COPTHORNE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

14 December 2018

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of this long, busy but very successful term, I write again to thank you for your support of the school and everything we try to do for your children. As always, I remain deeply indebted for all the kind things you say about the staff and our school.

The recent Friends of Copthorne Christmas Fair was a brilliantly successful event, hugely appreciated by children and parents alike, so all our thanks to Sara Jessup, Sarah Robinson and the many helpers who rallied round to lend their support. The Class Rep "hampers" were a stunning success again this year and the event raised over £4,000 for the Astro pitch appeal.

All the Nativity plays were fantastic events, hugely enjoyed by the audiences packed (literally in some cases) into the theatre, and the Christmas Concerts too were very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The Prep School Nativity play and the Staff Panto (performed only to children) were also fun, so my thanks to Mr Liam Gallagher who masterminded these events.

The Prep School Carol Service was another fabulous evening, with the choirs and readers performing stylishly. Well done to everyone!

My thanks again to all the staff who have been involved in these festive events and to all parents who have assisted with costumes and the learning of lines; thank you for having such talented children! Remember, photos of all these events may be found on the password protected "Parents' Zone" section of the website.

We say a very sad farewell to Ben Minnikin and Tayla Ascott, two of our "Gappers", who return home to Australia and South Africa respectively. Caitlin Thistleton will be staying at Copthorne for the Spring Term. They have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into everything that they have done at Copthorne and I hope they all take away very happy memories and will keep in touch with us in the years ahead. We wish them the very best of luck for the future.

Zoe Thompson-Edgeler will be joined by Jack Larter, Alice Capps and Elizabeth Duffy as "Gappers" for 2019.

Also leaving at the end of this term are a number of ancillary staff, so I thank Angela Taupitz (Driver), Mary Piper, Kathryn Hollis and Judit Zoldi (Domestic staff) for their valuable contribution to Copthorne over a number of years.

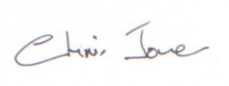
Finally, on behalf of the staff can I offer a huge "thank you" for the very generous gifts you have presented to us all. We have been inundated with wonderful presents, for which we are very grateful.

I encourage you to read the following pages that provide advice and information about forthcoming events. It may be worth putting key dates into your diaries now.

The main Prep School office will remain open (mornings only, from 9.00am until 12.00 noon) until Friday 21 December, but will then close until Wednesday 2 January 2018.

Please note that term starts on **Monday 7 January 2019**. Music lessons and after school activities for both Pre-Prep and Prep will also re-commence on this day. Have a very "Happy Christmas" and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Yours sincerely



Chris Jones
Headmaster

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Citizenship, Attitude to Learning and Progress prizes

Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded prizes for this term. Some of you will notice that we have replaced the Form Prize (traditionally awarded to the highest academic achiever) with a Citizenship Prize, and the Endeavour Prize has been replaced by an Attitude to Learning award. The Form Prize will be presented in the Summer Term to recognise the talents of the highest achieving children but over the whole year and not each term.

3CC	Citizenship Prize	Jemima Baldry
	Attitude to Learning	Nabela Aleman
	Progress Prize	Isabella Cooper
3RG	Citizenship Prize	Aaryan Soni
	Attitude to Learning	Aran Skelton
	Progress Prize	Cornelia Langendoen-Adams
4AH	Citizenship Prize	Evie Sweetman
	Attitude to Learning	Ann Tagg
	Progress Prize	Eddie Lawrence
4TC	Citizenship Prize	Levahna Palmer
	Attitude to Learning	Noah Jessup
	Progress Prize	Harry Anderson
4TB	Citizenship Prize	Freddy Gibson
	Attitude to Learning	Maryam Al-Batran
	Progress Prize	Natalie Van Hoven
5SB	Citizenship Prize	Jemima Birt
	Attitude to Learning	Matthew Chan
	Progress Prize	Beau Vernon
5SL	Citizenship Prize	Ted Ritchie-Butler
	Attitude to Learning	Sophie Nathaniel
	Progress Prize	Alexander Graves
6DC	Citizenship Prize	Arun Baker
	Attitude to Learning	Pranav Labroo
	Progress Prize	Bryan Pang
6LD	Citizenship Prize	Matthew Voller
	Attitude to Learning	Nathan Lowe
	Progress Prize	Ava Miller
7LC	Citizenship Prize	Kirsten Mearns
	Attitude to Learning	Andrew Potter
	Progress Prize	Xander Ford
7IP	Citizenship Prize	Anabelle Sankey-Rigby
	Attitude to Learning	Ava Floyd
	Progress Prize	Robin Paterson
8AA	Citizenship Prize	Tali Clarke
	Attitude to Learning	Emily Whittle
	Progress Prize	Macie Mitchell
8MA	Citizenship Prize	Ali Hough
	Attitude to Learning	Liban Abdulle
	Progress Prize	Sonny Vernon

