

NEWSLETTER

A WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to this week's Copnor Primary School newsletter! As we continue through the term, it's wonderful to see our pupils embracing their learning with such enthusiasm. Our school community remains as supportive, and we're delighted to share updates, celebrations, and key information with you.

Throughout this week, the children have been buzzing with enthusiasm about Road Safety Week, taking part in hands-on activities with discussions about staying safe near roads and crossing them carefully. We hope you enjoy hearing more about their learning at home.

We have enjoyed watching the Year 1 Nativity dress rehearsals in readiness for their performances next week. We are sure that you will enjoy them as much as we did, if not more!
Enjoy your weekend.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next week:

- 9th - Year 1 - Nativity Performance 2pm
- 10th - Rocksteady Concerts 9.15 & 10.15
- 11th - Year 1 - Nativity Performance 9.30
KS2 - Harbour Christmas Extravaganza
Year R - **Gray Class** - Kings Theatre Pantomime
Year 4 - NEBC Workshop
- 12th - Year R - **Donaldson Class** - Kings Theatre Pantomime
New Entrants - Open Morning 9.30



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Our week began with the ever informative and enjoyable Advent assemblies from North End Baptist Church before we then moved on to thinking about Road Safety Week on Tuesday.

Read more below to find out what followed...

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

ATTENDANCE

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
KS1	98.00%	95.86%	95.34%	95.78%
KS2	92.73%	94.25%	95.49%	96.81%

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	168	370	139	254
Total	3949	6265	4423	5952

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 follows rules to be safe.**



Year	Class	Golden Child
EYFS	Hendra	Paigan
	Gray	Beatrix
	Donaldson	Harlow
1	Adeola	Dewmi
	Field	Primrose
	Gravett	Elcy-May
2	Nightingale	Daisy
	Austen	Maisie
	Seacole	Darcie-Bleu
3	Adele	Liberty-Rose
	Sheeran	Henry
	Styles	Starr
4	Thompson	Theodore
	Rickman	Calvin
	Elba	Ruby
5	Banksy	Rose
	Hockney	Lily
	Lowry	Bella
6	Holmes	Ellis
	Hamilton	Maisie
	Brownlee	Nyla

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

9th December - Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 2pm

10th December - Rocksteady Concerts

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



11th, 12th & 17th December - Year R - Kings Theatre Pantomime

17th December - Christmas Dinner
Christmas Choir with Parents 2.45pm (see the flyer below)



18th December - Year R - Singing to parents.

