

Copthorne C. of E. Junior

NEWSLETTER

"Creating Confident, Curious Learners with God's love"

Monday 14th
September,
2026

Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone! We have had a great start to the new school year, and it has been so lovely to see that all have returned ready to learn and showing enthusiasm for their new topics. Already, I have had children come and share their learning - which I love. Welcome to all of our new children and families—it has been lovely getting to know you, both on the gate and around the school.

At Copthorne we have an open door policy, and there are opportunities to have a quick word with a member of staff at the end of days. However, if you would like to arrange a meeting or discuss an issue or concern, then please email the teacher via the class email to arrange either a phone call or meeting. Please remember though that the email may not be seen until after the school day. If there is an urgent matter then contact the office so that a message can get to the teacher, but be aware that the teacher is in class and it may not be possible to call until the end of the school day. If needed, contact myself, Miss Walker or Mrs Bennett directly.

Please ensure that your child has their coat in school, as we will be going out when possible.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Denison

Contacting your child's class teacher



To support parents communicating with class teachers, email accounts are set up for each class. Please use these if you have a specific query or information for the class teacher. Please continue to use the school office email for reporting absence and general enquiries. Emails will be responded to, if required, within 48 hours.

Year 3: Beech and Rowan

beech@copthornejunior.co.uk

rowan@copthornejunior.co.uk

Year 4: Chestnut and Willow

chestnut@copthornejunior.co.uk

willow@copthornejunior.co.uk

Year 5: Elm and Sycamore

elm@copthornejunior.co.uk

sycamore@copthornejunior.co.uk

Year 6: Maple and Oak

maple@copthornejunior.co.uk

oak@copthornejunior.co.uk

If you wish to contact Miss Walker, our Deputy Head, please use deputy@copthornejunior.co.uk or Mrs Bennett, our SENDCo, please use sen@copthornejunior.co.uk. Mrs Denison can be contacted on head@copthornejunior.co.uk.

Office Updates

Medical Updates and Communication Please ensure that you inform the office if there are changes to addresses, phone number, emergency contacts or any medical details.



Please can we also remind you, if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, please notify the School Office on the first day and on **every** day of absence before 9.30am. You can either call the School Office on **01342 712 372** or send an email to **office@copthornejunior.co.uk**.

Changes to collection If there are any changes to collection for your child please inform the office as soon as possible so that the message can be given to the teacher. Do not send to the class email as this may not be checked in time to ensure the message has been passed on.

Naming property Please ensure that all clothing and belongings are named so that they can be returned if found. This includes water bottles, lunch boxes and coats. We already have a number of unnamed jumpers which are clearly new.

Jewellery Please ensure your child is NOT wearing necklaces, bracelets or other jewellery other than medical bracelets, religious bands discussed with Mrs Denison, and stud earrings (hoop earrings are not allowed)

PE and Earrings If your child has earrings, we expect them to either be removed or covered during PE. If you would prefer your child to cover their earrings, please send them in with some micropore tape to use.

Learner of the Week

Each week, the teaching staff will award a member of their class with the Learner of the Week Award. These children will be rewarded by coming to afternoon tea with Mrs Denison.



School Value Award of the Week

This half term, the school value being focused on is 'Courage'. Each week a child in each class will be recognised for demonstrating this value during the school day. Children will have the opportunity to hang a bell, the symbol for Courage, onto our Value's Tree by the school entrance.

Half-termly Award Celebration

At the end of each half term we award the 'Star Learner', 'Excellence in English', 'Mastery in Maths' and 'Citizen' certificates. This celebration worship will be held in the church and parents of those receiving awards will be invited. Parents will receive an email in the previous week to invite them, and we

Weekly certificate winners will be posted on the website—parent's tab/learner of the week and school value of the week.

Week beginning 7th September 2026

Learner of the Week

Beech—Jack

Rowan— Elishamarie

Chestnut— Mya

Willow—Olivia MS

Elm— Lucy

Sycamore— Lisa-Marie

Maple— Ava

Oak— Elle

School Value Award of the Week— Courage

Beech—Mia

Rowan – Thomas

Chestnut— Bronte

Willow— Alexia

Elm— Ayden

Sycamore— Bibo

Maple— Noah

Oak— Sabena

Achievements from outside school...



Reece (Beech) cared for a stunned warbler, who flew into the kitchen window. He patiently kept an eye on it until it was strong enough to fly away. What a compassionate act, well done!



Joey (Maple) made a little wooden box for his Nan using entirely recycled scrap wood. It's so good that you safely, and with adult supervision, used a range of tools. What a lovely gift!



We would like to celebrate your child's achievements and share these on future newsletters. Please email a picture and information to head@copthornejunior.co.uk

Introduction of Body Worn Cameras for School Crossing Patrols

We have been informed by West Sussex that to continue improvements of the safety and welfare of both pupils and patrol staff, body worn cameras will be introduced. Please be assured that any footage will be handled in accordance with data protection legislation and WSCC policies, and will only be accessed by authorised personnel only.



