

Copplestone Primary School Newsletter

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Edition 80

13th October 2023

Message from Head of School:

We are fully into the swing of the autumn term and the children are very busy with their learning and various activities. We have been so pleased with the uptake of clubs, with the children enjoying these extra curricular activities. Thanks to the staff for providing these opportunities. We have many trips to look forward to, with orange class already enriching their Romans topic with a trip to the museum.

We have been developing new ways of working in maths this term and the children have been tackling their maths questions in a deeper and more detailed way. They are working on being able to *'prove it, show it and explain it'*. This has required them to have a clear understanding of their maths and be able to explain their answers fully – whether verbally or in writing. The teachers have been impressed with the way the children have embraced this new challenge and how they are showing more confidence in sharing their understanding.

We have been very focussed on reading and phonics and are pleased with the progress the children are making. Thank you for the support you give them in developing a love of reading – perhaps those stories at bedtime are more enjoyable, now that so much of the reading practice is done in school. Our library and class book corners are well stocked and the children absolutely love looking at the wide range of books there. Assemblies often follow a book themes, and the books are placed centrally for the children to look at again and enjoy.

We are continuing to prioritise spelling throughout the whole school and are encouraging children to be more accurate when writing, and to check their spelling attempts. Any support you can give in encouraging them to use Spelling Shed weekly would be most helpful.

Miss Lisa Heap will be moving on to a new job and we thank her for the work she has done in after school club and pre school. Miss Rhianna Webber will be taking over the two afternoons when Lisa leaves.

After half term we will be looking forward to having a refurbishment of the rainbow class outside area. You may have noticed it is getting more and more empty as our caretaker clears the way for a new outside shelter and lots of lovely new equipment. Once the contractors have been in for a site visit we can let you know if there will be any changes to drop off/pick up arrangements due to the construction work. The children will still have plenty of access to the outside playground during the next few weeks, and will be able to cycle their bikes and trikes around the big playground for a while!

Crediton Food Bank are very grateful for your donations during the harvest week, and we are glad that we can directly support our local community with food at this time of year. The children have enjoyed learning harvest poems and songs to celebrate this special time of year.



Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Mackey



Spotlight:

We welcomed some of our families to school this week for the Grandparents' Harvest Tea Party. Thank you for all your kind donations of cakes and harvest gifts. It was lovely to see so many people there.



Certificate Winners and Hot Chocolate Awards

Certificate Winners – 22nd September 2023

Challenge - Harper - Rainbow Class
Curiosity - Willoughby - Green Class
Challenge - Nate - Yellow Class
Curiosity - Mya-Louise - Blue Class
Curiosity - William J - Orange Class
Confidence - Freya - Red Class
Challenge - Ollie D - Purple Class

Hot Chocolate Awards – 22nd September 2023

Rainbow Class – Ralpie
Green Class – Isla
Yellow Class – Codi
Blue Class – Sam
Orange Class – Ebony
Red Class – Myles
Purple Class – Gilbert

Certificate Winners – 29th September 2023

Caring - Penelope - Rainbow Class
Challenge - Freya - Green Class
Challenge - Zac - Yellow Class
Community - James - Blue Class
Challenge - Harry - Orange Class
Curiosity - James - Red Class
Challenge - Phoebe - Purple Class

Hot Chocolate Awards – 29th September 2023

Rainbow Class – Jaxon
Green Class – Sophie
Yellow Class – Oscar
Blue Class – Evelyn
Orange Class – Leo
Red Class – Millie
Purple Class – Eleanor

Certificate Winners – 6th October 2023

Creativity - Lily - Rainbow Class
Challenge - Ava M-E - Green Class
Challenge - Orla - Yellow Class
Caring - Eryn - Blue Class
Caring - Evelyn - Orange Class
Challenge - Faye - Red Class
Caring - George - Purple Class

Hot Chocolate Awards – 6th October 2023

Rainbow Class – Harper
Green Class – Matilda
Yellow Class – Rosa
Blue Class – Lolita
Orange Class – Finley
Red Class – Saul
Purple Class – Katie

Pre-School:

This week at Pre-School we have been reading a non-fiction book about Autumn and the Leaf Thief story. The children have been learning about the leaves changing colour and falling off the trees and also about Harvest Time. We have been busy leaf printing and painting squirrels, hedgehogs, conkers and acorns for our display board and the children have also enjoyed vegetable printing.



Outside in the garden we collected twigs, conkers, feathers and leaves and the children had a go at making patterns with them. We have also learnt some simple songs such as 'Thank you Farmer for the Harvest' and 'The Wheels on the Tractor go round and round'.



Crediton Library News:

Summer Reading Challenge Finishers

Well done to all the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year. As well as the medal and certificate you were awarded after reading six books over the summer, you have also won a prize. Please come into Crediton Library to choose your prize and let a member of staff know when you have selected it. Congratulations to you all!

