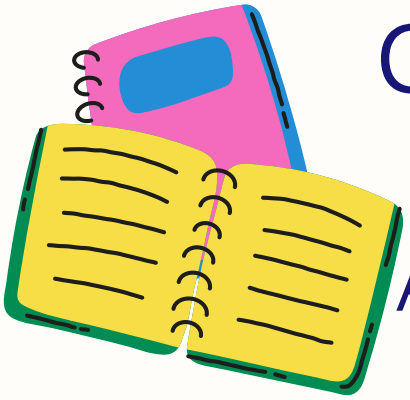


Copplestone Primary School News

Autumn 1st Half Term 2026



Dear Copplestone Families,

What a brilliant half term we have had and a great start to our new year!
The children settled really well into their new classes and have been working hard throughout the past seven weeks.

Ofsted
We have been expecting our Ofsted inspection and last week we received the call. Thank you to all of the parents who spoke to our inspectors and filled in the questionnaire. We are pleased with our results and we will share the report with you as soon as the final copy is published.

Assemblies
This half term, our assemblies have been about exploring the Copplestone Value **Challenge**. We have looked at 'The Learning Pit' and learnt that in order to make progress we must get uncomfortable for a while and persevere. We have found out about how some famous people have challenged themselves, as well as some of our staff and their friends! We have been singing songs to celebrate harvest and are now starting to sing Christmas songs! All families are welcome on a Friday morning to join in our celebration assembly.

Harvest
Thank you for all of your generous donations. The Crediton Foodbank were very grateful for your support.

Grandparent's Tea Party
One of my favourite Copplestone traditions! It was lovely to see so many grandparents come and enjoy a cuppa and a game with their grandchildren.



Out and About

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 have been down to our forest for outdoor learning.
Year Five have been to Okehampton to study the river as part of their geography topic.
Year Six have been away on their residential to Skern Lodge; 3 days of adventures and challenges including archery, kayaking, zip line high ropes and being away from their families for two nights.
Year Four are looking forward to their trip to Eden Project after half term to study how chocolate is grown and produced. Year Three will be going to Kents Cavern to learn more about the Stone Age and Year 1 and Year Two will be heading off to the zoo to learn about world animals. We also have Bikeability for Year 5 and swimming for Year 6.

Farewells and Welcomes

We sadly said farewell to Miss Kate Karkeek after 5 years of working in our school office. We will miss her friendly smile, organisation of many aspects of school life including our celebrating assemblies and her book recommendations. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Jenny Hawkins to the school office team after the half term break.
Miss Blake will be coming back after the holiday and Mr Morris will stay on during her phased return to ensure a smooth handover and continuity for the class.

Governor News

A message from Mrs Mackey, Executive Head
I am writing to update you on some changes within our Governing Board.
After several years as Chair of Governors, Chris Dack will be stepping down from the role to focus on his other commitments. I am delighted that he has chosen to remain on the Governing Board, as he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team. On behalf of the Federation, I would like to thank him for the support, guidance and commitment he has shown throughout his tenure as Chair.
At our Annual General Meeting this week, Lieutenant Colonel Tom Evans-Jones was elected as our new Chair of Governors. We look forward to working closely with him as we continue to develop and strengthen the Federation in the years ahead. Due to his work commitments, Tom will formally take up the role in March. In the meantime, Lorraine Crosfield, who has been a valued member of our Governing Board for some time, has kindly volunteered to serve as Interim Chair until then.
Our governors are all volunteers, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their time, dedication and support. Their commitment plays a vital role in ensuring the very best outcomes for the children in our schools.

🍰🎨 KICK START ART - CAKES! 🎨🍰

Last Friday we heard all about the latest Kick Start Art project – Cakes! Linda showed us lot of examples and gave us inspiration to create our own cake artwork. The closing date is 15th November, so we have plenty of time to get creative!
https://creditonheartproject.org/kick-start-art/



Vandalism to School Premises

We are really disappointed to report that our school fencing has been damaged on numerous occasions over the last 4-5 weeks. Our school caretaker has taken considerable time and care to repair the fence panels and ensure that all clips are securely fastened. The matter has been reported and our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who has visited. If you have witnessed anything or have any additional information that will support the investigation, please could you make contact with us at school.

Term Time Holidays

I need to remind parents that holidays taken during term time are not authorised by the school. Under current government regulations, headteachers may only authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays, including those taken because of lower travel costs or family convenience, are not regarded as exceptional circumstances. states clearly that "the law does not grant parents/carers a right to take their children out of school during term time" and that a family holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance. Where a child is taken out of school without authorisation, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. This can result in Devon CC issuing a penalty notice to each parent/carer responsible for the child. This has happened to seven of our families this year.

We strongly encourage families to arrange holidays during the school holiday periods. Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, progress, wellbeing, and sense of belonging within the school community. Ofsted were really impressed with our attendance, so thank you to all parents who make sure their children are in school every day unless they are really too unwell to be in school.

Family Support

Life can be hard, please reach out to local and national support groups if you are struggling with any aspect of family life.
Links to support and advice in Devon https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/child-family-support/family-support/
Single Point of Access for specialist care, support and advice visit, Children & Family Health Devon support services: https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/ - Tel: 0330 0245 321, Email: CFHD.DevonSPA@NHS.net
CAMHS: 0330 024 5321

If you worried about a young person, please contact:
Devon multi-agency safeguarding HUB (MASH): 0345 155 1071
NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Wishing everyone a very happy half term holiday. If you allow your children to go out Trick or Treating, please remind them of safety rules.

With very best wishes from Miss Penny and the Copplestone Staff Team.



You may have noticed we are not putting photographs of children on the website.
Sadly there are safeguarding risks which we want to avoid.
Parents can see photos of their children on our secure Dojo platform.

Copplestone Primary School is a proud member of the Devon Moors Federation with Clyst Hydon Primary School, Kilmington Primary School, Shute Primary School, Upottery Primary School, Spreyton Primary School, Filleigh Primary School and Lympstone Primary School.

Uniquely Different Schools - Stronger Together
www.devonmoorsfederation.devon.sch.uk