



COPNOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Copnor Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO3 5BZ

Telephone: 023 9266 1191

E-Mail: admin@copnorprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Matt Johnson BA (Hons.) QTS NPQEL

Deputy Headteacher: Stuart Comben BA (Hons.) MA PGCE NPQH

Assistant Headteacher: Sam Sinclair BA (Hons.) PGCE

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Dear Parent/Carers

Many research studies state that play - children's social development. As pupils move through Key Stage 2, opportunities for collaborative play and child-led learning help them develop essential life skills that cannot always be taught through direct instruction alone. Through play, children learn how to communicate effectively, negotiate with others, solve problems together, share resources, manage disagreements, and understand different perspectives. These experiences help to build confidence, resilience, empathy and independence-based learning is particularly valuable in supporting, all of which are crucial for success both in school and beyond.

With this in mind, we are excited to introduce **Time to Thrive** for Year 5 pupils on Thursdays. We are trialling our first day this Friday and then it will follow one day a week until the end of the year.

During Time to Thrive, children will have access to a range of continuous activities, games and creative opportunities. Pupils will have the freedom to make choices about their learning and will be able to move between classrooms, engaging with different activities, challenges and experiences throughout the entire day.

This style of learning may feel challenging for some children at first, particularly children who excel with formal sit-down learning—and that is exactly why we are doing it. In today's world, children need opportunities to develop skills such as resilience, independence, creativity, co-operation and self-regulation. They currently struggle to manage play or group activities.

They will need to learn how to make responsible choices, work alongside different people, manage disagreements respectfully, share resources fairly, persevere when things are difficult and adapt when plans do not go as expected. These are invaluable life skills that develop best through experience.

Whilst the sessions will feel more open and child-led, learning will remain at the heart of everything we do. Mathematics and English objectives will be embedded through short teacher-led inputs, after which children will be encouraged to apply and showcase their learning through the activities they choose. This approach allows pupils to see how their classroom learning can be used in meaningful and engaging contexts.

Activities may include:

Water and capacity investigations, creative and artistic challenges, labelling and exploring the features of mountains, LEGO construction and engineering tasks, junk modelling and design projects, paper aeroplane design, testing and measuring competitions, learning practical life skills such as tying shoelaces, code-breaking and problem-solving challenges.



We would like to ask families to begin talking to their children now about what safe, responsible play looks like. Children will need to understand the importance of making sensible choices, respecting shared spaces and equipment, including others in their play, and following adult instructions. It is also essential that pupils understand that any compulsory tasks must be completed before moving on to other activities. Children who cannot do this, will be asked to sit out and reflect before re-joining their peers. By working together to prepare children for this new opportunity, we can help ensure that Time to Thrive is a positive, enjoyable and valuable experience for everyone.

Many thanks,

J. Ball O'Riordan  

Year 5