



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term break. Just a quick reminder that it is really important that the children come to school in the correct uniform as this sets them up to be learning ready. The children need grey trousers/skirt and sensible shoes, preferably dark in colour. If you have any questions please get in touch.

#### School Budget Cuts

Before we read the fantastic news within this newsletter can I mention school budget cuts. Schools are being hit incredibly hard in terms of budget cuts and this has a knock on effect for all children.

Unless the Government allocates more money, schools will lose £3 billion a year in real terms by 2020.

98% of schools' costs are rising faster than their income.

60% of secondary schools are running deficit budgets. Cockwood School is no exception to this and we are looking to be losing a significant amount of funding over the next few years. All fund raising and support from the PFA is crucial for us. I have met with our MP to voice these concerns.

For all new parents, the PFA is our Parent and Friends Association, a small group of parents who give their time and energy into

helping to fund raise and provide great events for our children and families. If you are able to help them carry out these tasks please see Emma or Jodie Butler, or attend the next PFA meeting. This meeting will be scheduled in a few weeks, before the Chocolate Bingo event. We will let you know the date shortly.

Thank you.

#### Recent events

##### Music in the Castle

The children in Years 5/6 were treated to an afternoon of opera at Powderham Castle. 12 children attended a 'Grand Opera' performance in the prestigious James Wyatt room, where they listened to a range of Gilbert and Sullivan, Mozart and more. There were 5 performers present who performed a variety of solos, duets and ensemble pieces with their pianist. They performed for an hour, and then allowed time for a quick Q&A session where our Head Boy, Henry asked a question in front of the room! They told us about their love of music, how they warm up and their favourite songs.

The children really enjoyed being exposed to something new, with some saying they could feel the floor vibrating with the power of their voices! The children represented the school brilliantly, and came



back to school full of excitement about their afternoon.

Professional photos from the afternoon can be seen on the Powderham website

[www.musicinthecastle.co.uk](http://www.musicinthecastle.co.uk)



#### Naming of the community bus

Well done to Kacey Chadwick, who was the winner in the local schools' competition to name the new community bus. You will see **Boris** out and about in the local area and we are very proud that our pupils took part in this. Kacey and her family went to the official naming ceremony and met the local MP, Anne-Marie Morris. You may have seen the article in the Dawlish Gazette.

#### Science Week

Pupils across the school enjoyed Science Week last week, where they had some focussed time on science based investigations. Pupils enjoyed the practical activities and it was wonderful to see them enthused with science.



#### Safer Internet Day

We had a super visit to the school from Rich Cottell, a musician and singer, who provided Key Stage 2 children with some valuable internet safety advice. His approach was fantastic, as the children were thoroughly entertained and came back with some important messages. It did indeed feel like we were at a rock concert and the children have asked for him to return! Thank you to the PFA for contributing £140 towards this event.



#### Exeter City Football Club

Ben Whatmore from Exeter City has worked with pupils in Classes 1 and 3 this term. He has led some great PE sessions with our younger pupils and worked with Class 1 on health and fitness, both in the classroom and beyond. The children responded very well to Ben, who is continuing his after school football club on a Tuesday.



Website: [www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
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### Cross country winners again!

Pupils across the school took part in the DLP Cross Country competition recently and we are proud to say that we retained our title. It was a brilliant performance and a super achievement when we consider that the children ran against much bigger schools. It was a team effort but a special mention must go to the following:

First place girl - Isla Llewellyn-Mayne.  
First place boy and winner - Sam Clifton

Year 3/4 Race - Ollie Clifton 2nd &  
Freddie Cox 6th

Year 5/6 Race - Henry Bradshaw 2nd &  
Angus Peattie 3rd



### Dodgeball at Gatehouse

A super win for our Year 5 Dodgeball Team who played at Gatehouse School. It was a thrilling event and the team took victory with the final throw of the match. Well done to the team and especially Tom Hirst, who caught the final ball and sealed the win.

### MTA Post

Just a reminder that we have a vacancy for a meal time assistant. Please see Mrs Jago for details.

### Swimming

The children in Class 3 had a lovely swimming treat at Cofton, as did Classes 1 and 2 who travelled to Dawlish. Thank you to all parents who supported these events taking place.

### Request

Kevin McGrath, a local resident has approached the school with a request. He is a member of the Cockleshell Mariners and they organise lots of local events which the children attend, such as the Mudfest, Skittles Night, Easter Treasure Hunt and many more.

They need a new local Cockwood, Middlewood, Westwood person to join their committee, who can network with the school and local parents to help advertise particular events. This could simply be to let the school know, chat to other parents on the gate etc. Attendance on the committee would be roughly every 6 weeks if possible. If anyone is interested please let us know.

### PFA Information

Here are some figures showing how the PFA raised much needed funds to help parents and families.

Halloween Disco - £351.58

Christmas Fayre - £1117.99

Polar Express Evening - £165.50

Charity Bingo at the Langstone Cliff -  
£2850

Don't forget the fantastic Chocolate Bingo event on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Bingo books are priced at £2.50 and can be pre-ordered from the office. We are asking pupils to bring a chocolate donation on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March in exchange for non-uniform to support this event.

The next charity bingo event at the Langstone Cliff Hotel is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

#### Sainsburys Active Kids

Please bring these into school to help us to acquire free PE and playground equipment.

#### Some reminders

Fairtrade breakfast - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Parent consultations - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Letters are going home shortly.

Class 1 Rotary Quiz - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Parent Meal Class 1 - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Non uniform day for chocolate donations - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Holi Celebration Class 1 - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Class 2 Assembly - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you for your support as always. Please read the additional information from Nick Tallamy, Chair of Governors.

Kind regards,

**Lorraine Curry**  
Headteacher

#### *Message from the Chair of Governors*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to update you on the Academisation process. We are currently in the process of registering our interest in becoming an Academy with the Department for Education. This process can take a while and it is their decision as to whether they will allow us to become an Academy at this time.

I would like to remind you all that the consultation period is still open and we have received a couple of questions which I have answered directly where appropriate. I will collate all the questions and answers and advise you of them after the consultation period ends.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask, then please do get in touch with myself or Mrs Curry. I propose to hold an informal meeting towards the end of March, where you are all welcome to attend and ask any questions you may have.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

**Nick Tallamy**  
Chair of Governors