

Coppice School

Newsletter Spring 21

We are kind
We try our best
We prepare for the future





Dear Parent and Carers,

We are nearly at the end of Spring term 2021, and what a journey it has been! It has been wonderful to welcome all the children back into school, after such an unusual year. I am so glad that I have managed to see them before I leave.

The children have been amazing. It was a joy to see how happy they were to be with their friends and teachers and we are so proud of how they have once again proved their resilience, adapting back into school life and giving it their all.

Towards the end of this term we see Alex returning from her maternity leave, I know it will be such a wrench for her to leave Finley, but a bonus for all at Coppice.

Kim Kelly, one of our teaching assistants is retiring at Easter. Kim has been a valuable member of our team, during the many years she has worked here. I would like to wish Kim 'good luck' on behalf of all Coppice Community, and hope she enjoys many years of a well-deserved retirement.

On behalf of everyone at Coppice, I would also like to say 'Good byes' to Emma, Marlene and Karen, who have decided to spend more time with their families on leaving school.

Michael Robertson has now joined the admin team at Coppice, and I am sure you will be speaking to him, if you already haven't, in the near future.

I hope you enjoy reading about the children's achievements this term, they have all worked so hard since coming back, and have done some truly amazing things.

I hope you all have a safe and Happy Easter. Thank you for all your love and support over the years. It is hard to believe that I won't be returning after the holidays, but I do hope that I will be able to see to all at future events in school.

Take care, much love to all,

Linda x





● Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and wider school community.

Please find an open letter from myself to our most wonderful Head Teacher and friend Linda Alison. It is with regret that we are not all able to come together for a special retirement day party to send Linda off in style but rest assured we will be planning one ready for when we can come together again. In the absence of such an event I feel it important that I share a few words with you all about the wonderful lady who has been the glue that has held our amazing school together over many years.

A Letter for a Very Special Person,

Dear Linda,

I started my career at Coppice six years ago now and from day one you were there to hold my hand, show me the ropes and helped me to settle in. As a new Head Teacher coming in to a school which you had helped shaped over many years was daunting but the years of hard work, love and energy you had put in to Coppice made my first headship a much simpler task.


It was clear from the start that your calming manner and words of wisdom were always going to ensure I had the best leadership companion a new head could ask for. You have helped and supported me more than you will ever know.

Over the years we have faced many ups and downs as any organisation striving for the best will do, however your level head and honesty has meant we haven't strayed too far from the path and the school now, under your leadership is moving forward to being the best that it can be.

Our working relationship may not be perfect however, we have both struggled to keep indoor plants alive, against all common sense you agreed to share an office with me when really I knew my constant babbling would drive you mad, and in more recent years we have often spent many an hour nursing baby pigs, looking after lizards and sharing our lunch breaks with a wet dog!

I know our friendship is relatively short compared to your relationship with some of the other staff in school and as such I am in awe of the bonds you have formed with both new and long serving members of our workforce. Staff come in and out of your office and nothing is ever too much for you and the time you give to people both in and out of school means that staff are not only going to miss you being around as a leader but also as a friend and confidant.

I know I am speaking on behalf of people now but it would be unforgivable not highlight your greatest achievement. The impact you have had on all our children and families. The main focus of a school is the young people, and your focus is unwavering and is what makes you the incredible person you are. You have devoted your entire career to ensuring children are safe, enjoy life and succeed. Seeing the children when you walk in the class is something that you cannot buy. For each child you meet, you always have a special story to tell to them, there is always some shared joke you have with them, and above all they smile when they see you. That is magical!

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- The bond you have with our families has not only ensured we have a warm and welcoming ethos in school but it has ensured families feel supported and safe when times have been hard. Even during the toughest times and none have been quite as tough as this one, you have remained a pillar of strength for all our families and gone the extra mile, working holidays, evenings and weekend to ensure this.

It is so hard to put in to words the impact you have had on our students and staff over the years and to put it in to a letter like this will never be able to fully explain this, but from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our wonderful school community both past and present I would like to say THANK YOU!

Now whilst we are all going to miss you, we will all look forward to hearing about life after Coppice. I know your grandchildren will be the ones most looking forward to this and will keep Nanna very busy and her biscuit tin very empty!

It goes without saying you will be sorely missed by all. We wish you all the very best for the future in all you do and the only thing we insist on is that you come back and see us to celebrate our achievements going forward, which will continue to extend your legacy for years to come!

We will miss you lots and lots,

All our love

Karl (Executive Head) and The Coppice Family.

The recent Covid outbreak has effected every ones lives, and not least the school community. The School Governors wish to thank all members of staff for their resilience and dedication, in ensuring that the school could continue to function with the least amount of disruption to the pupils

The Governors work as a team, with the school, to make sure that Coppice school provides a good quality education for all pupils, which we are pleased to say we can clearly see. We have continued to meet and kept in touch with the school (but we have not been able to visit the school), which we have all greatly missed

In conclusion we would all wish to congratulate Linda Allison, our exceptional Head Teacher on her retirement, and wish her well for the future.

Yours Faithfully,

Paul Burns - Chair of Governors



Reminders

Please refer to your child's individual timetable, home-school diary and Tapestry.

Lovely Ladybirds – EYFS

The Lovely Ladybirds gang have been very busy this term, listening to different types of music, linking animal movements to music and as always enjoying our sensory stories. But our absolute favourite activity we have done this term is banging drums! It was very LOUD! We have explored number rhymes and practiced lining up objects to count and we know if the adults stop counting! Remote control cars, snakes, lights and switches have been well used and the Ladybirds love to chase them around! As always we have been exploring sensory media and as the weather gets warmer we are enjoying being outside as often as possible. Next term we're going to learn about the Olympics!





Reminders

We love PE time and changing is a big part of our skills building; please remember kits on Mondays. Fingers crossed for the return of swimming towards the end of the Summer term too!

Well Fantastic Frogs have adjusted fabulously to the changing routines and missed friends this term. We have explored art and colours from around the world; making Kenti cloths, Chinese blossoms and much more. Sounds and copying beats and movement have been explored, coupled with ICT we explored our love of music and learnt how computers and technology can help us communicate within our speech and language sessions.

Reminders

Homework packs will be returning after Easter - as before they will come home on a Friday and are expected to be returned on a Monday morning. If it causes any stress completing them then please don't bother, maybe the next pack will suit your child better



Busy Bees - it has been a busy term, with lots of emotions as we missed friends that were not here. However, we have kept going and have explored lots of instruments, making a lot of noise as we became the 'school of rock'. We have used the computer to type, tolerated trying on headphones and we have become even more brilliant artists then we were before. We listened to music from different era's and even tried some black forest gateau, like in the 70's. At this moment we are anticipating lots of chocolate as we look forward to Easter and are super excited to have our missing friends return.



Reminders

PE is currently on a Monday and Thursday - indoor and outdoor kit is required. Our Theme for after half term is 'Amazing Athletes' so PE kit will be needed all week. Forest School is on a Thursday - wellies and a waterproof coat are advised.

Rowan

Our theme for this term has been the School of Rock! Rowan class have loved travelling through time, experiencing all the different music, artists, food and clothes from each decade.

We have enjoyed learning about and creating our own art similar to the pieces by three famous artists: Andy Warhol, Banksy and Jackson Pollock. All the pupils loved the splat art and the repeating hand print collages. We created the famous art of Banksy 'There is always hope' using digital cameras, iPads and iPods. All the pupils worked as a team to create two amazing pieces of work for the corridor.

Within Key Stage 2 we have worked together to create 'The Flock' as seen at Wentworth House. Designing and decorating our own wooden bird template.

In English we have been reading the story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' learning about the jungle animals and remembering the story through symbols/drawings and actions.

In our Math's lessons we have participated in lots of practical games to develop our number skills and looked at 2D and 3D shapes within the environment.

We have experienced using different ICT equipment such as: touch screens, keyboard, mouse and tablets. Some pupils have also be learning how to send emails!

In PE we focused on bat and ball skills and Outdoor Adventurous activities, developing our key skills and ability to problem solve and work with a peer.



Reminders

If possible, please could you send in a sports-style water bottle that we can keep in class so we have regular opportunities to drink after we've been active. Next term we will be learning about how our bodies work and exploring different ways we can move them.



Willow

We've had a lovely term exploring art through making marks and learning about different styles of world music through our Jabadao sessions. We have investigated different sounds and how they make us feel - some of us like loud noises but some of us definitely don't!

We really enjoyed having fun in the snow - and learning how to clean up afterwards! We have been waking up our senses with a new session 'Sensology' where we investigate different objects and movement related to our 7 senses.

We've kept going with our life skills, making sandwiches and toasties in our cooking sessions, brushing our teeth and practising asking for the things we want.



Hazel

Our theme this term 'School of Rock' has led us to focus on environmental and instrumental sounds and we have enjoyed playing lots of games with sounds! Our focus book has been 'What the ladybird heard' and we have looked at the work of artist Jackson Pollock. This has led to us producing some lovely collaborative art pieces which are now on display around school. We have also combined Maths, Art and PE to create some lovely active, enjoyable counting lessons. One of our favourite activities has been using paint to write letters and words on the windows!