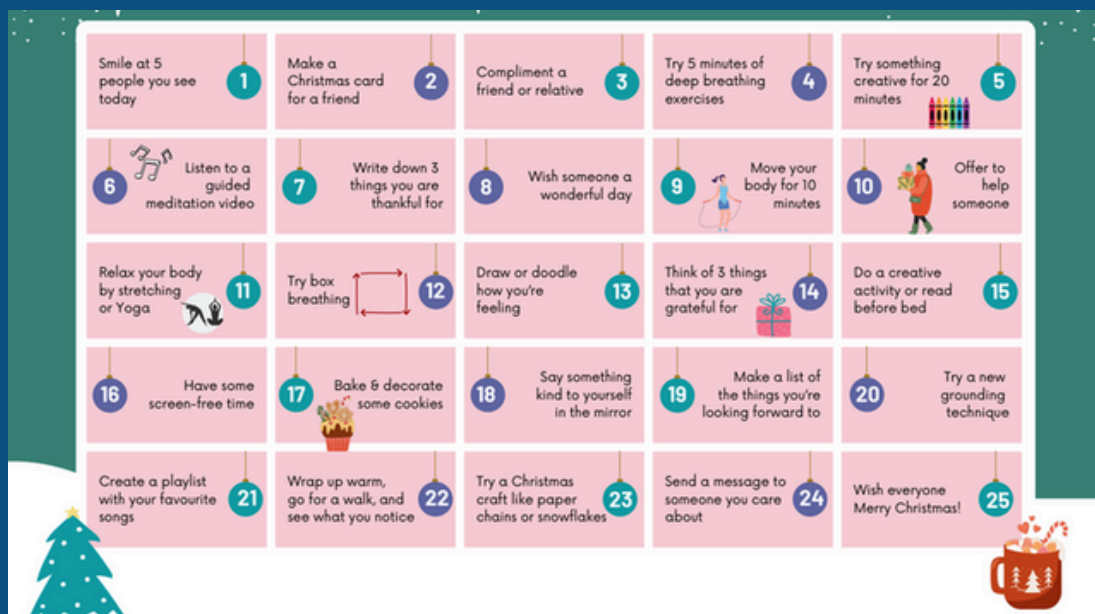


PASTORAL TIP OF THE WEEK

5. December Self-Care



December is here! Trees are being decorated, Nativity plays are being rehearsed, and children are counting down the days until Christmas Day. Whilst we know that this can be a wonderful time of year, it can also be very difficult for many people. It is important that we all 'check-in' with ourselves. Try this December Self-Care Advent Calendar to remind you to look after yourselves this December.



ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2025



Road Safety Week began on Tuesday with an assembly led by our JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers). They all did a fantastic job!

They confidently discussed with the school the history of road safety campaigns and the key messages that they shared. Finishing by sharing with the children the Hedgehogs Road Safety Campaign videos - they couldn't resist a little boogie along to '[Stayin' alive!](#)' (The link is there should you need a moment to join in!). The JRSOs then shared the golden child theme of the week - someone who follows rules to be safe.



Throughout the week, each class then took part in a special Road Safety Lesson, thinking about a new way to share the message about crossing the road safely. Our photo shows some of our children enjoying sharing the 'Stop, Look & Think' messages.

Today, the children should be bringing home a reflective keyring for their school bags to help with another road safety message 'Be safe, be seen' as they cross the roads safely.



CLUBS - SPRING 1



6 weeks for £36.00

Copnor Primary School Multi-Sports After School Club

Information:

- School Years 1-2
- 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- Thursday 8th January to 12th February

Registration

Book via our website or give us a call!

02392 728899 | pompeyitc.co.uk



Don't forget to sign your child up for the Years 1 & 2 Multi-Sports After School Club on a Thursday!

Scan the QR code or click on the link below:

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

COPNOR PRIMARY SCHOOL - MULTI-SPORTS - AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

GOOD AVAILABILITY

Thu, Nov 6 2025 - Thu, Dec 18 2025 (15:15 to 16:15) Copnor Primary, UK School Year 1 - 2

Thursday 6th November to 18th December 2025 - 3:15pm to 4:15pm - Sch Yrs 1 - 2

£42.00

Book



NOTICES



CHRISTMAS CAROLS @ COPNOR



CHRISTMAS DINNER - WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Thank you to everyone who has pre-ordered a Christmas dinner. The deadline for completing the form has now passed and the form is closed.

A polite reminder that if you did not pre-order a dinner you will need to send your child to school with a home packed lunch as there is no option to order a meal on the day.

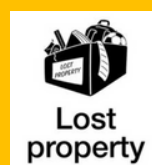


LOST PROPERTY

We have accumulated a large amount of unnamed lost property. These items will go on display in the playground at the end of the school day on **Monday 8th December.**

Unfortunately we are unable to hold these items indefinitely due to a lack of storage space, therefore any items unclaimed on Monday will be sent to the Salvation Army.

Please do check to see if any items belong to your child as there are several coats that have been unclaimed amongst other uniform items.



COOL MILK CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

If your child would like to take part in the competition below. Click on this link for more details:

<https://coolmilk.com/cool-milk-chirstmas-card-competition-2025/>



Christmas Card Competition
with
Cool Milk

WIN BIG PRIZES!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
www.coolmilk.com

DESIGN A MILK-THEMED CHRISTMAS CARD!
Cool Milk is holding a competition for children, ages 4-11, to design their official Christmas Card for 2025

ENTRY DEADLINE:
Monday, 15th December 2025

SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:
marketing@coolmilk.com

***Terms & Conditions:**

- The competition is open to UK school and nursery children aged 4-11.
- Entries must be submitted by a parent or legal guardian or by the school.
- Entries must be received by 11:59 PM on Monday 15th December 2025.
- Only the child's first name, age, and school/nursery name should be included.
- By submitting a design and/or photo, parents/guardians consent to Cool Milk using the child's design and/or photo on our website, social media and public platforms.
- The winning design will be used as Cool Milk's official 2025 Christmas card, which will be sent to Cool Milk contacts and the winning child's family.
- Cool Milk reserves the right to feature selected designs even if they are not overall winners.
- Personal data will be processed in line with the Cool Milk Privacy Policy.

