

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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



20<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Parents,

We are approaching half term and I think the children deserve a well-earned break. Here is some important information and highlights of the term so far.

#### School Council

The School Council have been working hard this term. They have travelled to the Eden Project to explore fair trade and how important it is to pay farmers a fair price for their produce, worked with governors on reshaping the school prospectus and written to local councillors appealing for funds. They meet weekly to look at how they can support the children at school and improve it. A great achievement so far.



#### Harvest

We celebrated a lovely harvest in the church once again this year. Thank you for sharing the afternoon with us and supporting St Petrocs who are always so grateful when they receive our donations. Thanks to Ruth and Val at the church and Mrs Hilliard for putting the celebration together.



#### Mr Popper's Penguins

Class 3 enjoyed a super drama workshop led by Paddleboat Productions this term, centred around a story called Mr Popper's Penguins. This was a great way to engage the children and they thoroughly enjoyed it.



### Red, White and Blue Day

Pupils spent the day thinking about service personnel and helped to raised some funds for very worthy charities. Children re-enacted trench warfare in Class 2 and thought about life for young soldiers in World War 1. Thank you to all parents who donated. We raised £84.10 on the day.



### Race for life challenge

Another super event was the Race for Life Challenge where parents, staff and pupils came together to raise funds for Cancer Research. This was such a worthwhile cause and I am very proud of the achievements of such a small school. £1634.00 has been raised, which is incredible. Well done to everyone, but particularly Mrs Hannaford for organising the day. We are very happy with our medals!



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



### PFA

Thank you to the PFA who have supported many trips so far this term and have purchased 6 new chrome books for the children. This is all much appreciated. The Halloween Disco was a great success this week and I look forward to seeing some photographs! A huge amount of work goes into these events, so thank you from all the staff, parents and pupils. The children have been buzzing with disco news today!

50:50 winners

September £50 Jerry Rogers  
£20 Suzie Squires

October £50 The Hawkins Family  
£20 June Snape

Please collect winnings from the school office.

### Bellever

Class 2 had a wonderful time on their residential this week, staying in a youth hostel on Dartmoor. What a great experience!





### Class 1 bikeability and tennis

Well done to Class 1 pupils who have become better cyclists through their bikeability training and better tennis players through their coaching sessions at Dawlish Tennis Club. A busy term so far!

### Football Tournament

Well done to the children who took part in the recent football tournament. We look forward to more fixtures and sporting events, such as the swimming gala next term.

### Parent Meal Class 3

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined Class 3 pupils for lunch this week. It was lovely to see so many of you here.

### Holiday requests

I recently met with the Education Welfare Officer and can I please urge all parents to take holidays in holiday time and not term time. We cannot authorise any holidays in term time and if you choose to take one, you may receive a penalty notice and fine. There has been discussion amongst parents that holidays in term time will be acceptable as there has been a recent high court ruling in favour of one parent. Devon expects that in due course parents will find things even more strict with holidays and fines will become more common so please think carefully when choosing to take your child out of school.

### Parking

My staff have received many complaints from residents since we returned in September. This can be quite upsetting at times, so can I again urge parents to park at the bottom of the hill and not near the school. We have contacted the police who will be making visits. **Thank you to all parents who support the school and the safety of the children.**

### Cauliflower cards

Orders are due in tomorrow please. The PFA receives commission on any orders.

### New Parent Surveys

Can these be completed and returned to school by the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### Parent Consultations

Just a reminder to get slips in to ensure you get an appointment with your child's class teacher.

### Tempest photos

These are coming home today. Please place orders with Mrs Jago by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### Flu vaccinations

Just a reminder that these go ahead for all pupils in Year's 1 - 3 if parental consent has been given. These will take place tomorrow.

### Poppy Sales

Poppy merchandise is on sale before and after school, in aid of raising funds for the British Legion.

### Clubs after half term

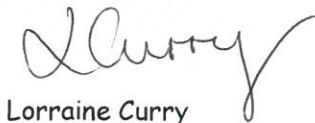
Clubs will resume from **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

Pupils return to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Please see the attached information from Judith McGrath, Vice Chair of the Governing Board regarding feedback.

Have a wonderful half term break and we will see you on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Curry



# Governor Newsletter: Autumn 2016

## Stakeholder Feedback

As governors, we are continually seeking to support and challenge Mrs Curry and her staff to maintain the very high standards currently being achieved both in outcomes for the children as well as their health and happiness. One important aspect of this is for us to find out what all our stakeholders think.

Following a trial last year we have now approved a cycle of feedback for the 2016 – 2017 academic year, which is as follows:

MONTH	AUDIENCE	OBJECTIVES	METHOD
October	New reception parents	1. To measure the induction process and children's welfare and happiness	Paper based
January	Staff survey	1. To identify and measure any critical issues affecting the school's performance and the impact on the children 2. To increase satisfaction, engagement, productivity, and retention	Paper based
January and then a monthly review on a different topic	Children	To allow us the opportunity to make any changes during the academic year on topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behaviour – Nick Tallamy</li> <li>• Safeguarding – Glynis Buckle</li> <li>• Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural – Cliff Curd</li> <li>• Teaching &amp; Learning – Judith McGrath, together with governors with responsibility for each subject area.</li> </ul>	School Council together with designated governor to conduct focus groups discussions
May	Parent survey	To gain views on the school	Paper based
July	Leavers' survey	Their overall experience in terms of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learning &amp; progress</li> <li>2. Safety at school</li> <li>3. Trips, visits &amp; visitors</li> <li>4. Sport, music and clubs</li> <li>5. Lunchtime &amp; playground</li> <li>6. Moving to secondary school</li> </ol>	Focus group discussion
At parents events	Parents	To gain feedback throughout the year	Governors available during parent review meetings to collect verbal feedback





