



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



May 2017

Dear Parents

Some goodbyes

Sally Stoneman, our catering manager has been with us for 26 years and she is retiring tomorrow. The children have loved 'Sally's café' and she has been an integral part in ensuring that Cockwood is a special place to learn.

Sally will pop in to help us with chutney making and cross stitch, but we will all miss her competitions, her cheery smile and her passion for this school community. We wish her the best of luck in her retirement. Sally's replacement is Sheree and the children have already met her. Jo will continue to support in the kitchen after the holidays.



Mr Harben is leaving us in July. He is moving to a Special School in September. We are very grateful to Mr Harben for everything that he has done for the children at Cockwood and wish him huge success in his new and exciting venture.

We recently appointed an excellent teacher to join our team for September. Daniel Fenton is an experienced teacher with special interests in Maths, Sport and ICT. He will be a huge asset to the school and the children thought he was amazing when he came for his interview day. Well done to the School Council for conducting their candidate interviews with such professionalism. Thank you also to the governors involved in the interview process on the day.

After looking at timetables and classes after half term, I will let you know how teachers are allocated and which class your child is in.

Safety of our children

Thank you so much to all of the parents who support us in trying to keep our children safe. Some of you have received letters from our Governing Body and they welcome your responses. I am still concerned by some drivers and unsafe parking around the school. I am also concerned with the number

of children who run down the hill on pick up. This is a blind corner and children must walk down the road with their parent please. Drivers do not always adhere to the speed limit so if we can all be especially careful we can keep the children safe.

Sats

Well done to our Year 2 and Year 6 pupils who have sat their Sats tests this month. We are very proud of their attitudes and behaviour throughout. You will receive your child's grades at the end of the academic year within their annual school report.

Sport

Pupils in Classes 1 and 2 have enjoyed swimming sessions this month. A Year 3 and 4 team travelled to the Dawlish astro and enjoyed a football tournament.

Gifted and Talented

Pupils in Year 3 and 4 travelled to Killerton House and enjoyed a writing day inspired by the outdoors.

Sun safety/Weather

Please ensure your child comes to school on sunny days with suncream applied and a hat. If your child brings suncream please send it to school with a name label.

We do still have heavy showers and many children do not have a waterproof coat with them. A small coat in their bag is really helpful and will ensure the children get fresh air on wet days.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Please bring in by the end of term please. We buy some super outside sports kit for the children and every voucher is valuable.

50:50 winners

£50 first prize to Mrs Hatherley
£26 second prize to Ian Peattie

Important Dates

Please see the dates attached for end of term events.

Monday 5 th June	Non-pupil day
Tuesday 6 th June	Term starts Cornwall residential for Class 1 pupils
Monday 12 th June	Maths Challenge Year 5 at Maynard School
Week beginning Monday 12 th June	Year 1 phonic screening check
Weds 14 th June	Road Safety Awareness Day
Tuesday 20 th June	Armed Forces Picnic (lunchtime) Sports Day (First date) PM
Weds 21 st June	KS1 Athletics competition Stover School 10:00 - 12:00pm
Friday 23 rd June	Sports Day pm Reserve date
Monday 26 th June	KS2 Athletics 10:00 - 12:00pm Stover School
Thurs 29 th June	Sports Day pm Reserve date 3
Tuesday 27 th June	Gifted and Talented Maths course Year 3/4
Friday 30 th June	Farmer's Market Cockwood Village Green
Weds 5 th July	Staff and Year 6 show - Oliver Langstone Cliff Hotel Evening
Thursday 6 th July	Wimbledon Trip
Friday 7 th July	Bear Trail House Comp - whole school 10:00 - 2:00pm
Monday 10 th July	Move up afternoon to meet new teacher
Weds 12 th July	Move up afternoon to meet new teacher
Thu 13 th July	Reports to parents
Tue 18 th July	Class 3 Assembly 9:30am Village Hall
Weds 19 th July	Parent consultations
Tue 25 th July	Leavers Assembly 9:30am Cockwood Village Hall Last day of term

Parent Survey

Please return if you haven't done so. Well done to Poppy Lowton for winning the special prize of books and chocolate.

Governor Contributions

Nick Tallamy (Chair of the Governing Body) has some important updates on Multi Academy Trusts and Lee White (Health and Safety Governor and Science).

Governor Update on Academisation Process.

This last half term has seen a number of meetings take place regarding the academisation process for Cockwood School. Added to this has been the uncertainty regarding the secondary school places for our current Year 6 pupils. Now that the appeals have been completed and places have been confirmed, I am pleased to announce that Cockwood Primary School is progressing with the plan to become an academy with the intention of joining the Teignmouth Learning Trust.

Teignmouth Learning Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) currently made up of Teignmouth Community School, Mill Lane (Primary) and Teignmouth Community School, Exeter Road (Secondary).

As Governors of Cockwood, we felt that the locality and the connection between ourselves and these schools was an overriding factor in our decision to proceed in this direction. We were also pleased to hear that Kenn & Kenton Primary Schools also intend to join the Teignmouth Learning Trust. It is likely that Cockwood and Kenn & Kenton will become members of the MAT at around the same time allowing all schools the opportunity to mould the structure of the MAT as it increases, to the benefit of all.

I would like to thank the Governing Body and Mrs Curry for all their hard work in getting to this stage and to thank all the parents and carers for their patience in waiting for further updates. I'm sure you all realise that there has been a lot of information to digest and discuss.

I would also like to extend an invitation to contact myself or Mrs Curry with any

questions or comments that you may have regarding this process.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Governor Update from Lee White, Health and Safety Governor

My name is Lee White and I have been a parent governor for over three years and took over the role of Health and Safety around 2 years ago. In order to meet this responsibility I have undertaken a nationally recognised H&S course and also a H&S course designed for schools.

Generally the role of the H&S governor can be summarised as:

- Ensuring the school complies with legislation and follows the best practice in the management of H&S*
- Making sure adequate H&S resources are available to meet requirements*
- Ensuring all staff and students are not exposed to unacceptable risks, and any risks are adequately controlled*
- Making sure that monitoring procedures are in place*

In order to carry this out as fully as possible, the school, the H&S governor and the rest of the governing board have a number of practices and procedures in place such as:

- Employing external companies to carry out specific tasks such as annual boiler checks, fire system checks etc and organising any remedial action necessary*
- Termly governor checks on classroom and outdoor equipment via visual inspections to check that it is all satisfactory. This includes such things as play equipment, wooden benches, drains, structures, and all electrical equipment. If anything is deemed unsatisfactory it is then assigned a time frame and a person responsible for carrying out the action.*
- Termly resource committee meetings are held with a specific section for H&S, where updates on actions, accident logs, fire drills, and reports from external companies are discussed, problems identified and actions put in place.*

As such the school continues to take a proactive and reactive viewpoint with

regards to H&S and makes it an enjoyable and safe environment for all the children and staff.

Can I also take the opportunity to reinforce some issues that comes under the H&S remit.

Firstly can I please remind drivers to limit their speed when approaching the school area and to try and park at the bottom of the hill unless arrangements with the school are already in place. This will limit the possibility of accidents, allow residents to move freely in/out of their properties and will also allow for emergency vehicles to pass freely through the area.

Secondly as the weather becomes hotter and we have prolonged periods of sunny weather, please can I remind parents to supply sunhats and to put suncream on the children when necessary.

Thank you to Nick and Lee for supporting the school and giving up their time.

As you can see it is a very busy half term for teaching staff when we return. There is much to look forward to and we will see the pupils on Tuesday 6th June.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Curry