EYFS ADVENT CALENDAR



50 things to do before you're five are excited to announce that they have created an amazing, interactive 50 things advent calendar, full of festive fun for families and children.

Have a go, using the following link:

<https://50thingstodo.org/advent-calendar>

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Continuing our sharing of the Top 50 Recommended Reads for each year group, please see below for Year 5 and Year 6's lists. For further information and to download your child's booklist please visit the website below:

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

50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 5 (ages 9-10)

Which ones have you read?

Favourite Storytime Books

- ☐ **The House with Chicken Legs** Sophie Anderson, Melissa Castillon & Eliza Paganelli
- ☐ **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase** Joan Aiken
- ☐ **Crookhaven: The School for Thieves** J.J. Arango

Funny Books

- ☐ **The Beast and the Bethany** Jack Maggitt-Phillips & Isabelle Follath
- ☐ **Dexter Procter the 10-Year-Old Doctor** Adam Kay & Henry Parker
- ☐ **Speedwheels 3000: The Race Against Crime** Jenny Pearson & Katie Keir
- ☐ **Nina Peanut is Amazing** Sarah Bowle

Fantasy, Myths and Magic

- ☐ **Impossible Creatures** Katherine Rundell
- ☐ **Pinch Perkins and the Midsummer Curse** Cathy Fitzgerald
- ☐ **Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief** Rick Riordan
- ☐ **She Speaks** Honor Cargill-Martin & Camella Pham

Animal Books

- ☐ **Paws** Kate Foster
- ☐ **The Last Bear** Hannah Gold & Levi Pinfold
- ☐ **Calling the Whales** Jasbinder Bilan & Skylar White
- ☐ **Hamza's Wild World** Hamza Yassin & Louise Forshaw
- ☐ **Queens of the Jungle** Carly Anne York & Kimberlie Clithorne-Wong

Mystery Books

- ☐ **The Case of the Lighthouse Intruder** Karen Getten & Leah Jacobs-Gordon
- ☐ **The Mizzzy Mysteries: A Skeleton in the Closet** Claire Hatcher-Smith
- ☐ **Real-Life Mysteries** Susan Martineau

Graphic Novels

- ☐ **Frankie's World** Aoife Dooley
- ☐ **El Deafo** Cece Bell
- ☐ **Roller Girl** Victoria Jamieson

Adventures Around the World

- ☐ **Land of the Last Wildcat** Lul Sitt & David Dean
- ☐ **Ghostlines** Katya Balen
- ☐ **Brightstorm** Vashli Hardy
- ☐ **The Time Travellers: Adventure Calling** Sufiya Ahmed & Alessia Tranfio
- ☐ **Hunt for the Golden Scarab** M. G. Leonard & Manuel Sumbatzi
- ☐ **Paper Dragons** Siobhan McDermott

Shorter Reads

- ☐ **Bobby Bains Plays a Blender** Bali Rai & Daniel Duncan
- ☐ **Me and My Brian** Helen Rutter & Claudia Petrazzi
- ☐ **Lunar** Chris Bradford & Charlotte Grange
- ☐ **What It Was Like to be an Ancient Maya** David Long & Stefano Tambellini

True-to-Life Stories

- ☐ **I am Lenny Brown** Dan Freedman & Kajsa Hallstrom
- ☐ **My Name is Sunshine Simpson** G. M. Linton & Fuuji Takashi
- ☐ **Ella on the Outside** Cath Howe
- ☐ **Jaz Santos vs the World** Priscilla Mante

Historical Fiction

- ☐ **The Great Theatre Rescue** Judith Eagle
- ☐ **Arctic Star** Tom Palmer
- ☐ **Secrets of a Sun King** Emma Carroll
- ☐ **A Different Kind of Freedom: a Romani Story** Richard O'Neill
- ☐ **Vita and the Gladiator** Ally Sherrick
- ☐ **Anna at War** Helen Peters

Picturebooks

- ☐ **Edison** Torben Kuhlmann
- ☐ **The Boy Who Became Queen** Christina Balit

Poetry

- ☐ **Little Light** Coral Rumble
- ☐ **Our Earth is a Poem** Various Poets & Various Illustrators

Non-Fiction Books

- ☐ **Robots** Dr Henry Admoni, Neon Squid & Amy Grimes
- ☐ **I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast** Michael Holland & Philip Giordano
- ☐ **Stones and Bones** Rob Wilsher & Sophie Williams
- ☐ **How to Spaghettiify Your Dog** Hiba Noor Khan & Harry Woodgate

SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-5 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-Y5.pdf>

50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 6 (ages 10-11)

Which ones have you read?