Our term has been full of fun and enjoyment which has been evident in the big smiles on the children's faces!



Holly

During Spring Term Holly Class have visited the wonderful world of Oz. We have been learning all about different characters from the 'Wizard of Oz', built our own yellow brick road and had lots of fun dressing up like characters. We even had our very special movie morning!

Holly Class have also been very busy becoming composers and conductors. We have been learning how to change the volume, tempo and sound of musical instruments. All of our pupils have really enjoyed playing the electric guitar and keyboard in class, some have even played nursery rhymes on the piano. During Spring we have also been developing our ICT skills, we have been learning how to copy, paste, format and print pictures of our favourite cartoon characters. In Art we have been recreating Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night', everyone painted their own special version as well as working on build a group piece created using seeds, dried food and loose parts.





Oak

Our topic this term has been "School of Rock" with the focus on improving IT, Art and Music skills. We loved Art the most, especially that we found out how to imitate different techniques used by the world famous artists and tried to recreate the same style! We also had a go at learning some dance movements like Greek dance, Scottish reel, tango and cha-cha. We had so much fun! We used the computer and the IPAD to practice using Paint programme, colouring pictures online and make musical pictures. The games that we played helped us to understand the differences between loud, quiet, fast and slow music and tempo, rhythm and tone.

Our story in English was "Giraffes can't dance" and in our project lessons we made props to act it out. We named feelings experienced by Gerald and imitated them using facial expressions.

Some of us even memorised the story!

Reminders

A £1 Snack donation would be greatly appreciated.

If you have a spare pair of wellies send them in to school.

What an interesting term. Well done to all pupils for adapting with changes in school and those who were working at home. We had lots of fun time travelling through the decades. Showing confidence in trying a new foods, art styles, music and dance moves from each decade! We have created some amazing works of art in the styles of Banksy, Damien Hirst and Andy Warhol - to name a few!

We made lots of music and experimented with sound in science. In Maths, we have been looking at telling the time and counting in steps. In English we have enjoyed looking at comic strips and speech as well as party planning; creating posters and invitations for the return of our pupils who were learning at home.

Reminders

PE is currently on a Tuesday - indoor and outdoor kit is required. Forest School is on a Thursday. Please send wellies so we can go outside and have some fun splashing in the puddles.





Reminders

Tuesday is our Forest School lesson so wellies or old shoes would be great please.

Our PE lesson is every Tuesday so could kits please be sent in.

J1

J1 have had an incredible Spring Term. We have become amateur song writers and video producers, writing and publishing our own songs. We have developed our confidence and speaking and performing in front of others.

We have really enjoyed our music topic, learning about sound in science and developing our performing skills in music. We have learnt about how sound is made, how it travels and about how we are able to manipulate it for different purposes. In music we have learnt to create repeating rhythmical patterns (ostinatos), developed our understanding of pitch and rhythm and have developed our own short pieces of music that we have been able to play in isolation and in partnership with other patterns. This term we have also been developing our artistry, learning to draw realistic self-portraits.

We have had some very important lessons this term too about stranger danger, appropriate and inappropriate behavior, puberty and online safety.



Reminders

Tuesday is our Forest School lesson so wellies or old shoes would be great please.

Our PE lesson is every Wednesday.

We have our lesson on the farm on Friday morning so old clothes and wellies would be really useful please.



J2 have had a very busy Spring term!

We have enjoyed regular Circle Time sessions where we have been developing our communication skills and sharing and understanding our feelings and emotions.

We have developed our listening skills in PE by following seated fitness sessions, Yoga, Zumba and cool-down stretching activities.

We have enjoyed learning about music and how sound is made.

We have explored the way sound can travel by making water xylophones and cup and string telephones. We have investigated how sound can be made quieter and made iPod speakers to find out how sound can be amplified.

We have developed our Forest School skills which have included making natural bookmarks for World Book Day and Valentine's hearts. We created a portrait of Captain Tom Moore by working together as a team and contributing different elements to the portrait. We enjoy weekly sessions on the farm; cleaning out the animals and making sure they have food and water.





J3

J3 have had a strange term, with hybrid teaching taking place. Those at home have completed a range of learning tasks from live lesson baking, bubble art, story writing, song writing, singing to Doncaster Careers Week - SEND Innovation Challenge 2021 to name but a few. It has been an amazing opportunity to see students learning in a new way which wouldn't have been possible without the support from parents and I am truly grateful to them for facilitating this. Students in school have also adapted well to the changes and have shown great resilience skills with regard to some of the unexpected changes that have had to take place in school. Students have worked on personal targets making great progress and developed positive relationships with others.

