



Working in Partnership



The Joint Newsletter for William Torbitt and Coppice Primary Schools

Jan 2021

Happy New Year!

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What a way to start 2021! I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday. As we start a new term, I thought I would take a moment to reflect on some of the work that has been going on behind the scenes at the two schools and give you some insight into the coming year.

It really has been unprecedented times and I am so proud and so humbled by the extraordinary effort's children, parents, staff and governors have gone to in order to ensure we had a successful Autumn term. Your children have been remarkable. They returned to school with a passion and enthusiasm for learning

and a demonstration of resilience and empathy for others after the national lockdown. We now know that we are in lockdown again for another half term and I am confident the children will rise again to the changes and embrace the new way of learning.

The two schools, Coppice and William Torbitt continue to work collaboratively to provide the very best for all our children and professional learning for all our staff. Our schools are open to our vulnerable children and the children of critical workers and our online provision has started in earnest. We have decided to embrace the lessons from Oak Academy in order to provide lots of online,



face to face, support from teachers in the school.

Please let us know if you need support with access to technology or some clarity in how to use Zoom or how to submit work to your child's class teacher. The offices are open every day and a member of SLT is on site to answer queries – just send an email to the admin inbox or phone and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



Our New Curriculum Principles

The two schools have been reflecting on and developing the Curriculum offer. We have developed 4 Principles and a Spotlight that will guide our curriculum as it evolves over the

coming year. We feel that these principles will enable our children to leave our schools with the skills and confidence needed to embrace secondary school and the 21st Century. We hope that

over the coming terms, your children will start to talk with you about these principles and you will see the common thread appear across all aspects of our curriculum.

Principle	Child Friendly
Identity matters <i>(Rights Respecting & Wellbeing)</i>	I like who I am and I know my rights
Safeguarding matters <i>(Safeguarding & Behaviour)</i>	I know how keep myself safe in mind and body
Aspiration Matters <i>(Opportunities & Breadth)</i>	I allow myself to dream big
Achievement Matters <i>(Outcomes & Progress)</i>	I aim to achieve my best
Under the spotlight	
Black Lives Matter	I know Black Lives Matter

Specialist Teaching Provision

In September, the Specialist Teachers from Coppice joined the William Torbitt team. William Torbitt children are now also benefitting from a fully equipped Art Studio with a fantastic Art Teacher, Mrs Harper, enjoying PE lessons with Mrs Newport, developing their Computing Skills with Mr Taliana and exploring the outdoors through Forest Schools with Mr Conder. The quality of the work, the pride the children are showing and the tangible joy in the classrooms is

enough for us to know, without doubt that this was a positive move, enriching our curriculum offer, supporting our children's wellbeing and developing subject expertise. We look forward to welcoming you back into our

school as soon as lockdown is over to showcase some of this wonderful work and hope that on Governors' Day at William Torbitt that our Governing Body will have the opportunity to see some of these specialisms in action.



Becoming 'Rights Respecting' Schools

We are so excited that both schools are working with Unicef towards the Rights Respecting Schools Awards. Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, their talents are nurtured, and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible active Global citizens. At Coppice and William Torbitt, we believe our children need to know their rights, understand how to exercise their rights and can recognise the rights of others. In gaining this knowledge, we feel confident our children will make a positive contribution to society and understand how to keep themselves and others safe.

William Torbitt successfully achieved their Bronze Award last academic year and are currently working towards the Silver Award. Coppice has started their journey this year and hope to achieve Bronze in the summer 2021.

Children will be talking to you about the different Articles and

thinking about why they are important for all children across the globe.

In our schools we feel very strongly that children's voices need to be heard and listened to and have created roles for Article 12 Ambassadors. At William Torbitt the Children's Forum has been launched and children are seeing the impact of their ideas and thoughts being realised in

the school setting. At Coppice the Class Advocates are working with Senior Leaders to explore opportunities to improve our learning environments and have started to input into the library provision, book corners and displays. Please talk with your children about the power of having their say, the importance of taking part, having a vote and hearing different points of view.