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Autumn 2018 End of Term Certificates

String Babies	Rec : Millie Sneyd Yr1 : Samuel Shah Yr2 : Rohan Bhayrau
Cookery	Yr 1: Isla Curtis Jenkins Yr 2 : Mahi Parekh
Football & Multi sports	Nursery: Erin Bigg Rec: Charlie Flood Yr1: Sandro Gouveia Yr2: Emily Litchfield
Swimming	Nursery: Finlay Ballard Rec: Josiah Muheru Yr1: Clea Paramalingam Yr2: Avyanna Singh
IT Club	Yr1: Jude Birt Yr2: Finn Lehane
Climbing	Yr2: Olivia Brooke
Tennis	Rec: Zak Diedericks Yr1: Maddy Lowe Yr2: Loic Koffane Belomo
Spanish	Nursery: Harrish Arwindran Rec: Olivia Apetauer Yr1: Fleur Hunt Yr2: Max Munro
Street Dance	Nurs: Lottie Lawrence Rec: Aidan Skelton Yr 1: Aurélie Klein Yr 2: Anastasia Bibik
Chess	Yr2: Max Kaumaya
Lego	Yr1: Oliver Challis
Taekwondo	Rec: Sienna Makolski Yr 1: Matthias Ohlsson-Baskerville Yr2: Riann Joseph
Ballet	Nurs: Zachary Layton Rec: Sophie Askew Y1: Emily Morin Becerril Y2: Sammy Adom
Musical Minis	Nursery: Emma Hogben-Gazzaway
Pottery	Yr 1: Rian Patel Yr 2: Adi Gupta
Tatty Bumpkin Yoga	Rec: Ella Wade
Choir	Yr 2: Matilda Lethbridge
Art	Nursery: Annabel Rustani and Adam Mason Rec: Cali Edmunds
Band	Yr 2: Aiyana Foord

Start and end of day routine (Years 3-8)
A reminder to all parents and children of the start and end of day routines!

The New Block is unlocked at 8.00am, when staff are available in tutor rooms and a member of the Senior Leadership Team is present to welcome children and parents. If you arrive early, children should wait in the Rendall Room under staff supervision until 8.00am.

At 4.40pm, all staff running clubs will be taking registers to check that children are where they should be and those who do not appear will be tracked down! For this reason, it is vital that the school is informed by parents in advance of any changes to children's plans, so we can amend our lists and do not spend time looking for children who have already gone home.

Please remind your children that they **MUST** go to the activity they have signed up for **AND** sign out with the duty staff at the end of every day, whatever time they go home. It is vital that we know exactly who is on-site in case of a fire and letters to parents are often sent home via the sign-out board. Children who forget to sign out will find themselves receiving minutes-off!

On Wednesdays, pick-up is at 3.45pm and children who have not been involved in sports fixtures are supervised in the New Block until they are collected. Those returning from fixtures must also go to the New Block, where they will sign out when collected. Children should never be unsupervised at any stage.

Waiting House (Nursery-Year 2)
If you need to book your child in, or ring to say that you will be late, please call the dedicated Waiting House telephone number: 07593 708900.

Early Birds (Nursery-Year 2)
This early morning club is available in the Nursery for all Pre-Prep and Nursery children from 7.30am - 8.10am every morning. It is not necessary to book and is charged at £3.20 from 7.30am or £1.55 from 7.50am.

Calendar Dates
Key dates (not Wednesday fixtures) are attached to this mailing and the school calendar is continuously updated and may be found in the password protected "Parents' Zone" section of the web site. Also attached to this mailing are term dates for 2019/20. I hope these dates give you sufficient notice to plan your diaries well in advance. Please do not book holidays in term time; there are 18 weeks each year available for holidays!

