



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



29th November 2016

Dear Parents,

Christmas is on its way and we are looking forward to the lovely events that are approaching. It is becoming quite chilly so I can ask all parents to ensure that the children have a warm waterproof coat in school. If the children have PE outdoors they can wear joggers or leggings rather than shorts.

Online safety briefing

Thank you to all parents who attended yesterday's briefing. I understand the difficulties that you face as working parents, hence why we scheduled three briefings at different times during the last year. Unfortunately in past years we have struggled to encourage many parents to join us. As a school, the safety of your child is paramount to staff and governors, hence why we have done our best this year to ensure good attendance at these recent workshops. This in turn helps to protect every child that attends this school. I'm sure that all parents here will support us in this, and thank you to the PFA for helping to fund some of these briefings. I have received some very good feedback from parents so thank you for taking the time to speak to me in person. I would welcome any comments, so that I have an opportunity to respond or act on them and

move forward, with the best interests of the children in our minds.

We thank Simon, who has a huge level of expertise in his field, far more than any of us, and we hope to work with him again. 78% of pupils in Class 1, 88% of pupils in Class 2 and 52% of pupils in Class 3 had a parent representative attend. This is fantastic, so once again can I thank parents for their time and support in helping to keep our children safe. Please take the time to read our monthly newsletter contribution from Glynis Buckle, our Safeguarding Governor.

School Council

The School Council are hosting their Fair Trade Café this week. It is taking place after school on Friday in Class 3. Please join us for a drink and snack. Any cake donations are gratefully received.

Christmas Production

The staff and children have been working really hard on the Christmas performance. We look forward to seeing you at the Langstone Cliff Hotel on Monday. The performance begins at 4:15pm and doors will open at 4:00pm. All other details are on the letters that the children have taken home but please ask if you are unsure.

Could all costumes be sent into school by the end of the week in a named carrier bag. **Could all bus permission slips be brought in by Friday.** There will be a DVD available to buy. We will let you know of the cost should you wish to purchase one.

History Days

Pupils in Classes 1 and 2 had a wonderful day immersing in their topics of the Vikings or World War 2 with Kevin Hicks, founder of the History Squad. The children were very engaged and behaved brilliantly throughout. Thank you to the PFA for the financial contribution.



Pennywell Farm Trip

Pupils in Class 3 had a wonderful day at Pennywell Farm this week. They took part in a nativity with a real donkey, dressed up and met Santa. Staff were told that the children behaved brilliantly and a huge thank you must go to the adults who helped support the visit with us.



Gifted and talented days

Pupils across Classes 2 and 3 have taken part in gifted and talented days centred on either Science or History. A group of children travelled to Trinity School for a special History Day and two groups of pupils travelled to Exeter University to support their learning in Science. Thank you to parents who helped support us in transporting their child to these events.

The Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre will be taking place on Saturday at St Mary's Hall in Dawlish Warren. It begins at 10:30am and finishes at 1:00pm. There will be many stalls, our wonderful choir will be singing and we will have a visit from Santa. Please join us if you can.

Please bring in any cakes, donations for raffles etc. asap.

Prize donations of unwanted gifts, chocolates, alcoholic drinks, vouchers, lucky dip donations for example are all gratefully received.

Please sell your raffle tickets if you can and bring in the counterfoils this week.

Outstanding dinner money

If you have any money owing to the school could this be brought in and cleared before Christmas. Thank you.

Theatre Alibi - The Boy who climbed into the Moon

Please send in any monies for the theatre show which is taking place on 13th December. Thank you to the PFA for their large donation to help support the cost.

Christmas puddings and chutney

Christmas puddings and chutney are on sale. Please see Mrs Jago or Mrs Rose in the office.

Year 6 dictionaries

It was lovely to welcome the Rotary Club in recently, who very kindly presented our Year 6 pupils with a super dictionary.

Christmas Carol Service

The children will be singing carols in the church on the last day of term (Friday 16th). Children are free to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day and their own choice of trousers etc. We will be walking to and from the church so they will need sensible shoes and a waterproof coat. We welcome all governors and parents of Year 6 to join us. We aim to begin at the church at 10:30am and the service should last about 45 minutes.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 15th December.

Carol singing at Sainsburys

Our choir will be singing after school on Wednesday 14th December. Please support them if you are in the area.

50:50 winners

November £50 Carla Custons-Cole
£20 Dan and Charlotte Wilkin
£11 June Snape

Please collect your winnings from the school office.

Please see the information overleaf from Gynis Buckle, **Lead Safeguarding Governor**.

Have a wonderful few weeks as we head towards Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at the show on Monday.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Curry

Keeping Children Safe at School

All staff and Governors at Cockwood Primary school fully recognise that they have a moral and statutory duty to ensure arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children who attend the school and we take our responsibility very seriously.

The following is a list of the ways in which we help to keep our children safe. These are covered in greater detail in our Safeguarding Policy which can be found on our website.

- **Having an up to date Safeguarding policy**

Our Safeguarding policy conforms to the statutory guidance set out in the government's document entitled 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. It aims to define individual and organisational roles and responsibilities for safeguarding. It outlines our legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and the process for managing safeguarding referrals. As the designated Governor for Safeguarding I liaise regularly with the school to review school policies and procedures and reports back to the Governing Body.

- **Having other safeguarding policies**

We also have other policies and statements designed to help to protect our children which include Behaviour Principles, Using and Participating in Social Media, Information and Guidelines for Helpers and Adult Volunteers in Cockwood Primary School, Internet Safety.

- **Checking the suitability of all our staff to work with children**

All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have successfully completed the necessary checks and clearances to enable them to work with children. At least one member of each recruitment panel will have attended safer recruitment training and all new staff are appointed only after a rigorous interview process and full references.

- **Appointing designated people who has additional training in child protection**

We have additional specific training provided for key staff, that is the safeguarding lead (Mrs Curry) and the deputy safeguarding lead (Mrs Watts) to enable them to fulfil their role in this area.

- **Training all our staff to recognise and respond to child welfare concerns**

Staff are trained to recognise signs of possible abuse and being alert to changes in children's behaviour which might indicate abuse or neglect. All staff receive regular training updates in this area.

- **Working in partnership with parents and carers**

We will seek to share with parents and carers any concerns we may have about your child unless to do so may place a child at increased risk of harm. We are committed to working with parents and carers positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents and carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission or it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard a child from harm.

- **Sharing information with appropriate agencies if we have concerns**

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will always ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with their parents/carers first *unless* we have reason to believe that this is not in the child's best interests or a child is at significant risk or in immediate danger.

- **Managing and supporting our staff team**

There are clear guidelines of good practice and a written staff code of conduct to support and protect staff in dealing with safeguarding issues. All staff receive regular training updates in this area.

- **Encouraging pupils to tell us if something is wrong**

All members of staff are trained to listen and allow children to speak freely. They are trained to remain calm and not to over react. They will reassure the child but in no circumstances judge the child or ask investigative questions **There are other ways in which we can work together to help to ensure the safety of our children at Cockwood. This includes ensuring staff are aware of any changes to your child's 'pick-up' arrangements, responsible and considerate parking, internet- safety awareness and diligent use of social media.**

Child protection is a very sensitive issue and it raises many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will do everything we can support our children and you can be assured that any action we take will be in the best interests of your child. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to talk to Mrs Curry or Mrs Watts.

All school policies can be found on the school website under the 'Governors' tab