Half Term Events

Pumpkin Rescue - Pumpkin Carving & Cooking

On Wednesday 25th October Recycle Devon are holding a pumpkin carving and cooking workshop for families. For children aged 8+ along with an adult. Pumpkins, carving tools and cooking materials will be provided, and after the children have carved their pumpkin the insides will be cooked so children can enjoy a taste of soup, pumpkin seeds or a mini pumpkin muffin. This event is free but a £5 deposit per child will be paid when booking and the money will be returned when the session is attended. Places are limited and can be booked on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/food-rescue-8085945159>

Autumn trail

Do pop in to do our autumn trail and find the pictures hidden around the library anytime over half term.



Africa

On Friday 27th October 'Tiny Travels' will be doing an event about Africa for Key Stage One children. It will be an opportunity to learn about the culture and explore different objects. Please pop in to the library to find out more details if you're interested.



Orange Class Trip to RAMM Exeter:

Orange Class trip

'On Wednesday 4th October, we went to Exeter Museum. We did cool and fun activities such as making our own mosaic, design an oil lamp, write our names in Latin, and wear Roman clothes.' Ebony

'When we arrived at the museum, the staff were very friendly. The activities were really fun and active. My favourite part was the mosaics because we got to hold actual tesserae that they had found in the ground!' Theo

'We got to try on different armour and the battle suit was so heavy!' William

'My favourite part was trying on the armour, writing our name in Latin, and touching the food they used to eat.' Evelyn

'My favourite part of the day was designing the oil lamp because you got to colour it in.' James



September whole school attendance was 97.2%

Reading News

Today, we were really lucky to have children's author Jack Meggitt-Phillips visit years 4, 5, and 6. The children were treated to an interactive, hour-long creative writing workshop, including puppetry, a question and answer session, and readings from his book. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and inspired to read and also write their own stories.

The event was organised by Crediton Bookshop, who we always enjoy welcoming into school. As part of their mission to bring books to children and foster a love of reading, they obtained sponsorship for this event and were able to offer every child in Years 5 and 6 a copy of his book, as well as additional copies for the Year 4 class and library!



Reading at home

All Reception and KS1 children now have their log-in for the Little Wandle phonics books. Please ensure you are logging in and reading with your children regularly. The children are working incredible hard in school learning their new sounds and reading with you is a way they can share their success. It is also an excellent opportunity for additional fluency practice and to build confidence. Children who have progressed beyond the Little Wandle programme will also be bringing their learning to read books home.

In addition to these, children may bring home a 'reading for pleasure' book. This book is not intended to be read by the children, but to be shared with a family member. This is a great way to wind down at the end of the day and enjoy spending time together.

Did you know...

- Good literacy at an early age improves academic achievement and this leads to greater opportunities of all kinds in adulthood
- Children who read for at least **20 minutes every day** will have exposure to approximately 2 million words annually.
- Children who read for pleasure are far more likely to go on to have a positive experience of school and have much improved life chances

October 2023

- 16th PARENT CONSULTATION WEEK
- 16th Tempest School Photos
- 17th CLC Tag Rugby Tournament – Selected pupils in Purple Class
- 20th 9.10am Celebration Assembly

23rd-27th HALF TERM

- 30th All Pupils Return

November 2023

- 1st Red Class trip to Torquay Museum
- 6th Red Class Bikeability
- 10th CPTA Bag2School collection
- 14th CLC Blue/Orange Class Orienteering (TBC)
- 17th Children In Need Day – Non-Uniform – Wear something Spotty/Dotty or Pudsey
- 21st CLC Blue/Orange Class Orienteering (TBC)
- 29th Flu Vaccination Programme – Reception to Year 6

December 2023

- 7th 2.15pm Pre-School and Rainbow Class Nativity
- 8th Blue Class Trip to Eden Project
- 11th CHRISTMAS JUMPER WEEK
- 12th 2pm KS1 Nativity
- 12th 5pm KS1 Nativity
- 13th Christmas Lunch
- 13th 5pm KS2 Carol Concert
- 15th LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

January 2024

- 2nd NON-PUPIL DAY
- 3rd ALL PUPILS RETURN

February 2024

12th-16th HALF-TERM

April 2024

- 15th NON-PUPIL DAY
- 16th All Pupils Return

July 2024

- 23rd LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM



Term Dates for Academic Year 2024/2025 are now on the school website.

You can view them here:

<https://devonmoorsfederation.ovw7.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=17>



the national sleep helpline

Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
 Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

the national sleep helpline

50%

Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?
 In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
 Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

POWERED BY the sleep charity

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Furniture Village

Copyright © 2023 The Sleep Charity. All rights reserved. The Sleep Charity, a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1150585.
 *Survey of 2,000 adults by OnePoll, Aug 2021

Reminder to Year 6 Parents - Secondary School Applications:



Is your child

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

next year...

Secondary School Admission places are now open for September 2024

Apply by 31 October 2023

Applications for your child to start in year 7 at secondary school in September 2024 open on 1 September 2023 and close on 31 October 2023.

You can apply via the link below.

The date that all allocations of school places are announced in England is known as **'Offer day'**. For September 2024 secondary school starters this will be on **1 March 2024**. More information can be found on the **Offer day** tab by following the link below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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