Prep School Parents' Evenings
Copthorne will be moving into line with the majority of other schools and only holding one parents' evening per year for each age group. However, the explicit understanding is that school staff will contact parents at any stage if they are concerned with progress or attitude and parents are encouraged to speak to us (individual teachers, Mr Close or myself) at any stage, if you are concerned in any way about your child's academic progress.

However, it is extremely important that parents of children in Year 5 make an appointment to speak to either Mr Close or me, so we can begin to discuss future school options. Your children will be sitting assessment tests in Year 6, even if they are committed to staying (as we hope) into Year 8! If you have not already done so – please do set something up for next term!

Similarly, any Year 6 Parents who have not had this meeting to discuss future schools should make an appointment, as a matter of urgency, early next term.

Sponsored Swim
We have now raised over £8,000, but my records show that there are still a large number of children who have not brought in any sponsor money as yet. To date, 40% of Pre-Prep and 30% of Prep School swimmers have not returned anything!

Changing Rooms
In line with our safeguarding policy, we must insist that parents do not enter the changing rooms under any circumstances.

Uniform and appearance
Please may we ask you to check your child's uniform! We have noticed lots of cardigans and jumpers with very frayed cuffs and/or holes which do not fit in with our standard of uniform. It has also been noticed that some of the kilts and skorts are inappropriately too short - the length of a kilt needs to be on the knee or just below and skort length needs to be about mid-thigh. Again, as so many clothes are going missing, may we remind you that all uniform should be named (guidance on the correct positioning of name tags may be found in the Uniform Handbook on "Parents' Zone"). If you find any extra clothes in your sports bag, it would be much appreciated if they could be returned to school to be reunited with their rightful owners!

As previously communicated, girls should have their hair neatly tied back (if longer than shoulder length) and neither boys, nor girls, should be using gel or wax hair products. We have noticed that some of the boys' hair length is also becoming too long! Please can parents help us by encouraging smart haircuts, clean shoes and taking a real pride in appearance.

The uniform shop will be opening on Friday 4 January from 9.00am to 2.00pm. Please note that no appointments are necessary.

Ski Trip
Children already committed to the March 2019 trip will receive information and forms to be completed (and returned at the start of the Spring Term) in this mailing. There are still a few places available for any child in Year 3 or above who may be interested. Speak to Kathryn, my PA, if you need more information.

Astro Disco
All children from Oaks Nursery upwards will have the option to attend the Astro Disco on Friday 18 January 2019.
3.30pm – Oaks and Pre-Prep
4.30pm – Year 3 – 5
5.30pm – Year 6 – 8
More information will be circulated next term, and £5 will be added automatically to the bills of those children who attend.

Astro Ball – Saturday 9 February 2019
Tickets are now available to purchase via our website for what promises to be a wonderful event. I do hope many of you will come along!

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Spring Term 2019 – Key Dates

Thursday 3 January	9.45am	Staff Inset
Friday 4 January	10.00am 9.00 - 2.00pm	Staff Inset School Uniform Shop open (no appointments necessary)
Monday 7 January	**8.15am**	**Term Starts**
Friday 18 January		Astro Disco for children
Tuesday 22 January		Year 6 Maths Challenge at Eagle House School
Friday 25 January		Year 4 Roman Day Inter Schools Cross Country at Great Walstead
Monday 28 January	7.00pm	Senior Choir performing at the O2 (Young Voices Concert)
Tuesday 29 January		School shop closed for the remainder of the week
Saturday 2 February		Open Morning & external scholarship assessments
Monday 4 February	8.10 – 8.30am	Pre-Prep classrooms open all week
Thursday 7 February		Pre-Prep Parents' Evening late night
Friday 8 February		Ardingly Cross-Country relays
Saturday 9 February	7.00pm	Astro Ball at the Effingham Hotel
Monday 11 February		Start of Year 7 & 8 exam week
Friday 15 February		**Half term starts after school**
Monday 25 February	7.30am	School restarts
Thursday 28 February	All day 6.00pm	U.11 IAPS netball tournament at Hurstpierpoint College Year 5 & 6 Music Concert (invitation only)
Friday 1 March		U.11 Ruby 7's tournament at Ashdown House
Saturday 2 March		Year 2 football tournament at the Hawthorns school
Monday 4 March		Pre-Prep Book Week
Wednesday 6 March	6.00pm	7 LC Parents' Evening
Thursday 7 March		World Book Day (come to school dressed as a book character) U.10 netball tournament @ EGNA U.9 hockey festival @ Burgess Hill
Friday 8 March		U.11 rugby and netball at Brighton College
Tuesday 12 March	From 6.00pm	7 IP Parents' Evening
Thursday 14 March		Year 3 trip to Kew Gardens
Friday 15 March		Comic Relief Day (non-uniform red-nose day)
Monday 18 March	 From 6.00pm	Nursery Parents consultations this week Year 8 Parents' Evening (children also attend)
Thursday 21 March		Year 7 & 8 trip to Nice departs (returns on Sunday 24 March) Nursery Parents' Evening late night
Monday 25 March	6.00pm	First performance of Year 3 & 4 production of "Mary Poppins"
Tuesday 26 March	6.00pm	Second performance of Year 3 & 4 production of "Mary Poppins"
Thursday 28 March		Final performance of Year 3 & 4 production of "Mary Poppins"
Friday 29 March	9.00am 2.00pm 3.30pm	EYFS Mother's Day Service Year 1 & 2 Mother's Day Service Cake sale for the Astro Appeal Term ends from 3.30pm for all children (supervision available until 5.00pm)
Saturday 30 March	4.00pm	Ski Trip departs (returns Sunday 7th April at 10.00am)

