COPTHORNE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

29 March 2019

Dear Parents

I write at the end of another busy but successful term with news of individual and collective success that should make children, parents and staff feel very proud. As I have said on numerous occasions, the success of a school should not simply be measured in terms of scholarships gained; wonderful “Mary Poppins” drama performances; Mother’s Day Services; wins on the games field (IAPS National Under 11 Netball Champions); musical grades achieved; LAMDA passes; art work on display or money raised – areas in which we nonetheless continue to do well.

The success of a school should be measured in the small and incremental steps that each and every child makes to move themselves forward; to learn from their mistakes; to overcome challenges; to develop their academic, sporting, musical, artistic and dramatic abilities and to become a better citizen.

We should all care far more about the effort each child makes, than the level they achieve. Of course, some children will be fantastic academic, sporting, musical, dramatic and artistic scholars of the highest order and we do have plenty of children like this. Others make up for this with a work ethic that demonstrates the really important qualities of perseverance, commitment and resilience; all crucial life skills that will stand them in good stead for the future.

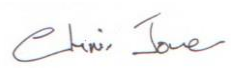
We encourage the children to be good citizens who understand right and wrong; who know how to live in a diverse and multi-cultural society; who are ambitious and aspirational but realise that hard work and perseverance underpin success; who are well rounded, empathetic individuals who will develop into highly valued members of their communities. We want every child to focus on being “the best they can be” at everything and anything.

I trust that your child is happy here – I believe we are a happy community. I hope too that you have noticed both the giant strides and the small, but no less important, steps that your children have made this term.

Please do read the following pages that contain news about staffing, children’s awards and lots of information about what’s happening next term.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Best wishes



Chris Jones
Headmaster

Staff news
As you are aware, there will be some staff changes in September as Lizzie Penrose-Smith (Year 2) will be away on Maternity (her replacement Mrs Jen Shepherd starts at half term in June).
Miss Hannah Davis will be covering Fiona Jedrzejewska's maternity leave in Nursery.
Alison Richards (DT) retires at the end of the summer term; Angela Blackwell (Part-time art) will be taking maternity leave and Hannah Jenks (Year 3) will be returning from maternity.

LAMDA Examinations
Well done to all the students who have just sat their LAMDA examination. Their behaviour was exemplary and the examiner was impressed with their serious attitude and warm and friendly demeanour.
All the students were well prepared and exuded confidence when they walked into the examination room. Many of them confessed to being terrified and I am always impressed and delighted to watch them conquer their fears and to come out of the examination room with beaming smiles having risen to the challenge. Their sense of achievement is immense and quite wonderful to watch.
Many thanks to all parents for listening to pieces and encouraging students. Your support is greatly appreciated. The results will take about 6-8 weeks to arrive and I will let you know as soon as I receive them.

By the end of this academic year, nearly 100 students from both the Prep school and the Pre-Prep school will have sat a LAMDA examination and the school is keen to encourage this growth. I have sent out a letter this week asking parents to register their child's interest in sitting LAMDA examinations when they restart in September and December. Current students must re-register too. Please could you do this before the deadline of Tuesday 30 April to allow me to assess the level of interest and make plans accordingly if at all possible.
Please register directly with me at alisondawson@hotmail.com and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

With very best wishes for a peaceful and sunny Easter break.

Mrs Alison Dawson

Year 4 Parents' Information Evening – Thursday 25 April at 6.30pm – Please RSVP
We are hosting this important information evening to explain in greater detail the assessment packages we use, and how we monitor children's progress through Years 5 & 6 and into the senior part of the school. Information about low key tests in Year 5, and more formal exams in
Years 6/7/8 will be given, and parents will have the opportunity to question key staff about academic issues. In order to encourage you all to attend, we will be serving a buffet supper, together with a glass of wine at 6.30pm, with the meeting planned to start at 7.00pm. Year 4 children are welcome to stay on at school and be looked after until the meeting ends at around 7.45pm. In order to inform Karen in the kitchen, please can I encourage you to RSVP to Kathryn, my PA, at headspa@copthorneprep.co.uk.

Triathlon
The Astro Appeal Triathlon is being held on Sunday 19 May. Children (and adults) are all encouraged to take part.

Prep School Sports Day – Friday 24 May 2019 – Athletics Field
Our Athletic Sports event this year will be held on the Friday we break up for half term. Heats will take place in the morning, with finals in the afternoon, and parents are welcome to attend as much of the day as they wish.

Pre-Prep Sports Day – Thursday 20 June 2019 – Athletics Field
Sports Day for Nursery and Reception children will commence at 10.30am and for Year 1 & 2 pupils at 1.30pm. There will also be a barbeque at 12 noon, between these two events, for all Pre-Prep & Nursery parents.

Senior School Options
Any parents in Years 5 (or 6 & 7 if they have not made a decision yet!) who need some advice on all the Senior School options available to them, may well benefit from a chat with me. Most schools are now suggesting that parents register early (when children are still in Year 5).
Please do call Kathryn in the Office to set up an appointment, if you need some help or advice.

Speech Day/Prize-Giving – Saturday 6 July 2019 – from 10.00am in the Sports Hall
This is one of the most important days in the school year and all children from Reception upwards are required to attend from 10.00am. After the formal speeches/prize giving, all children will be free to depart. All children sit with their teachers and not their parents. Nursery children are not actively involved, but they and their parents are warmly invited to attend if they wish. The format for the day is as follows:

10.10am	Children go to their classroom – wearing smart uniform
10.15am	Parents to be seated in the Sports Hall
10.25am	Children escorted to their seats
10.30am	Speech Day/Prize Giving commences
12.15pm	Champagne Reception – children free to depart from this time

If your child won a trophy last year, please arrange for it to be engraved (if appropriate) and return it to the Prep School Office.