# Governor Newsletter: Autumn 2016

## Stakeholder Feedback

### FINDINGS FOR 2015-2016

#### What do our children think of their school?

At the end of the summer term we conducted 2 surveys to gather our children's feedback: one for 5 – 6 year olds and one for 7-11 children. Copies of the questions asked can be found on the school's website. All children participated and were really helpful with their perceptions and we had some wonderful ideas. Some will be easier to achieve than others and sadly we are not able to extend the school holidays and nor will we in the near future have our own swimming pool! However we will be feeding back to the children through the school council who will be doing some posters to display around the school.

Overall there was a very positive response from all year groups with recurring themes for improvement around playground space and resources. The teachers and staff were praised throughout the responses, with children feeling happy and safe to attend Cockwood School. They all felt they knew who to turn to if they were worried about anything.

#### Perceptions of under 7's

Our younger children all feel they have to work hard in class and find lessons interesting and fun. They feel listened to, are supported to achieve and know when they have done well. They love the trips, writing, playing with their friends, learning, PE and being with teachers and friends.

#### Perceptions of 7 – 11's

100% of respondents liked or loved being a pupil at Cockwood School with teachers and friends cited as the best things about the school.

*"I love coming to this school and would never want it to change"*

This group of children feel the best things about being at school are:

- Being with teachers and friends
- Trips
- Good opportunities
- Everyone being treated fairly.

One of the biggest issues for the older children is in the library where books are not always organised as they should be. The school council have been informed of this feedback and plans are being formulated to address this issue.

#### Improvements

Many of the improvements they would like have been addressed by the installation of the new playground, however there are other things they would like in terms of resources and these will be discussed at the next governor meetings.

One area that we as governors would like to see improve is the number of children who said they didn't read at home. According to research 'Parental involvement in their child's literacy practices positively affects children's academic performance and is a more powerful force for academic success than other family background variables, such as social class, family size and level of parental education (National Literacy Trust). The following is a very helpful leaflet to read, entitled ' Why is reading so important? - by Pearson UK [https://uk.pearson.com/content/dam/region-core/uk/pearson-uk/documents/Learner/Primary/Primary%20parents/Pearson\\_EnjoyReading\\_03.pdf](https://uk.pearson.com/content/dam/region-core/uk/pearson-uk/documents/Learner/Primary/Primary%20parents/Pearson_EnjoyReading_03.pdf)



# Governor Newsletter: Autumn 2016

## Stakeholder Feedback

### Parents' views

This year we have a far higher response rate, up from 26% in 2015 to 64% this year, so many thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the survey and return it to us.

1. MY CHILD .....	Strongly agree	Agree
Enjoys school	72%	18%
Is kept safe	80%	20%
Is treated fairly and with respect	75%	25%
Is expected to work hard and do their best	80%	20%
Is helped to have a healthy lifestyle	80%	20%
Is encouraged to become mature and independent	89%	11%
Is making progress at school	89%	11%

2. I AM .....	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree
Made welcome in the school	85%	15%	
Happy with the quality of teaching	80%	20%	
Satisfied with the amount & quality of information I receive	79%	21%	
Kept well informed about how my child is getting on	79%	19.5%	1.5%
Given sufficient access to meet and discuss any issues I have	75.5%	24.5%	
Happy with the school lunches	75.5%	24.5%	
Satisfied with the condition of the school buildings	74%	24.5%	1.5%
Happy with the quality of school clubs	79%	18%	3%
Made aware of what the school's Governors do	59%	41%	





# Governor Newsletter: Autumn 2016

## Stakeholder Feedback

3. THE SCHOOL .....	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree
Ensures the children's vision is met	67%	33%	
Promotes worthwhile attitudes and values	80%	20%	
Provides a broad and balanced curriculum	77%	23%	
Offers a good range of activities, that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	90%	10%	
Sets the right amount of homework for my child	59%	36%	5%
Meets my child's needs	77%	23%	
Is led and managed well	79%	21%	
Informs me regularly about my child's progress	69%	29.5%	1.5%
Makes sure my child is well prepared for the future	72%	23%	5%
Has appropriate procedures for dealing with complaints	79%	19.5%	1.5%
Deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	70%	25%	5%
Encourages me to be involved in its life and work	72%	25%	3%
Communicates effectively with its parents	71%	27.5%	1.5%
Takes account of my suggestions and concerns	75%	25%	
Website is a useful source of information	69%	31%	
Website is easy to navigate and I can find what I am looking for	72%	26.5%	1.5%

### In summary

Overall parents are once again very happy with the school. Some of the fantastic comments we received included:

- I could not be happier – wonderful school in every way
- Thank you for all the amazing opportunities you give our children. We are very lucky.
- After school clubs are fantastic and we really appreciate the teachers giving up their time.
- The staff are lovely and genuinely care
- We're very pleased – and proud – of Cockwood School. Thank you and well done!
- Cannot fault this school
- Fantastic school in all areas.

You have also made some helpful comments about what we can try to include going forward and we will feed back what we have done in relation to your and the childrens' views in the January newsletter entitled 'You said.... We did...'

*Judith McGrath, Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee*