

# Copplestone Primary School Newsletter

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Edition 84

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Message from Head of School:

There are lots of signs of spring in the air and the children have been enjoying being outside between the rain showers.



This week at school we had a monitoring visit by a school improvement officer from Devon County Council. He was very pleased with the progress our school has continued to make since our Ofsted Inspection in 2022. Some of the children were able to speak to him and share their learning, which they did with confidence and enthusiasm. I am proud of all of the children for their approach to learning and for following the Golden Rules. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring staff team who are so focussed on helping to improve outcomes for the children at Copplestone.

Year 6 are currently on their residential trip as I write, and the staff have told me that the children are tired but happy! This morning, they have been testing out their teamwork skills by getting everyone around the assault course. I am sure they will have made some wonderful memories of being together with their friends and enjoyed lots of fantastic activities to challenge them. My thanks go to Mr Wyatt, Miss Webber, Mrs Crake and Mrs Uter for giving up their time (and sleep!) to support the class during the trip.



Year 5 and 6 recently had a 'Little Lifesavers' course where they learnt some basic skills of CPR and what to do in some emergency situations. This was provided free of charge as they are a charity, but if you wish to support their work you can do so here: <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/little-lifesavers>

Thank you for your continued support.  
Mrs Mackey



## Spotlight:

Year 6 at Skern Lodge –  
our 2024 leavers!



## Certificate Winners and Hot Chocolate Awards

### Certificate Winners – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Community - Oakley - Rainbow Class  
Challenge - Ella-Grace - Green Class  
Challenge - Archie - Yellow Class  
Challenge - Lolita - Blue Class  
Challenge - Bryony - Orange Class  
Challenge - Rosie - Red Class  
Challenge - Isabella - Purple Class

### Hot Chocolate Awards – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Rainbow Class – Finley  
 Green Class – Oliver  
 Yellow Class – Eli  
 Blue Class – Evie-Mae  
 Orange Class – Ryan  
 Red Class – Faye  
 Purple Class – Brennan

### Certificate Winners – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Community - Emily - Rainbow Class  
Confidence - Lola - Green Class  
Challenge - Ruby - Yellow Class  
Community - Lolita - Blue Class  
Confidence - Ebony - Orange Class  
Confidence - Freya - Red Class  
Community - Mykola - Purple Class

### Hot Chocolate Awards – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Rainbow Class – Henry H  
 Green Class – Ava G  
 Yellow Class – Joey  
 Blue Class – Charlie H  
 Orange Class – William  
 Red Class – Saul  
 Purple Class – Edward

### Certificate Winners – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Creativity - Stanlee - Rainbow Class  
Confidence - Jenson - Green Class  
Confidence - Edie - Yellow Class  
Creativity - Avie - Blue Class  
Challenge - Xia - Orange Class  
Challenge - Alesha - Red Class  
Confidence - Lucy-Grace - Purple Class

### Hot Chocolate Awards – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Rainbow Class – Henry T  
 Green Class – Ava M-E  
 Yellow Class – Orla  
 Blue Class – Eryn  
 Orange Class – Theo  
 Red Class – Anya  
 Purple Class – Isabella

## Book Week 2024!

We had a fantastic week celebrating reading across the school and pre-school. Throughout the week, teachers shared two special books purchased for book week. In pre-school and KS1, the children read 'The Word Collector', whilst in KS2, the children read 'Roots of Happiness'. The children had a fantastic time learning new words and their meanings, thinking of words they enjoyed using, and created some super artwork based on the new vocabulary they had learnt. It was wonderful walking around school throughout the week, seeing children so enthusiastic about the words they had learnt and many stopped me in the corridor or playground to share their favourite.



On Tuesday, we held our annual 'Break the Rules Day.' We had a great time coming to school in our own clothes and there was definitely some CRAZY hairstyles being sported! I know lots of children enjoyed a sweet treat at breaktime too! Thanks to your wonderful donations, we raised £400! I have already bought a copy of the books shown to the children by The Bookery and will be speaking to the children about the books they'd like to have next in the library.



On Thursday, we welcomed the team from The Bookery into school to share their 'Top Titles of 2024'. There was a real buzz during the book fair and it was great to see so much enthusiasm and excitement to get reading. A copy of each of the books are in the school library and I know many of the children purchased a book to enjoy and keep.



Finally, the school was overtaken by an array of book characters on Friday as we continued to celebrate reading. There was everything from the gingerbread man to the Gruffalo, princesses to Peter Rabbit, and everything in between! We enjoyed sharing our costumes in assembly. Back in class, children discussed their favourite books and what they loved about reading.

