



Copthill School

Tales from the Autumn Term

2025





From the Principal



Thanks to all of you for your support

Another end to a busy term approaches. There is a palpable buzz of excitement in every primary school in the lead up to Christmas. At Copthill this energy seems evident every day of every week and not just at this time of year! Sports, music, events both indoor and out - My sincere thanks as always to all the staff for the daily passion and energy they bring to school.

As many of you may be aware, the school has an Advisory Board. The members fulfill many of the roles of a traditional governing body but without the legal responsibilities which rests with the Directors.

They provide continuous support and advice to the Directors and SLT as well as rigorous challenge which is a vital ingredient to any well run organisation. We are always extremely grateful for their time and input.

Earlier this year we were delighted to welcome **Mrs Alex Emmerson** to the board. Her two children Dexter and Arabella were here as pupils and she brings a wealth of educational experience in her current role as Vice Principal at Catmose College.



We will however, be sadly saying farewell to **Mrs Margaret Miles**, a long serving member of the board at the end of term. She first came to Copthill as a parent of Alex and Marion in the early 90's! She joined our board many years ago and has managed to fulfill this commitment, whilst also very busy as Head of Middle School at Oakham and more recently as High Sheriff of Rutland!

We have been extremely grateful for her support and calm, consistent guidance over so many years. We hope she will still find time to stay in contact with us all as an Honorary member!

The music department will also miss Mr Lee Dash, Drum teacher, who will be leaving at the end of term. Our thanks for all his expertise over the last few years.

A source of personal pride for me is the continual stream of past pupils who return to visit with family or bring their own children. Their happy memories serve as a constant reminder of the uniqueness of a Copthill education and its foundation upon which they have built their successful careers.

We look forward to welcoming more Old Copthillians in 2026! In the meantime we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Mr Jonathan Teesdale
Principal





From the Headteacher



A team effort

As the pages of this review explain in detail, Copthill children have had a busy term - fast-paced, fun-filled and overflowing with wonder. As ever, it has been a joy to share this with them and their teachers.

Our Year 6 pupils have approached their preparation for entrance examinations (which began as early as September!) and the impending move to secondary school with growing maturity. This is an important stage for them, and we are proud of the determination and Copthill spirit they show.

Of course, the journey to this point does not begin in Year 6. Every step our children take through the school - each new skill learned, each challenge faced, each moment of encouragement - builds towards this readiness. It is a thoughtful process that starts from their very first days with us.

Throughout the school, we continue to use careful assessment and tracking to make sure every child is progressing well. When additional support is needed, we step in with timely, well-targeted intervention.

At the beginning of this calendar year, the ISI inspection recognised the strength of this approach, noting how our bespoke assessment framework effectively identifies pupils' skills and aptitudes and supports good progress for pupils of all ages and abilities. Copthill's dedicated teachers bring deep expertise and a real understanding of the children in their care, guiding them not only academically but also personally.

But preparation for the next stage of education is about far more than assessment. We believe wholeheartedly in a broad, all-round approach that nurtures children as, just that, children and as individuals, helping them to develop responsibility and respect, and to think about how they can be the very best version of themselves in an ever-changing world. The classroom is just one part of this; music, sport, drama and our wide range of co-curricular activities all play a vital role in helping children discover their interests and talents.

I will always be so proud that inspectors praised our curriculum design - particularly 'Go Outside and Learn' - as a significant strength, highlighting the considerable impact this has on our children's wellbeing, self-esteem and self-confidence. This is so central to Copthill's identity: the belief that children thrive when they are encouraged to explore, question and discover.

It is always a pleasure to see what Copthill children go on to achieve. Many return to us for work experience, and it is encouraging to see them step back into school as confident young adults. They often tell us how much their time here shaped them. We are equally proud of the academic success our former pupils achieve - including scholarships at 13+ - and of the musical, sporting and wider co-curricular accomplishments they enjoy as they move through their senior schools, both state and independent. The roots were encouraged to sprout and grow at Copthill School.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support this term. Success is achieved when we all work as a team, and the Copthill community is proof of that.

Mrs Helen Schofield

Headteacher





Christmas at Copthill



CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM





Upper School



Celebrating Childhood and Shaping Futures

At Copthill, we want to conserve the magic of childhood ... and not just at Christmas. This is just as important for our oldest pupils as our youngest. Among the busy days, successes and challenges, we know our Upper School children need to explore and imagine as they learn.

