

Verbiér, 16 January 2021

*Dear Copperfield parents & students,*

Thank you for your enthusiasm, encouragement and trust in this our first week of operations. There has been a palpable sense of joy among the students to be here in our marvellous site, and to get to know each other and the educators. How lucky we are to have had such a good start.

Thanks also for your feedback on a range of issues as we get started - we're grateful for your support and will need more of it as we sort out these early kinks in the road. We are grateful when you point out ways we can improve and take all of your suggestions seriously.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

We are updating how we communicate with you and will be using the following media:

- Telephone calls
  - We will use traditional phone calls for urgent matters. We can be reached anytime on +41 27 520 61 00.
- Threema
  - The school's MMS is migrating to Threema and will no longer send WhatsApp or text messages to you about your child. We believe that Threema is the only MMS whose privacy standards are approved by the Swiss Government. You can download it here: <https://threema.ch/en/download>.
  - Threema will be used to send "on the day" messages such as if a child has left their gloves at home.
- Firefly
  - On 22-Jan parents and students will get access to Firefly. This functions like a wiki for the school, containing curriculum frameworks, policy documents, each child's timetable, the school calendar, and the ability to send messages to all members of the school community. This is where to go to get general information about life in school. Parents and students will be sent their login details and a start up briefing via the primary parent contact email address.
  - Each week of term, a bulletin will be sent via Firefly to all members of the community containing news and updates for the week ahead.
- Website
  - Our website has been updated and continues to be available here: <https://www.copperfield.education/>
- Emails
  - We will continue to use emails for regular communication.



## SKIING

- Meeting points: for registration purposes, please note that individual arrangements for end of day are discouraged.
- Francophones: instructors have been encouraged to speak to the students in French as well as English.

## DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- Please pick-up and drop-off at the main area of the school, at the bottom of the steps. In particular, at the end of the day please ensure that you notify the member of staff on duty there that you have picked up your child. If you would like someone else to pick up your child, please notify us in advance as we need to ensure your child passes safely from our care.
- Car park: we have secured an hour of free parking with Le Hameau. Please may we ask you to refrain from using the parking spaces before the ski locker as these are dedicated to the owner of Le Hameau.

## REFURBISHMENT

- Two areas of the school require refurbishment, which it was not possible to carry out during the Christmas break due to a general respite for local construction workers.
  - Ski locker: this will commence on Monday and we expect it to be completed within 2 weeks.
  - Main site: this will be refurbished in the first three days of this week to upgrade its fire safety, making Copperfield the most fire-compliant school in Verbiér. We brook no compromise in ensuring the safety of your children. In the meantime we will use the restaurant and conference centre of the Hameau, which has picture-portrait views of the duck pond.

## FOOD

We welcome feedback on the food offering after the first week.

## DONATIONS

If you have children's books, games, toys and clothes that you no longer use, we would be delighted to receive them for use in our library, general areas, and as spares in case, for example, students leave their gloves at home.



**COPPERFIELD**  
VERBIER

#### LOST AND FOUND

A box of missing belongings can be found in the entrance of the main area.

#### ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

Please can you indicate by reply if you would like us to source / cater to an additional language beyond English, French and German.

#### NEW STAFF MEMBER

Finally, and with most delight, we welcome to our community Dr Vanessa Jaroski. A Swiss citizen, Dr Jaroski has a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Bern, a Master's in Linguistics from Northeastern, extensive experience teaching languages in both the USA and Switzerland, and has published peer reviewed research on emojis.

Yours faithfully,

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