Black Lives Matter Programme

In the summer term, the two schools responded to the atrocities of George Floyd's murder with a renewed determination to work systematically and strategically to remove the systemic and structural workings that prevent our society from truly realising equality. As school leaders we realised that this situation cannot continue and we have a moral duty to support our children to be equipped with the knowledge and understanding of racism, visible and invisible, so that they can become catalysts for change. We don't want society to be in the same place in 10 years' time. We need things to change. Harder than that, we realised that in order to make this happen, we

needed to look at ourselves, our own understanding and ask ourselves some very difficult questions about prejudice, unconscious bias, whiteness and anti-racism. We have realised we need to get comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Over the last term I have coordinated a piece of work with a group of school leaders from Redbridge. 20 headteachers have come together to work with Dr Sharon Walker from Cambridge University to explore some of these important and difficult aspects of education. We are looking at the meaning of culture and race and the importance of being actively anti-racist and being allies. We are starting to

explore our policies, our equalities statements and our curriculums, looking at the need for representation in all subjects and a developed understanding how different races and cultures can be celebrated and challenged. It has been a positive journey so far with headteachers looking for practical solutions in their schools as well as considering how to support staff in all roles in their schools to understand unconscious bias. At Coppice and William Torbitt, we have a long way to go but we are determined, open and prepared for the journey and we hope to involve our parent community in the ongoing drive to evoke real change for all our futures.



Newly Qualified Teachers

In light of the two schools having 7 NQTS I looked at the programme on offer for training our new teachers. In the summer, I approached the London Borough of Redbridge with a proposed model of training and after some collaborative work with some other schools I was asked to lead and coordinate the training provision across the borough for the Newly Qualified Teachers. Ensuring new teachers get high quality professional development in their first two years in the

classroom is essential for maintaining high quality teachers in the profession. We are keen to ensure as teachers leave to work in different schools and for promotion, we keep them in Redbridge so that all our children can benefit. We are now at the end of our first term delivering training for teachers from across more than 20 schools. It has been an exciting programme, drawing on the expertise found in ten Redbridge Schools, using real classroom examples of work and teaching to develop teachers

in their first year. Due to the lockdown, there have been many restrictions and all of the learning has had to take place online. Our teachers and leaders across the borough have worked their magic to make this happen. We have had excellent feedback from the NQTS and will be continuing the model in the Spring Term and hoping that by summer, we will be able to invite NQTS from across the borough into our school settings and see teaching in action in real classrooms.

Pupil Wellbeing

We are, as ever, very mindful of all our community's mental health. In both schools we are proud that our curriculum encourages our children to think about, talk about and question different emotions and we encourage our children to share any problems or issues with us in a range of ways (eg talking to their teacher or leaving a note in the Worry Box). In addition we have access to highly trained staff who can support children's well-being through formal therapy sessions, developing friendship circles, supporting behaviour or providing time to talk. With the continuation of the lockdown and the pandemic, we

are very keen to ensure all our children stay connected. Please support them to access their online learning and their Zoom sessions. It is so important that our children get to see one another, have the opportunity to chat with their friends, see

friendly faces and exchange news. If any of you are worried at any time about your child's wellbeing, please contact the school's DSL through the admin email and we will get back to you. We can work together to help our children to stay healthy



Review, Revise, Rejuvenise (continued)

You will have seen in the National News that the Relationships and Sex Education policies have been updated by the DfE. We have joined the borough consultation process and are working closely with our neighbouring schools to see how the new legislation will be implemented from the Summer Term. At both schools we will be inviting parents to look at our resources, share your thoughts and work with us to provide an exciting, inclusive,

meaningful and age-appropriate relationships and sex education curriculum for our children.

Over the course of this term, Ian Jeffery and I will be Diving into different subject areas in the schools, beginning with Art, Computing and Writing. We aim to explore how well each subject is understood by children, support staff, teaching staff and leaders and how well we connect the skills and knowledge we learn

in individual subjects to our other subjects. Through this exercise we aim to improve the quality of the Principles and Spotlight in action and to share the best practice in each school not only with each other, but with our school partnership schools too.

Looking Forward...

As we start 2021, a new school term and a new lockdown let's keep things simple and take one day at a time.

Every day try to:

- Do something kind
- Look at something beautiful
- Learn something new
- Say something nice
- Recognise one thing to be grateful for
- Keep Moving

We have each other and, although physically closed, our metaphorical doors are open to all our children and families. Keep in touch. We've got this!

Mrs Clare Pike
(Executive Headteacher)