Year 8 Water Sports Trip to France
Year 8 parents are reminded that this trip departs on Saturday 1 June (at approx. 4.00pm) and returns on Saturday 8 June (at approx. 11.00am). **Please note that the departure day is the final Saturday of half term!**

Year 7 Outdoor Activities Trip to Wales
Year 7 parents are reminded that this trip departs on Sunday 2 June and returns on Friday 7 June.

Year 8 Exams and Enrichment Programme
Year 8 will be sitting their final CE or CAS exams in the week beginning Monday 20 May. Post half term, they embark on a very well deserved programme of exciting, educational and simply fun activities including a week in the South of France on a water sports course. More information about enrichment will be circulated next term.

Wednesday 3 July is an important day for the Year 8 parents who are all invited to play cricket (dads v sons) or rounders (mums v daughters) at 2.30pm, and then be entertained by their children at the comedy evening in the Theatre, before enjoying a BBQ. You do need to put this date in your diaries, arrange an afternoon off work (or a sick-note from Matron!) and start practising your cricket/rounders!

Swimming Pool upgrade
Over the holidays the pool is being drained and a new liner installed. The area surrounding the pool will also be replaced. This is major refurbishment of the pool is likely to mean that it is not operational until the second week of term.

Year 8 Success
Year 8 children have all done remarkably well to gain entry into their chosen Senior School – no mean feat as entry standards seem to rise year on year. Some have achieved academic, music, art, sport or all-rounder (Headmaster's) scholarships, but we are very proud of each member of Year 8 who again have demonstrated my belief that staying at Copthorne for the final two years is beneficial for all children.

Year 8 (13+) success	
Liban	Academic Scholarship to Caterham
Tali	Art Scholarship to Caterham
Mallory	Dunottar (Headmaster's Scholarship)
Alexander	Music Scholarship to Worth
Ruby	Hurstpierpoint
Ali	Worth
Alayna	Caterham
Louis LL	Worth
Macie	Caterham
Tanishka	Worth
Jake	Hurstpierpoint
Dhruv	Worth
Louis R	Hurstpierpoint (Headmaster's Scholarship)
Cosmic	DT Scholarship to Worth
Tia	Worth
Emily	Worth
Sonny	Hurstpierpoint
Emily	Sports Scholarship to Reigate
Alana	Worth

School Uniform Shop
The shop will be closed for the first part of the holidays as repairs are made to the stairs. It will be open on Wednesday 17 April and Thursday 18 April.

For parents whose children are starting at Copthorne Prep in the Summer Term, please contact Carole via her email (ckinnear@copthorneprep.co.uk) to arrange a separate appointment for your child's uniform fitting**. Children should return to school in April wearing SUMMER UNIFORM, unless the weather is particularly cold, when we will allow winter uniform for the first week or so.**

Uniform Standards
We have noticed that uniform standards are not always being complied with. May I remind you that our expectations are included in the Parent Handbooks, which can be accessed through the Parents' Zone section on the school website.

In brief:

- Copthorne blazers must be worn to school and home every day.
- Kilts, tunics and summer dresses should be worn at the knee.
- Shirts should be tucked in and jumpers/cardigans must be in good repair with no holes.
- Shoes should be black (patent shoes are not permitted), polished, in good repair and flat in style. They should have no visible markings. Laced shoes should have laces worn tied.
- Outdoor coats must be the school black Copthorne coat (purchased from the School Shop) and worn to and from school (weather dependent).

Personal Appearance

- For girls - shoulder length or longer hair should be tied back off the face or held in a black, red or a school uniform band hair accessory. Hair should be well kept in a moderate style without streaks or other colour. No hair product to be used.
- For boys - hair must not be cut in any extreme style, be coloured or streaked or have hair products in it. If the school deems that a hair style is not within keeping of the school culture, your child may be asked to remain at home until the hair has grown.
- For girls - no jewellery should be worn, except for one sleeper stud in plain gold or silver in each ear lobe. For boys - earrings and jewellery (except for religious reasons) are not permitted. No make-up or nail polish should be worn.

All Pre-Prep children should return at the start of the Summer Term wearing the summer uniform. Girls should be wearing the summer dress with short white socks. Boys should be wearing charcoal grey shorts (not combat shorts), short sleeved white collared shirts and long grey socks.

For Prep school children, girls may wear either a summer dress with short white socks or the school kilt with a short sleeve revere collared blouse and short black socks. The boys have the option to wear the summer uniform of shorts and short sleeved collared shirts or to remain in long trousers. All other school uniform items remain compulsory.

We expect all children at Copthorne Prep to wear their uniform with pride as they are representing the school's traditions and values.

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
Friday 26 April		Earth Day – non-uniform day (brown/green colours please)
Monday 6 May		**Bank Holiday no school**
Tuesday 7 May		Tempest Class Photos
Thursday 9 May	6.00pm	Year 8 French water sports trip presentation to children and parents
Saturday 11 May		Open Morning
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
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
Sunday 30 June		Family Fun Day (incorporating a Car Boot sale)
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 5.30pm
Saturday 6 July	**10.30am**	**Speech Day and Prize Giving** **Term ends approximately 12.30pm**