“How do you know that?
Invite: - Would anyone like to probe what X said?
- Who would like to ask a probing question?
- Does the sound of anything we've learned before?

Challenge
Disagree or present an alternative argument

“Have you considered ____?
“You mentioned X but what about ____?
“What if ____?
Invite: - Would anybody like to challenge X's idea?
- Does anybody have a counter argument?
- Who disagrees with that point?

Clarify
Asking questions to make things clearer and check your understanding

“So are you saying ____?
“Let me get this right, what you're saying is ____?
“Can you clarify what you mean by ____?
Invite: - Could anybody clarify what X is saying?
- Would anybody like to ask a clarifying question?
- Could I just check your understanding?

Summarise
Identify and recap the main ideas

“So far we have talked about ____
“The main points raised today were ____
“To summarise X's idea?
Invite: - Can anybody summarise the main points so far?
- Could you summarise what X is saying?
- Who can recap the main ideas?

Build
Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea

“Building on X's idea ____
“X's idea made me think ____
“To develop X's idea ____
Invite: - Would anybody like to build on X's idea?
- Could I tell me more about ____?
- Who can tell me why they might agree with X?

Additional moves*

Model
Articulate the thought processes underpinning talk

“I'm not sure I agree with that so I'm going to challenge X's idea ____
“I am going to clarify X's point to check I've understood correctly ____
“It would be a good idea to summarise the points so far to help us move forward ____
“I am going to refer to X to provide evidence for my point ____

Mark
Highlight an important idea or type of contribution

“That's an important point.
“Did everyone hear what X just said? How does that help me out on ____?
“Did you notice how X just probed X's idea?
“What did X say to challenge X's idea politely?

The above teacher talk tactics are how adults can build on the previous Early Talk Tactics to further develop children's spoken language. Again, if you feel your child is ready, try to use these prompts in your talk at home.

Student Talk Tactics



Instigate
Present an idea or open up a new line of inquiry

“I would like to start by saying ____
“I think ____
“We haven't yet talked about ____
Invite: Instigate

Probe
Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas

“Why do you think ____?
“What evidence do you have to support X's idea?
“Could you provide an example?
Invite: Probe

Challenge
Disagree or present an alternative argument

“I disagree because ____
“To challenge you X, I think ____
“I understand your point of view, but have you thought about ____?
Invite: Challenge

Clarify
Asking questions to make things clearer and check your understanding

“So are you saying ____?
“Does that mean ____?
“Can you clarify what you mean by ____?
Invite: Clarify

Summarise
Identify and recap the main ideas

“So far we have talked about ____
“The main points raised today were ____
“Our discussion focused on ____
Invite: Summarise

Build
Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea

“Building on X's idea ____
“I agree and would like to add ____
“X's idea made me think ____
Invite: Build

The above Pupil Talk Tactics are the 'sentence starters' (stems) we are teaching your child to use in response to questions they are posed. Again, please encourage them to try using these at home when you are talking to them. Don't worry if they can't do this effortlessly at first. **Remember: Practice makes Progress!**

Teacher Talk Tactics for Early Language development are the different ways that adults can engage in and model high quality talk with young children, but they are also very good as a foundation for talking to all children. It would be great if you could try and consciously use these different 'categories' of talk with your child when talking to them. There are also question prompts that you can use to ask for a response from your child.

Our school in the snow!



I thought I'd end this week's newsletter by sharing this very dramatic photo of our school in the snow, which was taken by one of our Parents: Mrs. Struczynski last Friday after the heavy snowfall that we experienced.

It's a lovely photo which serves as reminder of just how much snow we had. Once again, I want to thank all Parents and Carers for their messages of support and care with our closure - they were hugely appreciated.

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 Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Mr.Hutt (Headteacher – The Coppice Primary School)

Star of the Week - Hot Chocolate

Due to the much shorter week last week and the snow on Friday, the first 'Star of the Week' will be chosen today and the children will be celebrated with hot chocolate next week :-)

Attendance Figures

TOP ATTENDANCE 6th-8th January (last week)

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------|
|  | 2T | 96.49% |
| | 5GB | 97.54% |

TOP ATTENDANCE 12th- 16th January (this week)

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------|
|  | 1LR | 98.67% |
| | 5GB | 99.35% |

Music Listening and Appreciation

This week's playlist was:
[Oceania](#)

- 1) Emily Wurramara - Black Smoke (2016)
- 2) Justin Wellington - Iko Iko (2019)
- 3) Sophie Hutchings - Into the Wild (2023)
- 4) Dave Dobbyn - Loyal (1988)

Next week's playlist is:

[Baroque \(1600 - 1750\)](#)

- 1) Bach - Canon in D (Pachelbel's Canon) (1680)
- 2) Handel - Zadok the Priest (1727)
- 3) Allegri - Miserere Mei (1630s)
- 4) Strozzi - Che si può fare (1664)