

NEWSLETTER

A WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to our weekly round up of events here at Copnor Primary School. It's been a busy week of learning and starting to think about all the Christmas events and activities that will be taking place in school over the next few weeks.

Year 1 Nativity rehearsals are well underway so that they are ready for their performances at the start of December. Please see below for information about all the Christmas events that will be taking place in school over the next few weeks. The fun begins next week, starting with the Winter Party, organised by our fantastic PTA, and Christmas Decorations Day where we look forward to seeing the children in their Christmas jumpers as we create a festive feel in school!

Enjoy your weekend.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next week:

24th - **Open Morning - 9.30 am** - For prospective EYFS parents

25th - **Year 5 - Hampton Court Palace**

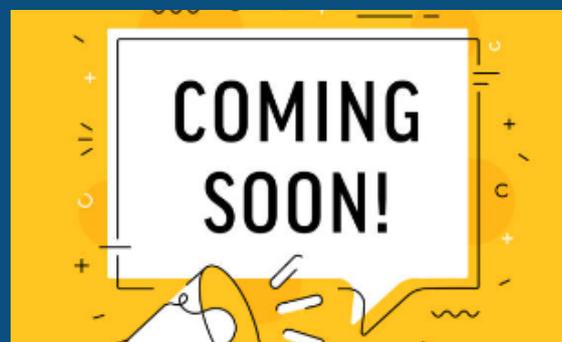
26th - **Winter Parties**



27th - **Christmas Decorations Day/ Christmas Jumper Day**

28th - **INSET DAY 2 - School closed to pupils**

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



This week, all year groups have been busy concentrating on their learning and gearing up for all of the festive activities.

Watch this space next week, for exciting news from Hampton Court Palace, our Christmas preparations and the winner of the best decorated classroom competition!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."

Chinese Proverb

ATTENDANCE

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
KS1	95.33%	91.18%	94.31%	93.15%
KS2	92.54%	93.37%	95.15%	95.85%

Congratulations to **Mary Rose** in **KS1** & **Warrior** in **KS2**, the winners of the Attendance Cups this week.

HOUSE POINTS

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
This week	208	701	236	354
Total	3619	5407	4033	5381

Congratulations to **Victory** house, the winners of the House Cup this week.

GOLDEN CHILD



I am delighted to share the names of this week's Golden Children:

KS1 and **KS2** have all been recognised as **someone who makes good decisions.**

Year	Class	Golden Child
EYFS	Hendra	Remi
	Gray	Nylah - Rose
	Donaldson	Barnaby
1	Adeola	Florence
	Field	Rosie
	Gravett	Olivia
2	Nightingale	Leo
	Austen	Jacob
	Seacole	Matilda
3	Adele	Reuben
	Sheeran	Jackson
	Styles	Ella
4	Thompson	Tyler
	Rickman	Charlie
	Elba	Ivy
5	Banksy	Mia
	Hockney	Trinity
	Lowry	Santiago
6	Holmes	Jack
	Hamilton	Arsenii
	Brownlee	Olivia

BOOKSY BEAR WINNERS



The KS1 class with the most children who have read 4 times or more at home is **Seacole Class**

They will keep Booksy Bear in their book corner this week.

A huge well done, **Seacole Class!** We are incredibly proud of you all!



CHRISTMAS EVENTS @ COPNOR PRIMARY

26th November - Whole School Winter Party Fundraiser

27th November - Christmas Decorations Day/ Christmas Jumper Day

9th December - Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 2pm

10th December - Rocksteady Concert

11th December - KS2 Harbour Christmas Extravaganza
Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 9.30am

12th & 17th December - Year R - Kings Theatre Pantomime

17th December - Christmas Dinner

18th December - Year R - Singing to parents



PASTORAL TIP OF THE WEEK



3 . Practise Gratitude

Practising gratitude involves consciously focusing on positive experiences and expressing thankfulness through activities like keeping a journal, daily reflection, or expressing thanks to others. It can be a simple habit, such as listing three things you're grateful for each night, or a more deliberate practice like writing a thank-you letter or taking a guided gratitude meditation. Consistent practice has been proven to improve your emotional well-being and strengthen relationships.

Easy ways to practice gratitude.

Practicing gratitude doesn't require any grand gestures, just a little time and thoughtfulness. Find something that works for you and keep at it.



Keep a journal.

Writing down good moments from the day or a quick list of what you're thankful for keeps those feelings top of mind. Plus, you'll have a written reminder.

Spend time with loved ones.

Helping or spending time with people you care about is a sure way to increase feelings of happiness and gratitude. Celebrate the chance to be together.



Take time to give back.

Volunteering, no matter what you do, not only helps your community, it also can help your own well-being and give you a different perspective.

Say "thank you" often.

Expressing gratitude can strengthen relationships—it feels good to be appreciated! Write a note or say it directly, just be genuine and specific.



Go for a walk outside.

Existing in nature can give your brain a break from to-do lists and responsibilities. Practice truly being present for, and appreciating, every moment.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Continuing our sharing of the Top 50 Recommended Reads for each year group, please see below for Year 1 and Year 2's lists. For further information and to download your child's booklist please visit the website below:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/>

2025-2026 Booklist

50 Recommended Reads for... **Year 1** (ages 5-6)

Which ones have you read?

Favourite Storytime Books

- Look Up!**
Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola
- The Dinosaur Next Door**
David Litchfield
- The Bumblebear**
Nadia Shireen
- Where to Hide a Star**
Oliver Jeffers
- The Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown**
Christida Cowell & Neal Layton
- Spyder**
Matt Carr

Funny Books

- The Big Cheese**
Jory John & Pete Oswald
- Zebracadabra!**
Kris Gray & Fred Blunt
- I Can Only Draw Worms**
Willi Habbitt
- Splash Day!**
Nick Sharratt
- Greg the Sausage Roll**
Mark & Roxanne Hoyle & Gareth Conway

Classic Books

- The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch**
Ronda & David Armitage
- Paddington**
Michael Bond & R. W. Alley
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark**
Jill Tomlinson & Paul Howard
- Funnybones**
Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- Gorilla**
Anthony Browne

Empathy-Boosting Books

- The Boy, the Troll and the Chalk**
Anne Booth & David Litchfield
- Thunderboots**
Naomi Jones & Rebecca Johnson
- Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf**
Craig Barr-Green & Francis Martin
- Step Into My Shoes**
Alkusti Halikis, Fotini Tikkou & Konstantine Matsoukas
- Me and My Hair**
Kimberley Kinloch, Jessica Gillman & Sandra Becker Borree

First Graphic Novels

- Bumble & Snug and the Angry Pirates**
Mark Bradley

Independent Chapter Books

- Isadora Moon Goes to School**
Harriet Muncaster
- The Guinea-Pig Party**
Holly Webb & Rosie Butcher
- Gruff Justice**
Ross Montgomery & Marisa Morea
- The Cat and the King**
Nick Sharratt
- Sidney and Carrie Have a Party**
Lisa Thompson & Jess Rose

Stories About Community & Culture

- The Boldest White**
Ibtihaj Muhammad, S. A. Ali & Natan Ali
- Eid for Niyah**
Nizrana Farook & Zelma Firdausia
- The Great Henna Party**
Humera Malik & Sonali Zehra
- The Can Caravan**
Richard O'Neill & Cindy Kang

Animal Stories

- Dolphin Boy**
Michael Morpurgo & Michael Foreman
- The Pandas Who Promised**
Rachel Bright & Jim Field
- Godfrey is a Frog**
Alex Latimer
- Arlo the Lion Who Couldn't Sleep**
Catherine Rayner
- The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish**
Chloe Savage

Storytime Chapter Books

- Adventuretime: Otter Chaos**
Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre
- Harry the Poisonous Centipede**
Lynne Reid Banks & Tony Ross
- Rabbit's Bad Habits**
Julian Gough & Jim Field
- Hotel Flamingo**
Alex Milway
- Husky and Flapjack: Race to the Rescue!**
Alan MacDonald & Francesca Gambatesa
- Fantastic Mr Fox**
Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake
- Call the Puffins**
Cath Howes & Ella Okstad

Poems & Rhymes

- A Whale of a Time**
Lou Peacock & Matt Hunt
- There is a Season**
Kerri Cunningham

Information Books

- Fluffy, Flying Seed**
Mary Auld & Dawn Cooper
- I Wonder Where I Am?**
Shinsuke Yoshitake
- Coming to England**
Baroness Floella Benjamin & Diane Ewen
- Flow with the Snow**
Robert Tregoning & Oliver Averil
- Big Book of Boats**
Luogo comune

SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-1 to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at [booksfortopics.com](https://www.booksfortopics.com/)

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/wp-content/uploads/2025-Checklist-50-Best-Books-Y1.pdf>

2025-2026 Booklist

50 Recommended Reads for... **Year 2** (ages 6-7)

Which ones have you read?

Funny Books

- The Couch Potato**
Jory John & Pete Oswald
- Don't Trust Fish!**
Neil Sharpson & Dan Santat
- The Troll**
Julia Donaldson & David Roberts
- The Duck Never Blinks**
Alex Latimer

Short Independent Chapter Books

- Croaky: Search for the Sasquatch**
Matty Long
- Claude at the Circus**
Alex T. Smith
- Nellie Choc-Ice, Penguin Explorer**
Jeremy Strong & Jamie Smith
- The Missing Bunny**
Holly Webb & Antonia Woodward
- Watts & Whiskerton: Sabotage at the Fete Cake Bake**
Meg McLaren
- Lettie the Little Wonder**
Katherine Woodfine & Ella Okstad
- Izzy the Inventor and the Unexpected Unicorn**
Zanna Davidson & Elissa Elwick

Classic Stories

- The Enchanted Wood**
Enid Blyton
- Pippi Longstocking**
Astrid Lindgren & Lauren Child
- George's Marvellous Medicine**
Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake
- Martin's Mice**
Dick King Smith
- Flat Stanley**
Jeff Brown & Rob Biddulph

Stories about Kindness and Inclusivity

- Leo and the Octopus**
Isabelle Marinov & Chris Nisani
- My Friend Andy**
Emma Chinnery
- Rajiv's Starry Feelings**
Niall Moorjani & Nanette Ragan
- Aaron Slater, Illustrator**
Andrea Beatty & David Roberts
- Cloud Boy**
Greg Stobbs

Short Graphic Novels

- InvestiGators**
John Patrick Green

Animal Stories

- The Rainbow Bear**
Michael Morpurgo & Michael Foreman
- The Emerald Forest**
Catherine Ward & Karin Littlewood
- Jenny Peckles Lays Eggs With Speckles**
Rachel Emily & Paul Delaney
- Darwin's Super-Pooping Worm Spectacular**
Polly Owen & Gwen Milward

Interesting & Thought-Provoking Stories

- Can I Build Another Me?**
Shinsuke Yoshitake
- The Tunnel**
Anthony Browne
- Barnaby Unboxed**
The Fan Brothers
- Troll Stinks!**
Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross
- If I Were Prime Minister**
Fryppe Skaug & Ella Okstad
- My Momo-La is a Museum**
Maanta Naisy & Violet Kim

Magic, Myths and Fairytales

- Inside the Villains**
Clotilde Perrin
- The Glass Heart**
Sally Gardner
- Luna and the Sky Dragon**
Bethan Woolvin
- My Encyclopedia of Very Important Myths & Legends**
OK

Storytime Chapter Books

- Dino Dad**
Andy Day & Steven Lenton
- The Naughtiest Unicorn**
Pip Bird & David O'Connell
- An Alien in the Jam Factory**
Christie Sains & Jenny Taylor
- Einstein the Penguin**
Iona Rangelay & David Tazzyman
- Marge in Charge**
Isla Fisher & Eglantine Crulmans
- Magic Faces: Heroes of the Pirate Ship**
Est Mariah & Abeeba Tariq

Poems & Rhymes

- An Emotional Menagerie**
The School of Life
- Michael Rosen's Book of Very Silly Poems**
Michael Rosen & Shoo Rayner

Information Books

- Don't Squish a Slug**
Yussef Rafik & Riley Samels
- The Big Book of the Blue**
Yvval Zommer
- What's the Actually Factually Difference?**
Jane Wilsher & Liz Kay
- Meet the Microbes!**
Dr Emily Grossman & Maggie Li
- Small, Sparkling Raindrop**
Mary Auld & Lou Baker Smith
- Welcome to Our Table**
Laura Mucha, Ed Smith & Harriet Lynas

SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-2 to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at [booksfortopics.com](https://www.booksfortopics.com/)

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/wp-content/uploads/2025-Checklist-50-Best-Books-Y2.pdf>



NOTICES

SEND PARENT EVENINGS



In addition to Parents Evening with your child's class teacher, if you have concerns about your child's learning or wish to discuss any updates, please book an appointment to see Mrs Blake (SENCo) via the school office.

Mrs Blake is available on Monday 24th November and Tuesday 25th November from 9-5pm.

DONATIONS WANTED: PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Our wonderful PTA are striving to ensure all children have a Festive Themed Jumper in preparation for the many festive events that happen in school at this time of year; carol singing, decorating and Christmas lunch! Each year, many of the children grow out of their old ones and purchase new ones: this opens a great opportunity to pass them on to be enjoyed by others.

Please have a look over the weekend and then send any unwanted/no-longer-fitting festive Jumpers into school for your child to give to their class teacher. Please ensure they are in good condition. These will then be sold by the PTA for a cheap price on **Tuesday and Wednesday** next week - sufficient donations allowing!



WHOLE SCHOOL WINTER PARTY FUNDRAISER – WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2025

Reminder that payment is due on MONDAY for this event

Tickets cost £3, which includes entry, a drink, and some sweets.