Adventure Stories

- ☐ **The Explorer** Katherine Rundell
- ☐ **The Ice Children** M.G. Leonard & Penny Neville-Lee
- ☐ **The Secret of Golden Island** Natasha Farrant

Thrillers and Science Fiction

- ☐ **I Am Wolf** Alastair Chisholm
- ☐ **Boy in the Tower** Polly Ho-Yen
- ☐ **North and the Only One** Vashli Hardy
- ☐ **Reek** Alastair Chisholm & George Caltousdas

Historical Fiction

- ☐ **Shrapnel Boys** Jenny Pearson
- ☐ **Rebel Heart** Ally Sherrick
- ☐ **The Great Phoenix of London** Lindsay Galvin
- ☐ **Angel of Grasmere** Tom Palmer

Funny Books

- ☐ **The Blockbusters!** Frank Cottrell-Boye
- ☐ **Popcorn** Rob Harrell
- ☐ **The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks** Katie Kirby

Animal Stories

- ☐ **The Lost Whale** Hannah Gold & Levi Pinfold
- ☐ **Foxlight** Katya Balen
- ☐ **My Dog** Olivia Wakeford & David Litchfield

True-to-Life Stories

- ☐ **How To Roller-Skate with One Leg** Ella Dove
- ☐ **The Boy with Big Decisions** Helen Rutter
- ☐ **Knowing the Score** Ros Roberts
- ☐ **Keedie** Ellie McNicoll
- ☐ **Zak Monroe is (not) My Friend** Simon Packham

Mystery and Detective Books

- ☐ **Murder Most Unladylike** Robin Stevens
- ☐ **People Like Stars** Patrice Lawrence

Fantasy and Mythology

- ☐ **Skandar and the Unicorn Thief** A. F. Steadman
- ☐ **Artemis Fowl** Eoin Colfer
- ☐ **The Boy to Beat the Gods** Ashley Thorpe
- ☐ **Storyland** Amy Jeffs
- ☐ **Oneyka and the Academy of the Sun** Tolá Okogun

Classic Stories

- ☐ **Tom's Midnight Garden** Philippa Pearce
- ☐ **Skellig** David Almond & Tom de Freston
- ☐ **Holes** Louis Sachar

Poetry

- ☐ **The Final Year** Matt Goodfellow & Joe Todd-Stanton
- ☐ **Funky Chickens** Benjamin Zephaniah
- ☐ **Love That Dog** Sharon Creech
- ☐ **Splint** Joseph Coelho & Rutina Burton

Thought-Provoking Reads

- ☐ **The Boy in the Suit** James Fox
- ☐ **Front Desk** Kelly Yang & Maika Pienze
- ☐ **The Shark Caller** Zillah Bethell & Saara Soederlund
- ☐ **Pig Heart Boy** Malorie Blackman
- ☐ **The Wrong Shoes** Tom Percival

Graphic Novels

- ☐ **Smile** Raina Telgemeier
- ☐ **When Stars Are Scattered** Victoria Jamieson, Omar Mohamed & Iman Gaddy

Picturebooks

- ☐ **The Viewer** Gary Crew & Shaun Tan
- ☐ **BLITZ: One Family's War** Martin Impney

Non-Fiction Books

- ☐ **Insectarium** Dave Goulson & Emily Carter
- ☐ **Hardit Singh Malik: World War One Flying Ace** Bali Rai
- ☐ **You Are a Champion** Marcus Rashford & Carl Anka
- ☐ **Cleopatra** Alexandra Stewart & Hannah Peck
- ☐ **The Sahara** Christina Webb & Muti

SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-6 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-Y6.pdf>

FINAL OPEN DAY - NEXT FRIDAY!



Prospective Year R families are invited to join us for our

Open Day Tours 2025

***FINAL DATE**

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.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "Your child is good to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP – or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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