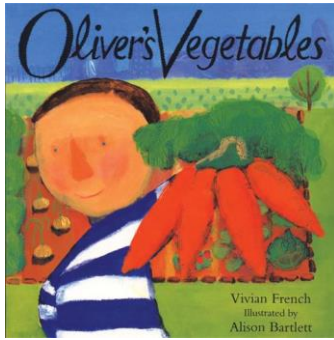


Of course, these experiences can only work with the support of parents and carers and the dedicated school staff - thank you all! Thanks also to the children for being so enthusiastic and making the week such an enjoyable experience.

Miss Blake



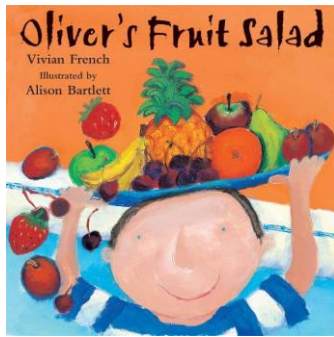




#### Pre-School:

This week at Pre School we have been reading 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' at Carpet Time. The children have been learning about where the fruit and vegetables grow - whether it is underneath or on top of the soil, or on trees.

We have been vegetable printing using broccoli, carrots, potatoes and mushrooms to make patterns and have played a sorting game identifying which is a fruit and which is a vegetable. The children have also been counting different fruits and practising writing the number.



The children have also been making 'cress heads'. They drew their face on the egg shell, and inside put a cotton wool pad and added cress seeds and are looking forward to watching the cress grow!

We have been playing the musical instruments at Pre-School and practising loud and quiet noises and tapping out a beat which has been great fun 😊

#### Healthy schools:

The Department for Education (DfE) funded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme aims to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition as well as be more engaged with school and other local services.

The programme is for children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals.

The HAF programme covers four days over the Easter Holiday.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/>



*February whole school attendance was 96.23 %*

### **March 2024**

15<sup>th</sup> RED NOSE DAY – Dress in something RED  
15<sup>th</sup> 9.10am Celebration Assembly  
18<sup>th</sup> Red Class & Orange Class Field Trip to Okehampton  
19<sup>th</sup> Yellow Class Trip to The Golden Hind, Brixham  
20<sup>th</sup> 9-11am Red Class Swimming Lessons @ The Waie Inn  
21<sup>st</sup> Green Class Trip to Paignton Zoo  
22<sup>nd</sup> 9.10am Celebration Assembly  
25<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm Welcome Evening at Chulmleigh College for Year 6 pupils  
27<sup>th</sup> 9-11am Red Class Swimming Lessons @ The Waie Inn  
28<sup>th</sup> CPTA Bunny Bounce  
28<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm CPTA Year 6 Cake Sale  
28<sup>th</sup> LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
2023-24 School Year



### **April 2024**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> NON-PUPIL DAY**

16<sup>th</sup> All Pupils Return  
18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Orange Class Residential to Bristol  
18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Rainbow Class Vision Screening  
22<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Class Trip to West Town Farm – details to follow  
24<sup>th</sup> Reception and Year 6 Height and Measurement Programme  
24<sup>th</sup> Tempest Class Group Photos  
30<sup>th</sup> CLC Y3/4 Handball Event (TBC)

### **May 2024**

6<sup>th</sup> BANK HOLIDAY  
w/c 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATS  
21<sup>st</sup> CLC Y3/4 Rounders Event (TBC)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> HALF-TERM**

### **June 2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> All Pupils Return  
12<sup>th</sup> Sports Day  
14<sup>th</sup> CPTA Fathers Day Shop  
25<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Taster Day at Chulmleigh College – details to follow  
25<sup>th</sup> CLC Y5/6 Athletics Event (TBC)  
26<sup>th</sup> Reserve Sports Day  
27<sup>th</sup> Red Class Quogwarts Day @ QE – details to follow  
28<sup>th</sup> CPTA School Disco – details to follow

### **July 2024**

9<sup>th</sup> Chulmleigh College Year 6 Transition Day  
11<sup>th</sup> QE College Year 6 Transition Day  
16<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Year 6 Performance  
17<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Year 6 Performance  
20<sup>th</sup> CPTA & CRA Family Fun Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> 2.45pm Rainbow Class Graduation  
23<sup>rd</sup> 9.15am Year 6 Leavers Assembly  
23<sup>rd</sup> 3.15pm Year 6 Leavers Arch  
23<sup>rd</sup> LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM



# Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

## 1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.



## 2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.



## 3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.



## 4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.



## 5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.



## 6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.



## 7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.



## 8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.



## 9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.



## 10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.



## Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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