Whether reciting poems in the trench, stepping into ancient worlds, or cracking complex codes, they have embraced every experience with enthusiasm - and with every moment, they are building the skills that will shape their futures, and ours.

Our Year 5 pupils have begun their Upper School journey with confidence. Their transition encourages growing independence - meeting a number of new teachers, moving between classrooms, taking on more demanding fixtures, and beginning their Spanish lessons.

Their academic year began with a memorable residential visit to Grafham Water, where collaboration and resilience, along with their physical and mental strengths, were put to the test. The rainy, windy weather tried to dampen their spirits but to no avail.

Their first topic, *You're Not Invited* (linked to the whole school theme of Conflict), took them back in time to meet the Romans. From invasions and engineering to society and culture, the children explored what life was like across the Roman Empire. GOAL sessions brought these ideas to life as the pupils built siege catapults and shields before staging a spirited Roman invasion of our own Celtic fort, complete with marching formations and battle cries.

Hands-on learning continued with the construction of Roman roads; aqueduct challenges to see which team could carry water the furthest; cheese making using milk, vinegar, salt and herbs as well as baking traditional Roman bread over an open fire. There was even a virtual field trip to Pompeii.

Year 5's English lessons have celebrated imagination and storytelling - from conjuring up magic with *Harry Potter* to writing clear, informative pages about Romans and exploring poetry. Most recently, the children stepped into Charles Dickens' world, crafting and performing their own scripts as well as describing the characters and scenes inspired by *A Christmas Carol*.

Year 5 and 6 delved into the wonderful world of Shakespeare when The Young Shakespeare Company came into school to perform the powerful, tragic play *Macbeth*. There followed many activities designed to grow the children's understanding of the play's layered story and the language of the Bard.

In maths, the Upper School children continue to build strong foundations while still embracing the playfulness that makes learning meaningful - who doesn't love a game of Fizz Buzz? They have explored place value, the four operations, factors, multiples, and fractions - not simply as numbers on a page, but as puzzles to unravel and patterns to discover. Our maths learning is always lively!

The science of life literally came to life outdoors for Year 5. Races and pumping challenges helped the children understand the power of the circulatory system, while natural materials became arteries, veins, and capillaries. Edible 'blood bags' helped unpack the components of blood, and there were moments of awe and wonder when Mr Campbell oversaw heart and lung dissections.

A standout moment this term was Year 5's leadership of the Children in Need events. With games, challenges and prizes, they raised an impressive amount to support children across the country and beyond. As at the beginning of term, the weather wanted to thwart their efforts by sending a storm but the children continued undeterred!

Year 6 have stepped into their positions as role models in their school with maturity. They applied for 'jobs' that best suited their developing skills and now our ambassadors are working hard to lead, encourage and inspire their younger peers. Many of them mention their memories of ambassadors who have gone before them, proving the impact of the responsibility we offer to the children.

Along with Year 5, and their teachers, Year 6 pupils have also embraced the Year 5/Year 6 Electives Programme, which was introduced in September. The aim is to provide children with enriching opportunities to explore areas of personal interest while developing relevant skills for their futures - such as creativity, collaboration, leadership, problem-solving, and adaptability. Each elective is founded in the passions and expertise of staff, and children choose a pathway that inspires and challenges them beyond the core curriculum.

For example, sports leaders have planned and delivered physical activities for our Lower School children; young farmers have learned about the science of breeding and caring for farm animals, discovered where our food comes from and explored the future of farming (the biggest job on earth!) and our budding authors are aiming to see their work in print when their compilation is published later this academic year.

In humanities, Year 6 have explored the moving and complex topics of world conflicts. Their sensitivity and empathy have shone throughout lessons and discussions. They have debated, researched and role-played and a visit from Mr Tilney enriched their learning, offering artefacts and insights into trench warfare.

One of the most touching moments this term was the Remembrance Service, thoughtfully prepared and delivered by the Year 6 children. Poetry, music, and powerful public speaking came together to create a deeply respectful and reflective occasion.

Outdoor learning is also central to the Year 6 experience. A code-breaking mission took them deep into the woods, while a day in Copthill's very own World War I trenches provided an unforgettable, immersive insight into the physical and emotional realities of the time.

From treating injured soldiers, to preparing and cooking a nourishing 'trench stew', to building new trench lines under pressure, and culminating in a dramatic 'going over the top', the children demonstrated courage, teamwork, and compassion.

The children's English work this term has been equally impressive, producing expressive diary entries, trench letters and poems, instructions, narratives and thoughtful biographies of Winston Churchill as well as exciting science fiction stories based around H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*.