Reminders

PE kits every Thursday please. Could you also send in diaries daily so we can keep you informed and you can also write anything in you think we need to know, thank you.



Reminders

Please can we ask you to send in wellies and outdoor clothing as this will support our outdoor learning in all weathers.



Pathfinders

Pathfinders have had a busy term! We have been enjoying music and exploring musical instruments. We enjoyed the drums, guitar and a giant keyboard. Throughout this term we have enjoyed listening to nature in the outdoors and we have been busy making bird food feeders. All our learners have been busy practising life skills and building positive relationships with all peers and staff.



Don't forget swimming on Wednesdays

Don't forget cooking on:
Grp 1 Tuesdays
Grp 2/3 Thursdays
Please bring in £2



Post 16

What a term it has been, we had to change and adapt our teaching and learning in Lockdown 3, with lessons taking place face to face and virtually over Microsoft Teams. Our young people did absolutely amazing, logging on every day and continuing work on Functional Skills, Personal Development, Employability and Health and Wellbeing. We also managed to continue working towards the Arts Award Bronze, writing a song and experiencing the arts as well as continuing to work with Tom on the Sports Leaders Award.

In school, our Enterprise *Coppice Make and Sell* has been extremely successful. We have been busy developing a whole range of skills through an enterprise based curriculum. This term we have made Pebble and Scrabble Frames (a big hit!), Soap, Bath Bombs, Recycled Fire Briquettes and taking part in the Crisp Packet Project - recycling crisp packets to make survival bivvy bags for the homeless. Our young people run *Coppice Make and Sell* like their own business, leading on admin, accounts, finance, marketing as well as making and selling.

We have also had careers talks from Yorkshire Water and Wetherspoons - the manager was so impressed with our work that he set us a challenge to design a Pizza that will be sold in a Wetherspoons restaurant when restrictions are finally lifted.

As well as all of this, we have continued to work on independent living skills - online food shopping and then cooking on Wednesdays and our community living skills. Phew! What a great couple of months!

Careers, Employability and Enterprise update Spring 2021

Upper School students have been working hard this term to continue to build their Careers-related knowledge and skills...




Our students have been busy taking steps towards building the eight **Essential Skills** of **listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership and teamwork** – these skills are the ultimate transferable **skills** needed for life and in a workplace.

Our Careers-related learning as included:

- **Careers Presentation:** A1/J3 Students took part in a Careers Presentation session by Yorkshire Water and found out about the pathways into the different job roles at Yorkshire Water.
- **Personal Action Planning:** A1/J3 Students worked hard to identify a personal career/future ambition and produce a personal action plan identifying the steps required to achieve the target.
- **Virtual Work Experience:** J1/J2/J3 Students thoroughly enjoyed completing a **'Song Writing and Music Production' Challenge** with Leonie Sloots (Music Teacher/Singer) who works for Higher Rhythm.
- **Virtual Work Experience:** A1 Students had the opportunity to take part in a **'Hospitality and Catering Careers Presentation'** with Andy Haith (Pub Manager) who works for JD Wetherspoons.
- **International Arts Competition – ArtWorks Together:** A1 students entered their 'works of art' in the International Learning Disability and Autism Arts Competition.



 *If you would like any information about Preparing pupils for Life after Coppice, please contact our Careers Leader: Tracey Senior*

Coppice Farm and Gardens



The students in A1 have been busy preparing areas on the farm ready for growing flowers and vegetables. They have begun by planting their chosen seeds.



Coppice Make and Sell



Mission Statement:

Our mission is to work as a team to make excellent quality products...

Here at Coppice School, Post 16 students are running our own enterprise, we are designing and making excellent products to sell. All profits will go back into the business or towards enrichment activities. If you would like to place an order or for more information, please email coppice.enterprise@nexusmat.org



**Pebble/Scrabble
Frames**

Any design

£10

**Wax Burner and
Melts - £4**

4 Wax Melts £1

Handmade Soap £1

Handmade Bath Bombs £1



**Handmade Cards
for any occasion**

£1.50

Visit our website at:

<https://www.coppiceschool.com/about-us/coppice-make-and-sell/>

Or scan this QR Code -



Feedback and Reviews

"You cannot improve your service I have purchased several items from you now, and you are all so professional and your products are amazing and finished to a very high standard. I will definitely be purchasing from you again.

Thank you."

"Customer service excellent Nathan delivered to my door Very quick - love 6th form enterprise"

"5 ★'s I would definitely recommend your products to others, they are quality and you can see time and care went into it. You are an amazing team and you show fantastic skills when dealing with customers. Keep up the good work guys"

"Brilliant service. Keep up the good work"