



The Coppice Whole School Newsletter

Friday 2nd 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.

OPAL Play:

On Monday afternoon, Mrs Ashwell and Miss Carter met with the Playrangers in the staffroom. The meeting was in preparation for our final OPAL audit next week, as we have now been an OPAL school for three years!

Our Playrangers do an amazing job with Miss Carter and the Playteam to get things organised and are always visible in the playground, wearing their blue OPAL jackets - happy and eager to help!

During the meeting, we looked at The Coppice OPAL Charter, which reinforces the school's commitment to providing high-quality play opportunities through three main areas:

- 1) Children's right to play
- 2) Shared expectations
- 3) Managing risk and independence.

Next Monday we will have an OPAL assembly where we will introduce our newest zone 'The Gravel Pit'. We have also had all the parts delivered for our sand pit - we just need some help getting it built!

We had some amazing feedback on our last parent OPAL session and would like to organise another one soon. Obviously, we hope to see you all there again!



Our OPAL Play Charter:

Below, you can see our OPAL Play charter which makes clear the Play principles to be followed by all of the children at our school. These very much link to the fundamental British Values below which we regularly share and discuss with the children:

Democracy: Everyone has an equal right to have their voice heard and participate in decisions that affect the community.

The Rule of Law: Laws and rules keep people safe, ensure fairness, and apply equally to everyone, meaning no one is above the law.

Individual Liberty: People have the freedom to make their own choices, express their opinions, and pursue their interests safely within the law.

Mutual Respect: People treat others with kindness, listen actively, and value different ideas and relationships.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs: People accept and respect that others may hold different religious or cultural beliefs—or none at all—without



The Coppice OPAL
Play Charter



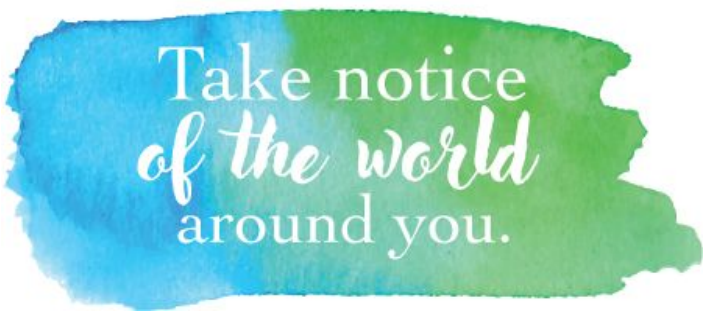
Ready, Responsible and Respectful

<i>Everyone has a choice</i>
<i>We play fairly and kindly</i>
<i>We take care of our equipment</i>
<i>We keep ourselves and others safe</i>
<i>We help others if they need it</i>
<i>We build friendships</i>
<i>We listen to one another</i>
<i>We show respect and kindness</i>
<i>We manage our own risks</i>
<i>We ask adults for help if we need it</i>

Science assemblies for Years 1-6:

On Monday afternoon, Years 1, 2 and 3 took part in an assembly exploring the themes of **noticing**, using Alexander Fleming’s discovery of penicillin, (98 years to the day) as an example.

We explored how Fleming noticed something unusual happening to the bacteria in a Petri dish, leading to the discovery of penicillin. The children learned about the four steps of noticing: **Stop, Look, Think and Wonder** – *Why did this happen?*



Throughout the week, we are encouraging the children to notice the little things around them – whether that is something in nature, something about a friend, or simply something they may not have paid attention to before.

The above is something that you can really support and encourage your child with and the beauty is that it’s both cheap and easy and best of all...fun!

Future Medics assembly for Years 4, 5 and 6:

Also on Monday afternoon, Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed an exciting assembly led by Medical Mavericks, who introduced their upcoming Future Medics after-school club. The five-week club will give children the opportunity to try out real medical equipment, discover how the human body works and explore a range of different jobs and careers within a hospital.

During the assembly, the children had a taste of what to expect, taking part in activities such as capturing a picture of the inside of an eyeball and using specialist equipment to scan veins. It was a fascinating and hands-on introduction to the world of medicine and was very inspiring for the children!



Reading with and alongside your children:

We all know how busy life can be for everyone but I want to remind Parents and Carers of the crucial importance of your child practising their reading at home on a regular basis, and of reading with your child.

It has been proven that reading with your child builds early language skills, boosts academic performance, and strengthens your emotional bond

Key Benefits of Reading Together:

- **Language Growth:** Hearing stories introduces new words and sentence patterns.
- **Better Focus:** Regular reading helps children build longer attention spans and listening skills.
- **Empathy:** Books let children explore different feelings and see the world from another person's point of view

Recent studies have shown that less and less primary aged children are reading at home and this is a huge worry to us at The Coppice. We therefore see it as our moral duty to constantly encourage this.

I always say that reading is the ‘key to the door’ that makes learning easier and opens up opportunities. Unfortunately, we are all too aware of the many ‘screen’ distractions that children now have that can often make getting them to enjoy reading harder.

Please therefore try to make time for your child to read every day and also continue to read with them, to them and alongside them because it will, undoubtedly, benefit them in many different ways. It’s also a wonderful thing to do to share a book or story with your child

If you are struggling to get your child to read, or you want some support, please talk to your child’s Class Teacher who can help signpost you to different types of books that your child could try. We have a wealth of quality books in school and there will always be something for everyone!

Hopefully also, you will find the tips below useful:

- **Make a Habit:** Set aside just 10 minutes each day
- **Ask Questions:** Talk about the pictures and ask what might happen next.
- **Follow Interests:** Let your child pick books that match their favorite topics.
- **Keep It Fun:** Take breaks if your child gets tired.

Celebration Time



It is fantastic to be able to celebrate and say how incredibly proud we all are of Nico, from 4TR for being chosen as champion of the week at his boxing class.

This is a brilliant achievement and recognition of the hard work, dedication and determination he puts into every session.

Nico finished all of the sets and targets that were given to him this week, and even finished with an incredible 4 minute plank - wow Nico! We also know just how proud your family were of you for your achievement Nico. To use their words: **Well done and keep going champ!**

Huge congratulations also go to passionate and talented dancer: **Avi, from 1LR**, who recently received some incredible results from her dancing exams. Avi dances for local dance school: L'areeva Dance Academy and completed the International Dance Teachers' Association Preparatory exams in both ballet and tap. In her ballet exam, Avi gained a 'Distinction' and achieved 93 marks out of 100! In her tap exam, she also gained a 'Distinction', achieving 94 marks out of 100! Finally, to cap it all off, Avi was awarded full marks in both exams for her 'musicality and performance' - wow! We are so proud of you for your achievements Avi - absolutely fantastic!



Star of the Week - Hot Chocolate



Attendance Figures

TOP ATTENDANCE 21st - 25th Sept (last week)

	2P	100%
	5RG	100%

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

	2P	98.38%
	3K	98.57%

Music Listening and Appreciation

This week's playlist was: **Music from games**

- [Super Mario Bros. Original Theme by Nintendo](#)
- [Original Tetris theme \(Tetris Soundtrack\)](#)
- [Leave Her Johnny \(Sea Shanty with lyrics\) | Assassin's Creed 4: Black Flag \(OST\)](#)
- [C418 - Sweden - Minecraft Volume Alpha](#)

Next week's playlist is different for each year group.

Next week (and for the next couple of weeks) the playlist will be staff choices. Members of staff have chosen their favourite music and explained why they like the piece of music.

Ask your child about the morning music they are listening to.

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)