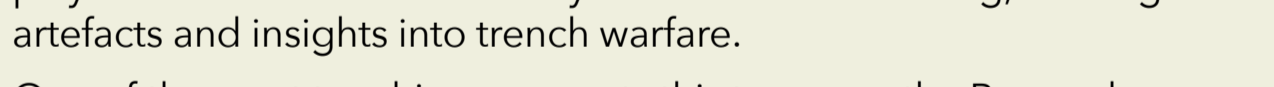
Science has taken Year 6 into the world of physics with explorations of reflection, refraction and the speed of light. As the term moved on, in their science GOAL sessions, they became both material detectives and marshmallow toasters all in the name of understanding the differences between man-made and natural materials.

Their linguistic talents have grown too, complemented by a modern foreign languages workshop led by the Head of MFL from Oundle School. A 'dough and design' day at The Peterborough School, during which the children baked pizzas, designed the packaging and created a company logo offers further proof of our partnership with a wide range of local secondary schools.

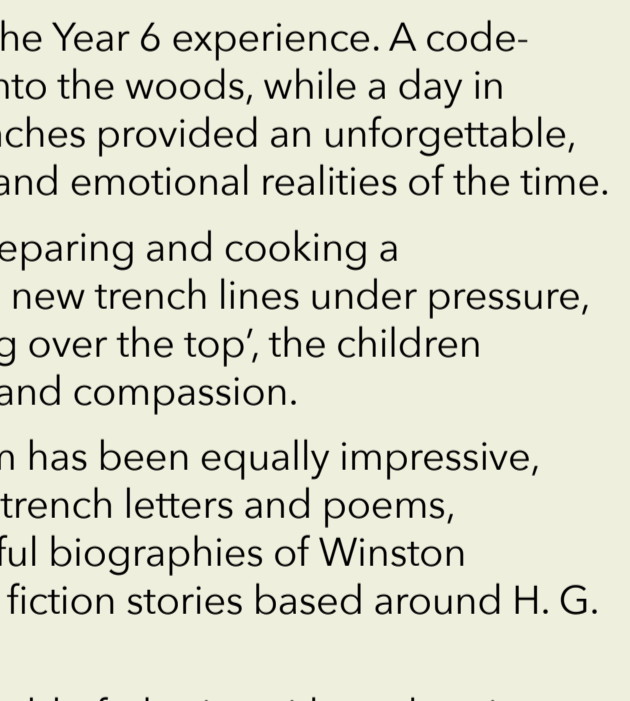
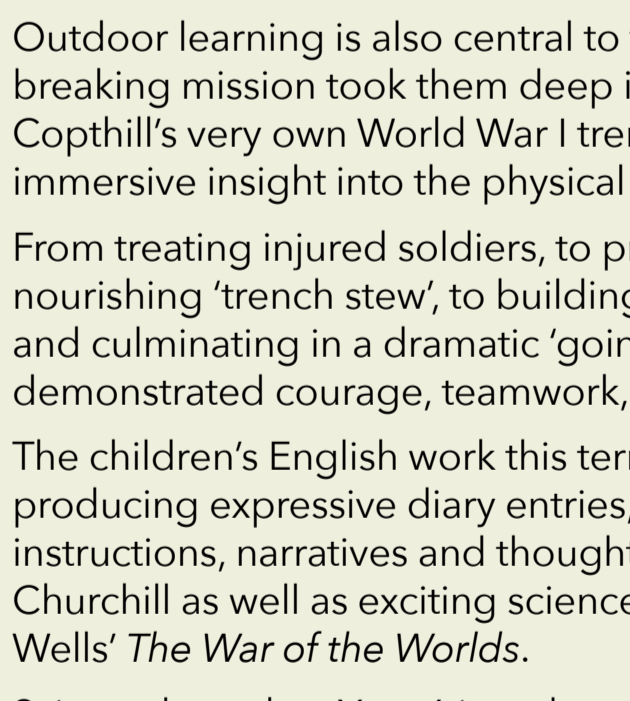
From Roman sieges to trench missions, from storytelling to scientific discovery, this term has been a celebration of what childhood should be: full of wonder, creativity, challenge and adventure. But woven through the Copthill curriculum are the skills that will matter long after primary school - problem-solving, creative thinking, team playing, independent exploration, reflection, responsibility and a genuine love of learning.

Our Upper School children, along with those across the school, are not just preparing for their futures - they are the people who will make it better for everyone!

Upper School Team



Upper School photo album



[CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM](#)



Middle School



Grilling our MP and invading Sparta - a typical Middle School term!

Year 3 have made a remarkable start to their first term in Middle School. They embraced the big jump with enthusiasm, settling quickly into their new routines and adapting impressively to the faster pace of learning.

We were also delighted to welcome Mrs Titcombe to the Year 3 teaching team this year. She has brought her own warmth, humour, and personality to Copthill, settling in seamlessly and quickly becoming a valued part of the Middle School community. One of the highlights of the term was undoubtedly the arrival of the Ancient Greeks, who 'invaded' Copthill and brought history to life in the most memorable way. It was wonderful to see how fully the children immersed themselves in the topic, with many of the boys enthusiastically adopting the disciplined lifestyle of a Spartan!

Beyond the classroom, Year 3 faced a whole new set of challenges in sport. Hockey and rugby have introduced them to new skills, new teamwork opportunities, and, of course, a great many mouthguards being left everywhere! Their resilience and willingness to 'have a go' has been evident throughout, and it is hard to believe how quickly the term has flown by.

Forest School continues to be a treasured part of the Year 3 experience. Under the expert guidance of Mrs Bell, the children have flourished outdoors, extending their learning into the natural world and growing in independence, curiosity, and confidence. The addition of GOAL sessions has further encouraged them to take their learning beyond the classroom and into the woodland environment they love so much.

No review of the term would be complete without celebrating the Cinderella Christmas play. The Year 3 children amazed us all with their confidence and stage presence, performing brilliantly in front of an audience. They truly shone, each playing an important role and supporting one another throughout the rehearsals and performances. Their teamwork, energy, and joy were evident in every scene. All in all, it has been a term filled with growth, excitement, and achievement for Year 3, and we could not be prouder of the fantastic start they have made to their Middle School journey.

Year 4 returned this autumn looking taller, more assured, and every bit the role models for the younger children in Middle School. As they settle into the top end of this phase, their growing confidence has been clear to see, guiding the Year 3s in how to behave, organise themselves, and "survive" the busy rhythm of school life.

Their enthusiasm for learning has been infectious, and this term has offered them a wonderfully rich and varied curriculum. A standout moment was their chance to meet and question Alicia Kearns as part of their Law and Order topic. The children impressed with their thoughtful, challenging questions - so much so that they even made her a little hot under the collar at times!

Beyond the classroom, Year 4 took their science learning outdoors with a hands-on exploration of the water cycle in the woods. The natural environment provided the perfect backdrop for experimenting, observing, and reinforcing key concepts in a memorable, practical way.

Their geography work then whisked them off on an imaginative journey to Africa in the Come Fly With Me topic, allowing them to explore diverse cultures, landscapes, and wildlife through engaging activities and research.

History also came alive this term as they delved into the fascinating life of Mary Anning and the world of fossils. The children were captivated by her discoveries and inspired by her perseverance, leading to enthusiastic discussions and creative work in class. With such a broad and stimulating range of learning experiences, there has truly been something to ignite every child's curiosity.

Year 4 have embraced the term with maturity, excitement, and a growing independence that makes them a real credit to the Middle School. The Christmas holidays are just around the corner and the corridors are echoing with Christmas cheer and laughter - on behalf of everyone in Middle School we wish you a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Mrs Anne Teesdale
Middle School Lead

Middle School photo album



[CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM](#)





Lower School



Intrepid Explorers and Adventurers Near and Far!

What a truly wonderful term it has been in Lower School! The sparkle of the season, the hum of busy classrooms and the joy radiating from our children have filled every corridor. It has been a privilege to watch them approach each opportunity with such delight, curiosity and wholehearted enthusiasm.

We began the term with our well-loved Harvest Festival assembly. The children spoke with such clarity and sincerity about the significance of harvest around the world. It was especially moving to see our new pupils embrace the occasion with such confidence, joining our community with pride and purpose.

Reception then captured everyone's hearts with their retelling of 'Woolly'- a tale of courage, kindness and discovering that our differences can make us heroes. Their performance was full of charm and festive wonder, complete with a bustling stable scene and visitors from afar bringing gifts for the baby Jesus. They delivered their roles beautifully, leaving the audience utterly captivated.

Our Christingle celebration followed soon after, led by our talented Year 1 and 2 children. With glowing candles, heartfelt singing and thoughtful reflections, the atmosphere was nothing short of magical. It was a moment that gathered us all together in the spirit of kindness and light.

Across all the Christingle and nativity performances, the children beamed with confidence, joy and creativity. These moments set a warm, celebratory tone for the season and reminded us all of the magic that fills this time of year.

Reception Highlights

Our Reception children have made a fantastic start to their school journey. They have embraced new routines so naturally and have loved spending time with their caring Year 3 buddies, who continue to be wonderful role models.

Their topic, 'Help is at Hand', inspired a flurry of imaginative play. Dressed as vets, doctors, paramedics and even chefs, the children explored how different people support our community. Pasta portraits, chef-hat crafting and pizza baking made for a particularly delicious afternoon!

This learning was brought to life even further during a special themed 'People Who Help Us Day'. The children delighted in dressing up once again and welcomed a specialist nurse, our Headteacher and housekeeper, who each shared the ways they help care for and support others. The children also learned important lessons about Bonfire Night and fire safety, developing their awareness in a fun, memorable and age-appropriate way.

Reception then set off on a virtual magic carpet adventure across Asia. They began in India, celebrating Diwali with vibrant Rangoli designs, diya lamps and an energetic dance they confidently performed for others. Their journey continued to China, where they tried out Mandarin writing and speaking, explored traditional festivals and celebrated with dragon dancing and making beautiful red and gold lanterns. It was a journey full of discovery and excitement.

Year 1 Adventures

Year 1 launched into the year with 'Unity in the Community', exploring the natural and built environment around Copthill. Through rain, sunshine and everything in between, they honed their map-reading skills and developed an impressive understanding of their surroundings.

Their studies then whisked them into the world of the Powhatan people, culminating in an immersive and much-loved "Powhatan Day". The transformation of both children and staff was remarkable - some staff were almost unrecognisable. The children crafted beaded necklaces, feather headdresses, clay beads and village models. They spent time in the forest making a native American stick game which really brought learning alive. Sheltering from the rain in a tepee added a sense of cosiness and authenticity that made the day truly unforgettable.

To round off the term, Year 1 journeyed far north to the Arctic. They created beautiful clay inukshuks artwork, learned how animals adapt to freezing climates and explored the traditions of the Inuit people. Their eagerness and fascination carried them through this chilly adventure with enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of awe.

Year 2 Exploits

Year 2 set sail into the term with 'Land Ahoy!', diving headfirst into an exciting world of pirates and daring adventures. Their classrooms became lively pirate hideouts, filled with maps, treasure and imaginative storytelling. Wandering past, you might well have been asked to walk the plank!

Pirate Day was a truly special part of our learning. Decked out in lively pirate attire, the children and their teachers fully embraced the theme. The voyage along the Copthill river in their handcrafted pirate ship was an intrepid 'wow' moment as they headed towards Dead Man's Island to discover long-lost treasure and warm up around the campfire with a welcome warming drink.

Their learning then travelled back with Mary Anning, millions of years to the age of dinosaurs and discovery. Fossil hunting proved a huge hit in our gravel pit, where we previously uncovered a genuine Plesiosaur shoulder bone. The children were treated to a talk and display featuring an artistic recreation of our local Rutland Water Plesiosaur.

The term finished on an inspiring note with 'Zero to Hero'. The children learned about remarkable individuals who have changed the world: Walt Disney, whose determination transformed imagination into reality; Thomas Edison, whose inventions continue to shape our lives today; and Michael Jordan, who inspires us never to give up on our dreams. These inspirational people, past and present, encourage the children to dream big and believe in themselves.

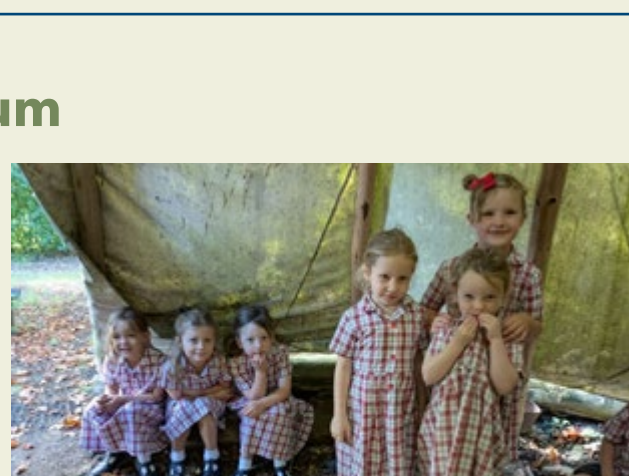
None of these memorable, joy-filled moments would be possible without the dedication of our exceptional staff and the ongoing support from you, our parents and families. Thank you for everything you do to help us nurture, challenge and inspire our children.