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Summer Term 2019 – Key Dates

Monday 22 April		Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)
Tuesday 23 April	**8.15am**	**Term Starts**
Thursday 25 April	7.00pm	Current Year 4 Parents' Information Evening – Life in Year 5
Saturday 4 May		Open Morning
Monday 6 May		**Bank Holiday no school**
Tuesday 7 May		Tempest Class Photos
Thursday 9 May	6.00pm	Year 8 French watersports trip presentation to children and parents
Sunday 19 May		Astro Appeal Triathlon
Monday 20 May		Week of Year 7 & 8 Exams
Friday 24 May	9.30am From 3.30pm	Prep School Sports – all day **Half term starts after school – supervision available until 5.00pm**
Saturday 1 June	4.00pm	Year 8 depart for France (return on Saturday 08 June @11.00am)
Sunday 2 June	11.00am	Year 7 depart for Snowdonia (return on Friday 7 June @ 5.00pm)
Monday 3 June	8.15am	School restarts after half term Week of Year 6 exams
Monday 10 June		Start of Year 6 Bikeability Week Start of Year 8 Enrichment Programme
Friday 14 June	All day	Year 8 Leavers Walk (parents welcome to join in!)
Thursday 20 June	10.00am 1.30pm	Nursery & Reception Sports – parents welcome Years 1 & 2 Sports – parents welcome
Friday 21 June	All day	IAPS County Athletics trials at K2 (Year 6 – 8)
Tuesday 25 June	6.15pm	Year 7 & 8 Young Musician of the Year Competition
Friday 28 June	7.00pm	Quiz Night tbc
Sunday 30 June		Family Fun Day tbc
Monday 1 July		National Athletic Championship finals - Birmingham
Wednesday 3 July	8.45am 2.00pm 6.00pm	Pre-Prep & Nursery End of Year Concert Year 8 Leavers' Cricket and Rounders v Parents. Year 8 Drama performance + BBQ (with parents)
Friday 5	3.30pm	All children free to leave – supervision available until 5.00pm
Saturday 6 July	**10.30am**	**Speech Day and Prize Giving** **Term ends approximately 12.30pm**

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FUTURE TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2019

Staff Inset	Thursday, 29 August
Staff Inset	Friday, 30 August
Term Starts	Monday, 2 September
Half Term after school	Friday, 18 October
School re-starts	Monday, 4 November
Term Ends (from 3.30pm)	Friday, 13 December

Spring Term 2020

Staff Inset	Thursday, 2 January
Staff Inset	Friday, 3 January
Term Starts	Monday, 6 January
Half Term (after school)	Friday, 14 February
School re-starts	Monday, 24 February
Term Ends (from 3.30)	Friday, 27 March

Summer Term 2020

Staff Inset	Thursday, 16 April
Staff Inset	Friday, 17 April
School Starts	Monday, 20 April
Bank Holiday	Monday, 4 May – No School
Half Term (after school)	Friday, 22 May
Year 8 depart for France	Saturday, 30 May (return Saturday 6 June)
Year 7 depart for Wales	Sunday, 31 May (return Friday 5 June)
School restarts	Monday, 1 June
Term Ends (12.30pm	Saturday, 4 July (after Speech Day)