



Our School Vision

Connected through the values of love, respect and compassion. Three separate schools, we journey together to grow physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, so that everyone can fulfil their potential. We strive to preserve the wonder of childhood, whilst ensuring our children are future ready.

“Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9

We have arrived at Christmas and the end of our first term! A third of the academic year has now passed and we are well and truly into the swing of learning! I would like to say a huge well done to all the children who were involved in various Christmas performances and a big thankyou to all the teachers and TAs who supported the children with these. If you attended the performances, I hope they have left you feeling ready for the Christmas season!

Federation News

Copythorne’s local authority partnership inspection was extremely successful, with our local authority partner commenting on the strength of learning journeys, outcomes (which remain higher than local outcomes and are looking to be even better next year) and changes to provision for those children who need a different style of learning to reach their potential. Behaviour and attitudes towards learning were commended and recognition of the hard work put in by all the team (both at Copythorne and colleagues at the other schools) was praised. The impact being made to learning by all adults was seen as strong and our Little Wandle phonics programme was showing a positive impact on writing, seen in books. This is really pleasing, as across our three schools we maintain a consistency of provision to ensure that all our children are receiving the same quality of input for learning.

Many of you will be aware that Mr Hodge at Bartley was successfully appointed as the new Headteacher for our feeder junior school, which will come into effect this Easter. I would like to congratulate Mr Hodge on his success and look forward to working with him to ensure all our pupils reach their potential. Mr Hodge has already visited Netley Marsh to meet with myself and to plan further opportunities to build on our current collaboration, as well as explore shared projects to continue strengthening our working relationship.

Staffing changes

At St Michael and All Angels, we would like to welcome Mrs McIntyre, who is joining us from Netley Marsh (and has also worked at Copythorne). Mrs McIntyre will be supporting learning across the school, but will be primarily based in Otter class.

At Netley Marsh, we would like to welcome back Mrs Pickering, who will be supporting learning in Butterfly class. We are currently recruiting for a new TA for our school and if you know anyone who would be interested in joining our team, please catch Mr Bowen or Mrs Flynn on the gate or look at our advertisement on the Hampshire council job site.

At Copythorne, many of you may have spotted a new face in Foxes! This is Miss Witcher who is currently supporting learning alongside Mr Cooper and Mrs Ellis. Mrs Defriend from the office has accepted a new position nearer to her home at a school in Salisbury – we wish her every success. And it is a fond farewell to Mrs Abbot who is retiring after an extensive career of over 25 years at Copythorne – we will miss her very much!

School Improvement

Every year in school, we have a variety of priority areas which we focus on for further development. This year we are working on three key areas:

1 – Maths – Mr Cooper is doing a Stirling task of leading the way on developing the teaching of our math and is involved with 'the Solent math hub' as part of his work, supporting all our teachers in further developing how we teach maths within the Federation. One of the key additions here is the teaching of 'Math Mastery' (we call it mini maths!) which consists of a daily 15-minute lesson, in addition to our normal math lessons. These sessions focus on children's use of mathematical language and building of visual representation to promote rapid recall of key concepts and facts, reducing the need for children to rely on counting as a mathematical mechanism alone. Early feedback is extremely positive and we can already see the impact on children's mathematical reasoning shining through.

2 – Assessment – Mrs Flynn is developing how we use assessment to ensure workloads remain manageable and that the assessments being collated are meaningful. This includes work with the local authority as well as exploring platforms and systems to support teachers with getting the best understanding of what our children are achieving across all areas of the curriculum.

3 – Spirituality – Mrs Thomas, whose work on teaching diversity is being used by schools across the country, is leading on developing a shared sense of what spiritual development looks like for developing children. We have been developing our environments to create spaces for children to be calm and reflective and to have 'mirror moments' – these are times when children can reflect on personal experiences and consider how it makes them feel – for example stopping and reflecting on the excitement of the snow shower! This will develop next onto 'window moments' looking beyond ourselves and thinking how others might feel about something.

Snow Days!

We all had great excitement at the unusual snow storm this half term – for many of our children this will be the first time they have seen a proper snow shower! The forecast can always be unpredictable and with this schools often have to react quickly. Where possible we will always aim to keep our school open, unless roads are blocked etc. The biggest impact, which would result in our school's closing would be due to unsafe staffing levels. We have a number of staff who travel from long distances to our schools and more often it would not be until the morning that I would be informed if a member of the team could not attend work. As a result, we will not always be able to inform parents of school closer until the morning of such a weather incident. In these cases, we will aim to send out a message as soon as possible to let you know of any issue with school opening.

Please can you ensure that we have your correct mobile number and email address on our systems as we send Parentmail texts and emails to inform parents of emergency closures.

Children in Need!

Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need. This is a worthy cause and during my career, I have had the privilege to see the impact this charity has on supporting children within school's I have worked. As a Federation you raised an impressive £513! Your contributions make a real difference to children in need of support.

Additional Financial Support

We understand the financial pressures many are facing. Our schools can offer small discretionary grants to help families in need. If you are struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out—we are here to support you and ensure all our children are warm, well-clothed, and well-fed this winter. Please speak to any member of staff you feel comfortable with.

Tours

Although our official tours have ended, we are still happy to show prospective families around our schools and share more about the work we do. We have places available in various year groups across the Federation. Please encourage anyone seeking a school place—whether for September or mid-year—to get in touch.

Volunteering at school

Volunteering at School

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in school already! Volunteering is a great way to learn about our teaching strategies and make a big difference for our learners. If you're interested in becoming a regular volunteer, please visit our website, where you'll find information on how to get started, including the required safeguarding training: [Volunteer Information](#)

Parent Forums,

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent forums. These have been incredibly useful and have already prompted actions such as sending out spelling lists and providing paper copies of important dates for your fridge at home!

We're excited to plan the next forums, which will focus on the current educational landscape and its potential impact on schools. We'll also discuss the future of our schools and gather your questions, concerns, and successes to inform the governing body, local authority, and senior leadership team.

All parents are welcome to attend any of the following forums:

Netley Marsh - 15th January, 9am

Copythorne - 15th January, 2:30pm

St Michael and All Angels - 17th January, 9am



Other Important Dates For this half Term:

Parent Consultations –

PTA events -

Family Worship dates –

All on the attached 2025 calendar