As we draw this fantastic term to a close, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back for another term full of adventure, discovery and moments to cherish.

Mrs. Judy Dumbleby

Lower School Leader

Lower School photo album



[CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM](#)





Early Years



A wonderful start to their learning journey

For young children, winter and Christmas are full of wonder. It's a time filled with excitement, as they eagerly await Father Christmas's arrival and dive into all the special traditions of the season.

In our classrooms, the atmosphere becomes vibrant with activity, as children immerse themselves in arts and crafts, listen to festive stories, and rehearse for performances to share with their families.

To wrap up the term, we ended on a festive high with our performance of 'A Magical Christmas Morning'. The children brought so much joy as they entered in their pyjamas, holding lanterns, and filling the room with their cheerful renditions of Christmas classics.

As we head into the Christmas holidays, it's hard to believe that a whole term has passed since we welcomed the children to Nursery and Pre-School for their first days. For any child, starting at a new school can feel daunting, especially at the tender age of two or three.

As a result, we focused the first few weeks on building connections with both the children and parents, with the aim of helping everyone feel comfortable in this new environment. This approach helped the children settle in and feel confident as they began their educational journey at Copthill. Establishing routines and creating a safe, welcoming space were key to making sure each child was ready to return each day with a smile.

Next, we delved into our first topic of the term, 'Home Sweet Home.' This theme gave us a wonderful opportunity to talk about families and how each one is unique. Through a variety of storybooks, the children explored the diversity of families, learning that it is something to be celebrated and embraced.

After that, we embarked on our very first forest school sessions for the Pre-School children, whilst Nursery focused on outdoor learning in their class groups. For young children, learning through play—especially outdoors—is a crucial way to foster development. The forest school environment is invaluable for emotional and physical growth, providing hands-on, sensory-rich experiences.

We started by introducing the children to the routines and boundaries of the forest, before moving on to exploring signs of autumn, building animal dens, sledging, and even starting some basic woodwork with bow saws.

Alongside our forest school adventures, we spent time focusing on autumn itself. The changing season sparked curiosity in the children, who eagerly explored autumn-themed sensory activities, listened to stories, and discussed the signs of autumn around them.

This naturally led us to our celebration of Harvest. The culmination of this theme was a memorable 'Harvest in the Woods' event, where the children sang autumnal songs around a campfire with their families and enjoyed a range of outdoor activities in the woodland.

After the half-term break, we turned our attention to the many celebrations that fill the months of October and November. From Halloween to Bonfire Night to Diwali, we explored a wide variety of cultural festivities, which helped the children learn about the diverse ways that people celebrate around the world. The excitement in the classrooms was palpable as they learned about these traditions, expanding their understanding of different cultures.

As winter took hold, the magic of the season filled our classrooms. The children's enthusiasm for the changing environment was contagious as they observed the first frosts, went on winter walks, read stories about the season, and explored sensory trays filled with wintery themes.

Looking back on the term, we are incredibly proud of our youngest Copthillians and all the progress that they have made in these early stages of their learning journeys. We wish all our Nursery and Pre-School families a restful and joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Miss Beth Hanham

Early Years Lead

Early Years photo album



[CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM](#)





Sport



Hockey and Cross Country champions

As the leaves have fallen and the nights have drawn in, we conclude what has been an action-packed and hugely successful Autumn Term of sport. Remarkably, we lost only one week to the weather, allowing pupils across the school to enjoy a full and varied programme.

From the youngest learners to the top of the school, the progress made has been exceptional. We are delighted to see new talent emerging lower down the school, with pupils growing in confidence, skill, and teamwork each week.

It is exciting to see such potential developing, and we look forward to watching this next generation of athletes continue to flourish. Our oldest pupils also continue to set a wonderful example, many of whom are now preparing to showcase their sporting talents to their prospective secondary schools.

The boys gave an excellent showing at the ISA Rugby competition, where our squad performed above expectations. The improvement from the Wednesday before the tournament was remarkable, and their teamwork, resilience and determination were clear to see throughout the day. Continuing with rugby, our Year 4s have been a particular delight this term; their enthusiasm and understanding of the game have grown significantly, and the tap-tackle spectacle has quickly become one of the most enjoyable moments for Mr Smith!

Hockey also brought its share of excitement, with our girls travelling to the iconic Lee Valley Stadium in London for the ISA tournament. They rose to the occasion brilliantly and returned as Plate Champions, a fantastic achievement that reflects their commitment and growing skill levels.