Congratulations to Mrs Garrard for passing her National Professional Qualification for Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD). She has been working towards this qualification for the last eighteen months, and because of her hard work and dedication, she has been successful.

FUNDRAISING GROUP—JOIN US!



If you would like to help with fundraising for our school, then join our fundraising committee. Contact the office to be invited to our next meeting.

Dates for your diary



- 14th September 2026—Year 6 Circus skills
- 16th-18th September 2026— Year 6 PGL
- 24th September 2026 —Harvest Festival (school only)
- 29th-30th September 2026 — Year 5 Lodge Hill
- 30th September 2026—Year 6 WW2 day
- 5th October 2026—Year 4 Victorian school day
- 6th & 8th October 2026—Year 4 Preston Manor
- 14th October 2026—Year 5 Hever Castle
- Week beg 19th October 2026—Parent consultations
- 22nd October 2026—Flu nasal vaccinations
- 26th –30th October 2026—HALF TERM
- 2nd November 2026—INSET day
- Week beg 2nd November 2026—Parent consultations
- Week beginning 2nd November —RE week
- 11th November 2026—Remembrance Service (school only)
- 13th November 2026—Children in Need
- 17th November 2026—Year 4 & 6 First Aid
- 7th December 2026—Year 5 Level 1 Bikeability
- 4th December 2026 —Decorations Day and Reindeer Run
- 17th December 2026 —Christmas Service (Parents welcome)
- 18th December 2026—Last day of term

Harvest Festival



On Thursday 24th September, the school will be taking part in our Harvest Festival, which will be held at St John's Church. This gives us the opportunity to give thanks for all the good things that God gives us.

It also allows us to share with others who are not so fortunate. This event unfortunately is only for the children.

We would welcome donations of non-perishable food—please see the poster from the East Grinstead Food Bank stating the items that they are needing. These items can be brought into school from Monday 21st September.

Celebrating birthdays



Recognising how important birthdays mean to children, we at Copthorne want to celebrate this by there being a special birthday treat of coming into school in non-uniform for the day.

If their birthday falls on a weekend, then they may come into school either on the Friday or Monday in their own clothes. If it is during a school holiday, they may choose either the first day back or the last day of school before the holiday.

If your child has already celebrated their birthday since returning this term, then they can chose a day next week to wear non-uniform if they haven't done so already.

PE Days 2026-2027

Year 3—Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4 - Monday and Friday

Year 5 - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 6 - Wednesday and Friday



On PE days, your child is to come to school dressed in full school PE kit.

100 club Draw



This week we had the draw for July and August months of the 100 club.

Congratulations to our July winners:

1st L Whitney 2nd C Ansell 3rd J Searle

Congratulations to our August winners:

1st J Dawson 2nd C Menniss 3rd L Smith

Contact the office if you would like to participate!



Our school prayer

Dear God

Bless our school so that by working together, playing together and learning together, we may learn to serve you and each other.

Amen



ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.
Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160

2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN. **IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10**
If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = **2** Sessions

3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS
+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160
4 children & 2 parents = **£1280**
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4 If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME
2 parents and 1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280
No discount for early payment

3RD TIME
A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

Attendance Update...

As a school we recognise the importance of good attendance and the positive effect that this has on learning and achievement.

Attendance Matters



Our attendance at present is 95.3%, and the national expectation is that attendance is above 96%. Already this term, I have received a number of requests for absence for holidays and family events. Please can I ask that when booking these, that they are done during holiday times and INSET days.

Attendance is one strand of our school development plan for this academic year, and we will be continuing to raise awareness of good attendance. More information will follow about this.

I do however want to remind you of the updated guidance that has been issued by the government regarding attendance.

In addition to unauthorised holidays and absence of 10 sessions, penalty notices can also be issued if a child has fewer than 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised holiday. This could apply, for example, if:

- Parents deliberately take 8 or 9 sessions to avoid reaching the 10 session limit.
- Absence falls during an INSET week or directly after a bank holiday.
- Multiple shorter holidays are taken that still affect attendance

The Local Authority has the discretion to issue a penalty notice in these situations.

ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent

Please support your child by encouraging their good attendance, and punctuality. Early morning work begins at 8.50am.

Lets work together...



 East Grinstead
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 100 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.
Donate online -
givetoday.co.uk/egfoodbank/

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.
Donate online -
eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk/harvest-appeal/

Shopping list

Tinned meat

Tinned veg

Tinned fish

Tinned custard/rice pud

Tinned fruit

Coffee

Long Life Milk (UHT)

Fruit juice (long-life)

Instant mashed potato

Microwave rice

[East Grinstead.foodbank.org.uk](http://EastGrinstead.foodbank.org.uk)

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1208343

