

Message from the Principal

Last Friday we were treated to a spectacular evening at the O2, when the choir went to the Young Voices Concert to sing along with more than 7000 other primary school children, as well as Tony Hadley - from Spandau Ballet. Parents and Teachers were all immensely proud of them as they sang their hearts out and danced along to the music, in their private box above the stage! Special thanks to Mrs. Stroud and her helpers for organising this and supporting the children over the past few months with learning the songs and giving them the confidence to achieve! Well done to everyone!

COPA's Got Talent

It has been great to see so many talented COPA children audition for LAT's Got Talent this week and we are thrilled that the first round of auditions went so well.

Our finalists from this week will go through to the big Cherry Orchard event on **Thursday 13th February** where we will decide our school winner to go through to the LAT's Got Talent Final in July.

Good luck to everyone taking part!

Principal's Gold Tie Award

Despite many reminders that our lovely green and red striped ties are an **essential part of the school uniform** here at COPA, we are still sending uniform slips home about missing ties, non school uniform shirts, blouses or incorrect PE Kits Polo shirts are not part of COPAs School uniform.

Next week will be introducing 'The Principal's Gold Tie Award' which will be awarded to the smartest dressed COPA Student for the week!

Can we also make you aware that boots and trainers are not acceptable footwear

Capture your child reading!

Mrs Newton would like to make a display of our children reading in their favourite places! It could be a photo of your child reading on holiday, at home, out shopping or at an event!

Thank you to the parents who have sent in photos already; we haven't quite got enough to make a display and need some more please! Send them in to Mrs. Newton in Year 1, Willow Class. Thanks for your support with this project!



Attendance & Late Arrivals

We would like to again draw your attention to the fact that we are not able to authorise any leave of during term time - except in very rare and special circumstances. Any request for leave must be made to the Principal in writing via the school office.

Full details explaining about [term time holidays](#), when penalty notices can be applied and COPA's parents guide on attendance can be viewed [here](#).

Additionally, whilst we would not wish to spread the risk of upset tummies or sickness (which requires 48 hours clear from sickness) please be advised that your child can still attend school with minor ailments such as colds, coughs and temperatures, to avoid missing vital school sessions. Often some Calpol in the morning and evening will allow your child to continue to attend school. We often find that once children are in school and involved in their work or playtime with their friends, they begin to feel much better and manage well. Please be assured if your child is too ill to be in school, the class teacher will ask the office to contact you.

If your child is prescribed antibiotics by a doctor, these can be administered by school staff and administered at break or lunch times, if you sign and complete a medical form from at the office.

Please be aware that when children's attendance drops below 95% during a term, this will be flagged up by the LAT Attendance Officer and you will then be sent home a letter alerting you to this concern and requesting that you address this as a matter of urgency.

If your child regularly arrives **late** to school, they miss vital early morning work and may also miss the lunch register, which is taken first thing. Late arrivals after registers close may be also be counted as an unauthorised absence, depending on time of arrival.

Also just to remind you that all absences **must** be reported on the absence line **daily** - including any updates - we operate a policy of first day calling, so you will receive a call from the office to enquire about your child's attendance if we haven't heard from you.

Currently attendance from sickness and unauthorised holidays across the Academy is at an alarmingly high level and pupils falling into the PA (persistent absence) category is high - please help us to keep absence to an absolute minimum to bring this down to a more acceptable level.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Bikes and scooters

If anyone had new bikes or scooters from Santa this Christmas, After School Club would welcome your old ones to use outside in the playground as the weather gets warmer. Please drop off in the main Reception or see Mrs. Smith at pick up time.

World Book Day—5th March

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 5th March. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and ring along the book that their character is from. A range of World Book Day activities will be planned for the children to take part in on the day. We will be receiving a donation from local builder, Taylor Wimpey and will be using the money to help improve our library areas and buy books for the school.

Arts Award

Congratulations to our Music Teacher - Mrs. Stroud who has today become an official Arts Award Advisor making COPA an Arts Award Centre.

Years R - 4 can now be accredited for their arts projects - further details will follow shortly.

New Activity Clubs for T4

We will be introducing Irish Dancing and Street Dancing clubs as part of our Term 4 After School Activities - these will be run by outside providers and will be strictly on a first come, first served basis to a maximum number.

In preparation for this the children will have the opportunity to try out Irish Dancing sessions during our Holiday Club on Monday afternoon (17/2) and Street Dancing Sessions on the Friday (21/2) Afternoon. These will be priced at £3 per child per session from 1:30 until 2:30 pm on both days but will be included in the cost if an afternoon session of Holiday Club is booked.

In addition, Mrs. Stroud will be introducing Bucket Drum Workshops as part of the T4 Club Offer - exciting (but possibly noisy) times ahead!

Winter Gathering at Community Centre

Friday 7 February 5 - 8pm

Hosted by Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, local artists will create a whole Community Celebration, based at the Centre, but incorporating a woodland walk around COPA's outdoor area 'lighting up the neighbourhood and shining a light on the community'.

See poster advertising this event on the website [here!](#)

Artists will be coming into school next Tuesday to work with children from Year 2 in school on resources and work for display at the event. Please come along and support their event and see the exhibitions!

Extended Schools IMPORTANT Information

Registration for all Term 4 Clubs will be via the new ParentPay app

You should have already received a letter from ParentPay displaying your unique log in details, together with our explanatory [letter](#) asking you to register with ParentPay if you wish to book Extended Schools clubs and activities for the future. In addition you will be able to pay for any future school trips and activities via the ParentPay app.

Additional training by the Extended Schools Team is being undertaken next week to enable us to create the booking system required for Extended Schools provision for T4, so please bear with us, whilst we get this prepared. As previously mentioned, it will be necessary for your account balance to be at zero before any bookings via ParentPay can be made. Parents will have control of booking and paying for provision directly up until the closing date - which will be extended until the end of the first week of term for this term only. After the switch, we will revert back to bookings closing before the end of the term.

However, as before there will be no ad-hoc bookings for activity clubs once these start, as most clubs are progressive. A selection of new clubs will be available - please see T4 offer for further details.

Miss Bill will be back, from her 'visit' into Early Years, to deal with your queries between the times of 3:15 - 5:00 pm most evenings, or you can leave an email message on extendedschools@cherryorchardprimary.org.uk and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible. We expect some teething problems as we set this up so please bear with us whilst we get this sorted and running smoothly.

Reminders and dates for your Diary

TERM 3

Tuesday 11 February - Year 1 trip to Turner Gallery Margate

Wednesday 12 February - Walk in Wednesday

Thursday 13 February - Golden Afternoon

Thursday 13 February - End of Term 2

Friday 14 February - Leigh Trust Development Day **CHILDREN DO NOT ATTEND**

February Half Term Holiday Club - Monday 17 - 21 February

Monday 17 February - Irish Dancing Session (1.30 - 2:30 pm) £3 per child included if Holiday Club pm session booked

Friday 21 February - Street Dancing Session (1:30 - 3:30 pm) £3 per child included if Holiday Club pm session booked

TERM 4

Monday 24 February - Start of Term

Tuesday 25 February - Year 4 Trip to Hornimans Museum

Wednesday 26 February - Parent Consultation Evening 1:00pm—7:30pm

Thursday 5 March - World Book Day

17 - 20 March - Book Fair

Friday 3 April - End of Term 4

2020/2021 Return Dates

Staff training 27, 28 August and 1 and 2 September,

Children return 3 September 2020

School will close early, 1.30pm, at Christmas and the end of the academic year in July.