Gymnastics has been equally impressive. Our Year 3 pupils demonstrated truly superb vaulting, bravely tackling squat-throughs. Especially commendable given that many only have gymnastics experience through their school PE lessons. Their progress and willingness to take on new challenges have made us incredibly proud.

One of the most impressive accomplishments of the term came from our U11 Girls Cross Country team, who triumphed at the Witham Hall event in October. Delivering on an achievement we have not celebrated for many years, their collective strength, teamwork and mutual encouragement were inspiring, and they thoroughly deserved their victory.

There is no let up in the sporting action as we approach the final weeks of term. The excitement is building for the inter-house rugby and hockey competitions, and for Upper School we also have the inter-house climbing competition, whilst we complete the term on an appropriately festive note as we all look forward to taking part in the Cophill Santa Dash!

Across the board this term has been filled with effort, enjoyment and significant achievement. As always, we thank all our pupils for their enthusiasm, staff for their dedication, and families for their ongoing support. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the Spring Term 2026, with even more sport, challenge and opportunity awaiting!

Mrs Gemma Alcorn
Head of Sport

Sport photo album

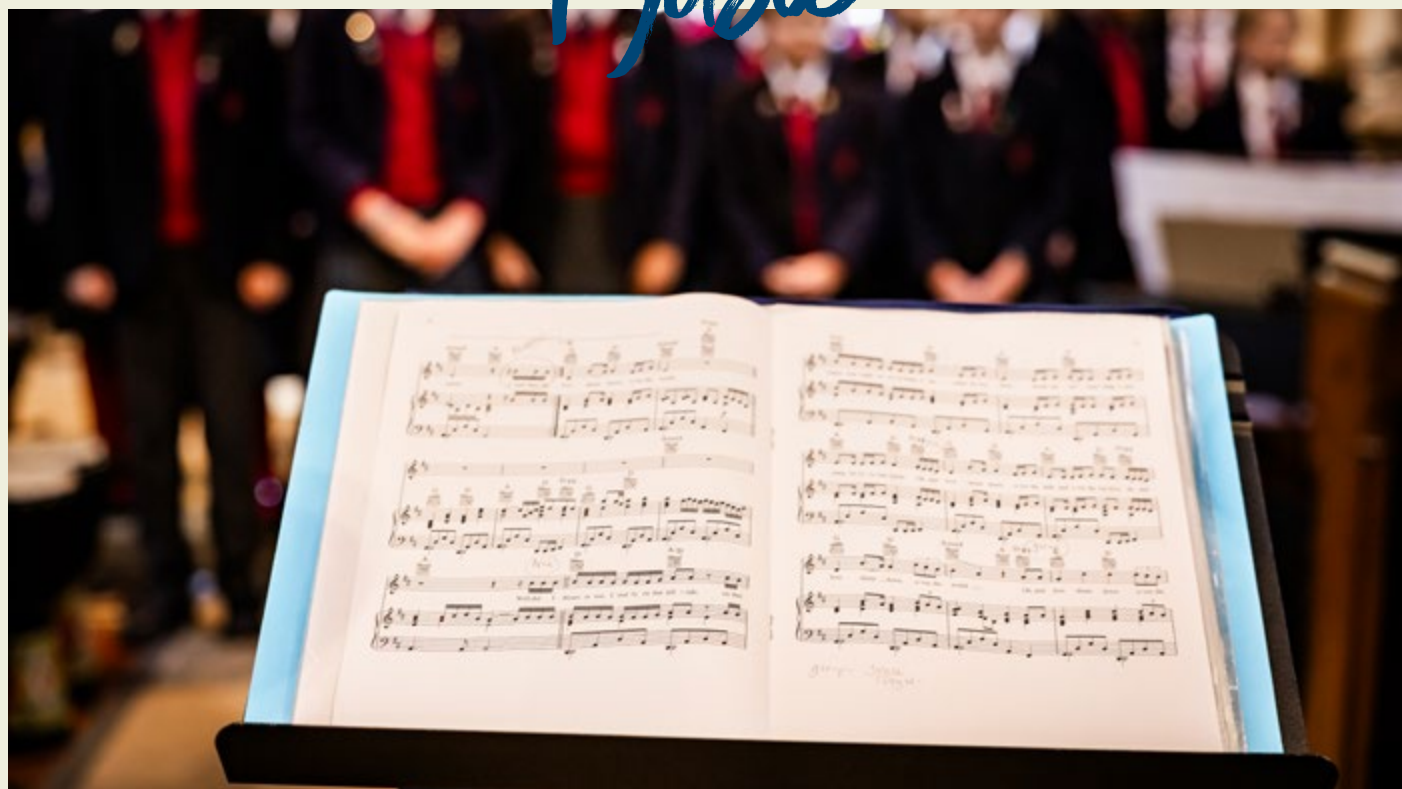


[CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM](#)





