

# Welcome

12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Coplestone Families and Friends,

Welcome to the new school year! I am delighted to say that we have had a very positive start to the new year. The children are settling into the routines of their new classes, and when I pop in to see them, they are on task and happy!

Thank you for the very warm welcome to Coplestone. I have met many of you at the school gate, but it will take me a while to remember you all! I am teaching Orange Class on Fridays and Green Class on Monday afternoons. The rest of the time I am getting to know the children across the school and working with the staff team to develop our curriculum, teaching and learning. I have responsibility for safeguarding and the day to day running of the school. I will be meeting with Mrs Mackey each week to review our progress and plan for the next steps in our school development using a plan, do, assess, review cycle.

The whole staff team have worked hard to set up the classrooms and plan exciting new topics for the year ahead, so they are ready to teach and support all children. In our INSET days (In service training days) we focused on the strategies we need to implement in English and maths lessons to make sure all children overcome learning barriers and make the progress they are capable of. Mrs Blake and Mrs Marshall are leading on this work with the full support of the team.

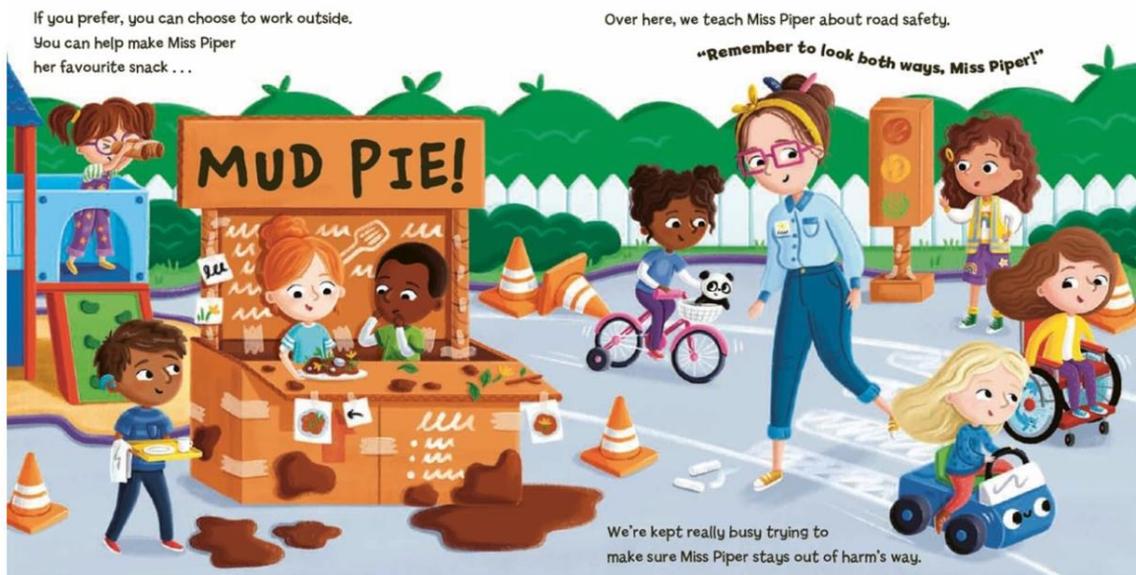
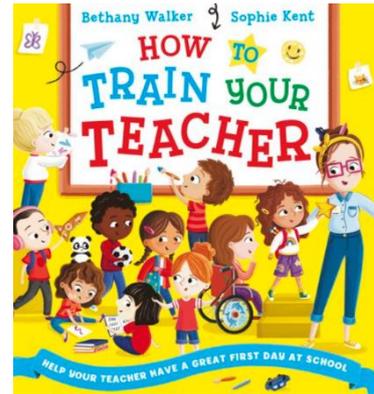
You can support this at home by talking to your children about their learning, reading to them as well as listening to them read, and practicing spellings and maths skills such as addition, doubles, halves and times tables with them. Card games, dominos and board games are wonderful ways to consolidate learning while having fun too.

During our INSET, we also spent time with our Educational Psychologist reviewing and developing researched based strategies which best support our children with additional needs.

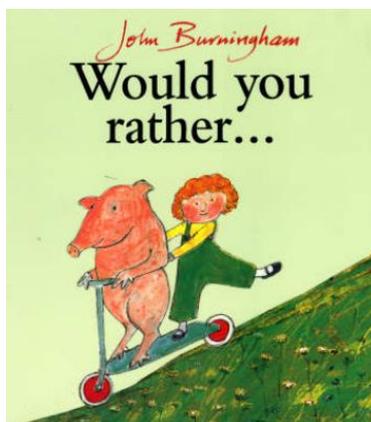
Teachers are leading class meetings next week for you to come and find out more about the year ahead. Parents and carers, please keep an eye on Dojo so you are up to date with school events and notices.

I am a fan of picture books and will be sharing many with the children over the year. Last week I read *How to Train your Teacher* by Bethany Walker and Sophie Kant to each class.

The story is based on the premise that it is the children's job to look after their teacher and help her get through the day, not the other way around. Younger children enjoyed the story as a funny switch, whereas older children identified the irony. The pictures also tell a story, and some noticed the occurrence of a toy panda throughout the story!



In assemblies, we have enjoyed John Burningham's 'Would You Rather?' The book poses silly options and encourages creative thinking. For example:



*Would you rather your house was surrounded by water, snow or jungle?*

*Would you rather help a fairy make magic, gnomes dig for treasure, an imp be naughty, a witch make stew or Santa Claus deliver presents?*

You can make these up at home for fun discussions over dinner in the car or before bedtime.

One of our priorities this year is to focus on oracy skills, ensuring our children are speaking in full sentences across the curriculum.

### **Why is Oracy important?**

The benefits of oracy skills go far beyond academic achievement and employability however, they boost a whole range of social, emotional and interpersonal skills, including self-confidence, self-awareness, resilience and empathy. Having the skills and confidence to speak up and believe in yourself has also been shown to enhance our sense of happiness and well-being, preventing the isolation that comes from feeling side-lined.

I look forward to seeing many of you this morning for our first Praise Assembly where we will share some of our learning and reward certificate winners.

And finally,

Autumn weather has certainly set in this week! Children need to bring a waterproof coat to school every day now!

Wishing you all a very happy weekend,

Tara Penny

Head of School