Payment and permission can be made via the Trips and Events tab in your child's ScoPay account by noon Monday 24th November 2025.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DAY

On **Thursday 28th November** we will be completing a range of Christmas associated activities across the school. The morning will be spent undertaking Christmas based learning activities and the afternoon will be decorating the school, culminating in the best decorated classroom competition.

To help us get into the Christmas spirit, if your child would like to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their normal Copnor Primary School jumper, they are more than welcome. There is no charge for this, and all other items of clothing should be their normal school uniform. If they wish to bring in any spare decorations from home they are more than welcome, however, please do not send in any electrical items as these will not have been PAT tested by our school.



CHRISTMAS DINNER



Parents will need to **pre-order** a meal for this day by **9:00am Friday 5th December** via the Trips and Events tab in their child's ScoPay account.

Children who have not had a meal pre-ordered will need to bring in a home packed lunch as there is **no option to order on the day**.

JOB VACANCIES



Teaching Assistant – Copnor Primary School

Closing Date: Friday 28th November 2025 (noon)

Interview Date: Friday 5th December 2025

Job Start Date: Monday 5th January 2026

Hours: 27.5 hours per week part-time (term-time). Fixed Term until 22nd July 2026

Salary Details: Band 3 £24,796 - £25,201 FTE (£16,409 - £16,677 actual per annum)

A wonderful opportunity has arisen to appoint a caring and skilled Teaching Assistant to join our friendly team of hard working and dedicated staff. Copnor Primary School has just under 650 amazing and enthusiastic children who enjoy and take pride in their learning.

- Are you someone who is energetic, creative and proactive?
- Are you passionate about helping children of all abilities to thrive?

We are looking for someone who will work well as part of a team but also be prepared to work on their own initiative and will need to have a good understanding of how children learn as this role will involve working with children in whole class, small groups and on a 1:1 basis both offering in-class support and running interventions.



Middy Assistant Vacancies

Closing Date: noon 3rd November 2025

Interview Date: 13th November 2025

Job Start Date: 24th November 2025

Salary: Band 1 £24,310 FTE (£5,118 Actual per annum)

We are looking to recruit two Middy Assistants to join our friendly team of staff. The hours are 8.75 hours per week, 1.45 hours per day at lunchtime, term time only. Hours 11.30 am to 1.15pm.

Your primary duty is to supervise and interact with the children in the dining areas, playgrounds and other parts of the school premises during the lunchtime period.

If you are interested in either of the above vacancies, the full job descriptions can be found on our website:

<https://copnorprimary.co.uk/vacancies/>

To request an application form and job description please contact the school office. Completed application forms should be e-mailed to April Newsham, Office Manager, admin@copnorprimary.co.uk by noon **Friday 28th November 2025**.

HAF FUN POMPEY - WONDERFUL WINTER

HAF's Wonderful Winter is back!



The HAF Fun Pompey winter programme is back for the school Christmas holidays and it'll be full of festive fun and games!

As always, it'll be free for those aged 5 to 16 receiving benefits-related free school meals.

The programme launches this **Saturday 22 November** at **9am**, so set your alarms and gather the kids round and choose their activities together 🏠🍷🍪

Each child will be able to book 5 activities over the winter holidays.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS



UPCOMING OPEN DAYS



Prospective Year R families are invited to join us for our

Open Day Tours 2025

November
Monday 24th
9.30am

December
Friday 12th
9.30am

All welcome! Please book online.
www.copnorprimary.co.uk/new-entrants/



Please use the link below to book. There is a google form on the page to complete to book your place:

<https://copnorprimary.co.uk/new-entrants/>



DON'T BE LATE
You **must** apply by **Thursday 15 January 2026**

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, they can start school in September 2026.

Apply for a school place online from **Monday 3 November 2025** until **Thursday 15 January 2026** via our website:

www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Don't be late – as this will affect your chances of a place at your preferred school.

Benefits of applying online

- It's quick, easy and secure
- You will receive a confirmation email once you have submitted your application
- You will have access to links to other useful information and websites
- You will receive an email notification with the outcome of your application, as well as being able to view the outcome online on allocation day
- Application will not go missing in the post

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Continuing our sharing of the informative posters from #WAKEUP WEDNESDAY, National Online Safety. Please take the time to read through all the tips that will help to ensure that your children are safe online.



All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Adopting SAFE & HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children; from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep them safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here ...

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?



Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about "putting up with things" either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times; it's how we respond and adapt to those situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES



- Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND



- Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- If you have a problem online, don't be afraid reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

PUT SAFETY FIRST



- If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app you were using.

GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD



- Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person's being unkind online.

Meet Our Expert

Caitley Jurgensen is a registered counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, working in private practice to offer counselling to children, teenagers and young adults. She is the founder of engage support, a mobile app focusing on mental health awareness with the goal of providing resources and solutions to schools worldwide.



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