



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



13th September, 2016

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn Term. It is lovely to be here in school and we are busily working on our new learning tasks. Curriculum maps are coming home this week, which will give you an overview of the term. We say a huge welcome to our new pupils who have joined us and we hope they will all enjoy their time at our school. Welcome to Lacey, Rebecca, Joshua, Oskar, Lewis, Barclay, