



The Coppice Whole School Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a good week and are looking forward to the weekend with your children. As you will see below, it has been a very exciting week at The Coppice!

The Coppice achieves 'Platinum' for OPAL!



I am thrilled to announce that after our three hour accreditation meeting on Tuesday we have been awarded the highest standard of OPAL award: Platinum!! Obviously, this award is the culmination of just over two years of play development and change. As you all know, as soon as OPAL came onto my radar, I wanted it for our school because I knew that **ALL** of our children would benefit so much from this type of inclusive, open-ended play provision.

I knew it wasn't going to be an easy journey though, and there would be some tricky times along the way, for example the change to serving lunches out of two halls. However, thanks to the incredible drive, passion, teamwork and relentless hard work of Miss. Carter, Mrs. Ashwell, our incredible team of Lunchtime staff and Playworkers, our wonderful team of Pupil 'Play Rangers', the creativity of Mr. Mace and Mr. Noakes, and the generosity you the Parents and Carers (with a special shout out to Mr. Kelly who built our incredible 'Welly Storage'), the dream has been realised! I cannot thank all of these people enough for what they have given and contributed to this journey.

In addition, OPAL Play would never have got off the ground if it wasn't for the amazing support of our wonderful PTA team, who have backed us to the hilt with both their money and their time. This journey started with Eve Lennon in charge of the PTA and has continued with Jen Board, who was there for the final accreditation. Thank you also goes to Trustee: Jack Stables for giving his time and contribution to the final accreditation process.

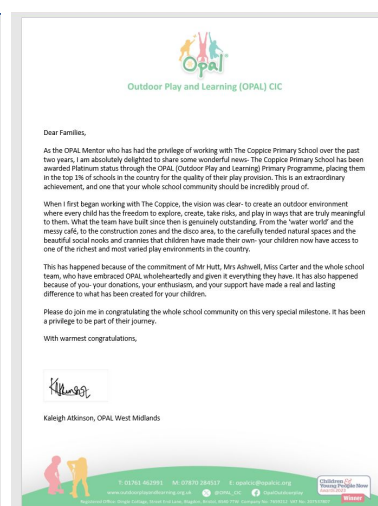
Finally, a massive thank you goes to the whole staff, Board of Trustees, and Parents and Carers of The Coppice for their support and on-going backing of this initiative.

This isn't the end though, just the beginning, and we are already planning how we can enhance our provision even further over the next two years, ready for re-accreditation in 2028. Therefore, the last shout-out goes to our amazing children who have embraced wholeheartedly every opportunity that OPAL has given them and who will continue to benefit for many years to come from OPAL!



To the left, you will see our Platinum OPAL certificate that will now be proudly displayed in our school Reception area, along with the other awards that we have achieved as a school.

Below, you will see the OPAL letters that were written to both Parents and Carers and the children following our accreditation - they are a joy to read!



Our OPAL welly rack is now complete. Thank you to Mark Kelly (parent of Ben), who built this for us. Great storage for our wellies and play equipment. Now the weather is changing, we need to fill it with the children's wellies - please send them in if you haven't already!



Our newly opened Gravel Pit has been a huge success. Thank you to Mr Mace for building this, to Sarah Bromley (parent of Marnie) for supplying the wood and EHSmith for donating all the gravel. Another great addition to our OPAL provision.



Community Walks for Year 1 and their Year 6 buddies:

This week, Year 1 and Year 6 went on a 'Buddy walk' in our local area as part of our "Where in the World Are We?" Geography topic. All the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring our local community and were extremely well behaved throughout. Our Year 1 children had the opportunity to consolidate their Geography learning by identifying and discussing familiar local features, landmarks and services. It was wonderful to see them applying what they have learnt in the classroom to the world around them.

Our Year 6 children were fantastic role models and played an important part in supporting the younger children. They helped them to follow and discuss the map, encouraged them to look carefully at their surroundings, and prompted them to spot and identify different local features along the way. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to learn together, develop their geographical skills and strengthen our sense of community. We were very proud of how well they worked together and represented our school.



Emmie shows both great creativity and empathy!

It is lovely to be able to celebrate Emmie, from 5B, who showed both her creativity and empathy by creating this beautiful 'Kindness' artwork at home. I was so wowed by it that not only did I want to celebrate it here, but I will also be adding it to our 'Kindness Grows' display in school. As I always say, nothing is more important than kindness: Emmie you're a real kindness superstar!



Sounds-Write Phonics Information Sessions:

A huge thank you to all the Reception Parents and Carers who attended our Sounds-Write information sessions this week. We greatly appreciated your enthusiasm and participation as we introduced Sounds-Write, explained the guiding principles, and discussed how we use word-building opportunities to support children's reading and writing development. It was fantastic to share how we teach Sounds-Write in Reception and how you can support your child's reading at home. A special thank you to Mrs Russell and Mrs Cox for delivering these sessions.

If you would like to further your knowledge and understanding of Sounds-Write, you can access the free Parent and Carer course here: <https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/>.

The Reception staff are also excited to invite you to join your child for a Word Building workshop in November. Please sign up through the app. The Year One team are looking forward to modelling an Extended Code lesson to Parents and Carers, which will focus on one sound with different spellings, on Friday 16th October. There are still spaces available; please book on the app.

Nursery Parents and Carers, we invite you to the 'Getting Ready to Read' information session on Tuesday 20th October. Please note that the date for this session has changed, and make sure to book through the app.

Thank you again for your continued support and for building a partnership with us at The Coppice to help all children become successful readers and writers.

Celebration Time

Huge congratulations goes to Robyn, from RM, who recently won a silver medal in the 2026 World Balance Bike Championships, missing out on gold by just 0.4 seconds. Her Parents are incredibly proud of her, especially as she spent all summer overcoming her fears and "dusting herself off" after a big crash at the same event last year meant she had to retire from the race. After stepping off the podium, Robyn met E.T. and declared it "The Best Day Ever!" What an achievement Robyn - we are so proud of you for your courage, determination and resilience Robyn!



Celebration Time

Great success for Coppice girls at dance awards!

Last Sunday, Year 5 girls: Kendall, Alice and Rosie S (all 5C), Rosie P, Emmie and Rosie B (all 5B), Molly (5RG), Claudia and Darla (both 4B) Katie P (3L), and Katie W (6D) had their dance awards for Alison School of dance. All of the girls got medals for their hard work over the course of the year, whilst a number of the girls also received trophies for extra achievements:

Rosie S got star performer trophy

Rosie P got the star tap dancer trophy

Emmie got the star acro dancer trophy

Katie P got the rising star acro trophy.

Alice got the Star Dancer trophy

Rosie B got the Commercial Star trophy

Molly got the 'Musical Theatre' Star trophy

Katie W got the 'Tap Star trophy'

Obviously, we are extremely proud of all of these girls for their achievements and for doing The Coppice proud!



A huge well done goes to Imogen, from RTK, who recently won a second place medal in her gymnastics competition at FMA (Fundamental Music Academy). It was lovely to speak with Imogen and to hear all about her passion for gymnastics. We are super proud of you Imogen!

Star of the Week - Hot Chocolate



Attendance Figures

TOP ATTENDANCE 28th Sept - 2nd Oct (last week)

	2P	98.38%
	3K	98.57%

TOP ATTENDANCE 5th- 9th (this week)

	RTK	100%
	4DR	99.33%

Music Listening and Appreciation

This week's playlist was different for each year group and was a selection put together by the staff

Next week's playlist is also a compilation of staff's favourite music.

That just leaves me to wish you all an enjoyable weekend with your children. We look forward to seeing all of the children, and you, bright and early on Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Mr.Hutt (Headteacher – The Coppice Primary School)