Music



From conkers to carols

As always Harvest is a special time and what better way to start the term than with a special Middle School Harvest Festival Service at Uffington Church with our new Year 4 recorder ensemble performing for the first time and our Middle School Choir treating us to a beautiful performance of 'Sing to the Lord of Harvest'. 'Harvest Boogie' was played brilliantly by our Chamber Trio and we all loved singing 'Let's Harvest' and 'Conkers' with gusto!

We enjoyed Harvest music in the woods with Early Years and the whole school came together for a musical Harvest Festival performance in the hall with our Orchestra, Woodwind Ensemble, Choirs and full Recorder Ensemble performing a delight of Harvest music. Lower School Choir had great fun performing their 'Beans' song but it was the Reception Year group that stole the show with their 'Shiny Conkers' song complete with a visit from a very cheeky squirrel!

The Year 6 Remembrance Service was a very moving experience with beautiful solo violin playing by Molly and a stirring performance of the Benedictus from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace, from our Chamber Group with percussionist Bertie and our Year 6 Chorale members. Ex Copthillian Joshua played the Last Post for us with perfect composure.

Our newly formed Copthill Chorale is an auditioned choir made from Year 4, 5 and 6 singers. We are involved in an exciting choral scholar programme with Uppingham School. Mr Jeremy Jepson works with us in rehearsals preparing repertoire to sing at the chapel services.

Our Advent Carol Service was a very special event where we joined the Chamber Singers of Uppingham as well as Brooke Priory Choir singing Warlock's 'Adam Lay Y Bounden' and Lindley's 'Ave Maria'.

Following the whole class instrument immersion projects, this term has seen group instrumental lessons in woodwind, brass and strings. The sessions have had a great impact, not only moving the children on with their instrumental learning but also their musicianship and ensemble skills. Next term we look forward to moving into individual lessons and taking the learning further.

Our ensembles are thriving and very busy at the end of this term with Christmas performances. The recorder ensemble goes from strength to strength with our new cohort of Year 4 joining our established group of Year 5 players with performances in separate year groups and as a joint ensemble.

Jazz Band, Rock Band, String groups, Woodwind Ensemble and Orchestra as well as four choirs all enjoy rehearsing and performing to audiences throughout the term but especially at Christmas. We had fun with festive hats and decorated instruments welcoming children to school with carols on a chilly morning at the end of term!

We spent a magical time in the hall with Early Years imagining it was the night before Christmas in pyjamas and with special lanterns to sing our favourite Christmas songs. Reception children sang their hearts out in their production of Woolly the Sheep and Our Lower School children gave a fabulous Christingle performance with singing, dancing and a violin duet too.

On a very chilly winter afternoon Year 4 Carols in the Garden gave us all a warmth from the children's carol singing with performances from Year 4 recorders, strings and choir as well as class singing. The children loved singing with their parents in our community carol singing and the snow machine ended our festivities in style!

This year has seen the beginning of our new Festive Piano Series of informal concerts given by our piano teachers Mrs Alford and Mrs Mather. These concerts have delighted audiences over the last two weeks of term.

The Uffington community came together in the Copthill Hall for a festive afternoon of entertainment from both Uffington Primary School and Copthill School with a joint orchestra performance and performances by choirs from each school as well as string and woodwind performances before we all enjoyed community carol singing.

Upper School Carol service at church marks the end of our Autumn Term. A beautiful solo of Once in Royal Davis's City sung by Shae began our service followed by a delight of music bringing joy through recorder playing, singing, drumming and saxophone too. From traditional carols to Robbie Williams' 'Angels' our children sang from the heart and gave us a truly special moment of Christmas sparkle taking us into the holiday with a glow.

We say farewell to Mr Dash this Christmas and thank him for his super drum teaching over the last few years.

Christmas is a magical time of year and music is at the heart of our school festive celebrations. Thank you to our amazing team of music teachers that make all of these performances possible through their inspirational teaching and enthusiasm allowing our children to shine so brightly.

Merry Christmas

Mrs Suzanne Over
Head of Music

Music photo album



[CLICK TO VIEW ALBUM](#)



See you next term!

