



Cockwood Primary School  
Cofton Hill  
Cockwood  
EXETER  
Devon. EX6 8RB

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



## Newsletter June 2017

Dear Parents

I have some very important updates this month and then some lovely news from the last month's events in school. I know that holidays and absences from school have been a feature of many conversations across the country of late and I feel that I must inform you of the recent news regarding this.

### Absence to include unauthorised holidays in term time

I have received information this week regarding action that will be taken where pupils do not attend school. As many of you may be aware there has been a long court case linked to a situation with a family in the Isle of Wight. That has now been resolved, and from this the DFE and therefore Devon County Council are now ensuring that there is consistency in how schools operate when a child does not attend. Cockwood School will therefore have to follow the guidelines set and I have summarised these below.

- All absences relating to unauthorised holidays or other absence which is unauthorised for a period of 5 days or more will be subject to a potential penalty notice.
- If a penalty notice isn't paid within a set time or a parent receives further legal action within a two year period then the parent may be subject to a fine of £1000 plus court costs
- Schools have a legal responsibility to communicate regularly with Devon County Council and the Education Welfare Service to ensure all absences are monitored closely. This is something that has always been in place, but there is not clarity on the guidelines regarding school based absences.

In addition to this, schools must be very clear on where a child is if they have not attended school. It is therefore very important that a parent rings in every day if their child is not going to be present. If we have not received a call we currently are phoning on the first day of this absence to see where the child is. This good practice will continue. However, in light of a very serious case review nationally, we wish to insist on the following:

- We have a minimum of 3 contacts for every child, to ensure that if we need to speak to someone urgently we can.
- If we have not heard from a child's parents or a contact person regarding the absence of a child in term time, we will visit the family home on the first day of absence.
- If after the first day we have still not located the child and are unclear on where the child is, then we will contact the police. This is to ensure that we know the child is safe.

These procedures have been put in place in other schools, as it is vital that we know the whereabouts of all children on the days that they should be attending school.

Website: [www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
E-mail: [admin@cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
Telephone: 01626 890471  
Fax: 01626 891425

Could I also ask parents to ensure that we have up-to-date contact details, to include mobile phone numbers and an email.

As parents you have always been very good at completing the absence request form, and I do hope this continues to be the case.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to chat to me at school. If you need to email in an absence then please use the following email address:

[admin@cockwoodschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@cockwoodschool.co.uk). A phone call is much better but please do email if you do not have access to a phone.

### **The Bear Trail Visit - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

This visit is approaching and it will be a super day for the children. Just a reminder to bring all sponsor monies into school by the 14<sup>th</sup> July as we have some super prizes to award to pupils who work hard at their fund raising. Pupils in Year 6 who are on induction days that week can send money in via a sibling, friend or parent.

Sheree in the kitchen will provide packed lunches for all pupils in Year's R, 1 and 2 and if any other children in the school would like one, they are more than welcome. **We need orders before the day and we have attached a slip for you to complete and return to school by Wednesday next week at the latest.** The sandwich choices and further information are on the slip.

We are happy for parents who want to attend this event to come along. There will be a cost of £5 per adult and parents will need to make their own way there I am afraid as we do not have enough space on the coaches as the whole school are attending. If you are planning to attend with a younger sibling, could I also ask that £5 be paid towards their costs and again they are more than welcome. We have to complete in-depth risk assessments for the pupils at Cockwood and any younger children must be clearly supervised by the adult who is taking them as they will not fall into our remit.

Just a reminder that pupils need to **wear old clothes that can get muddy on the day and bring a clean set of clothes and shoes to change into.** If you are planning to attend, please do let us know and we are more than happy for you to transport your child home after the event if you wish.

### **Year 6 and Staff Show - Oliver**

Tickets are on sale and I do hope to see you there. This is a wonderful event and a super opportunity to see the staff and pupils perform. The show is at the Langstone Cliff Hotel on Wednesday next week. Show time is 7:00pm. There will be the odd surprise so it is well worth coming along.

### **Classes for September**

I have spoken to all of the children at school and most parents, but in case I haven't had chance to speak to you directly, here are the classes and their teachers for September.

Class 1 - Mrs Roper

Class 2 - Mr Fenton

Class 3 - Mrs Watts/Miss Buttree

We have our 'move up' afternoons soon, where the children will spend time with their new teacher and we welcome our new Reception pupils to the school. The 'move up' afternoons are Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## Other important dates

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Yr 6 induction at DCC  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July - TCS Induction Period  
Weds 5<sup>th</sup> July - Oliver show  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July - Wimbledon Trip  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July - Bear Trail  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July - DCC Taster morning for Yr 5  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Class 3 Assembly in the village hall at 9:30am  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July - Non uniform and cake sale  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July - Yr 6 Leavers Assembly



## Farmers' Market - Tomorrow

Don't forget our wonderful Farmers' Market tomorrow. Children and staff have worked very hard again this year, with many local businesses coming along to sell their produce. Our amazing Harbourside Chutney will once again be on sale and we look forward to seeing you on Cockwood Village Green from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Staff have been busy putting together fruit and veg baskets, mobilising gazebos and labelling chutney jars! There is plenty to see and buy, so do join us if you can. Thank you in advance to parents and governors who are helping on the day.

## Cornwall Residential

Pupils in Class 1 had a super time in Cornwall and they were able to take part in a variety of activities, to include a trip to Bodmin Jail, Flambards, the cinema, surfing lessons, a sculpture workshop and a visit to an escape room. There are some super photos on the website and well done to all who attended.



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### Road Safety Day

The children responded so well to our Road Safety Day, where we talked about keeping ourselves safe both around the school, but also elsewhere. Thanks to Rob Harvey and Dave Leggett for supporting this day, and to all parents who park thoughtfully and drive carefully around our school. A visit to the police van was particularly enjoyable for the children!



### Sports Day

We have also enjoyed a super sports day, with the children trying their best and working hard for their house teams. It was a great family event, so thank you for joining us. Well done to all who helped make this afternoon so much fun.

The children reacted very positively to the activities they completed in relation to Armed Forces Day and we thank the charity for providing packed lunches for all pupils.



### PFA

50:50 winners for last month.  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £50 to Mrs Hatherley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £26 to Mr I Peattie

### Art Club

Well done to the children who attend our Art Club. It will be on again next Wednesday if you have not received the message regarding this. Please see the attached note from Create a Club.

### Gifted and talented Maths course

Thank you to the parents who helped to support the children in attending a G and T event linked to maths this week. The children told me that they enjoyed the day and 'learnt a lot', which was great to hear.

### Athletics

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 have attended athletics competitions recently and performed very well. A super experience and the pupils were a credit to the school. Well done!



So as you can see, we are busy at school and the children are enjoying many different types of events as we move towards the summer holidays.

Thank you for all of your help in supporting your child at this busy time of year.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Curry

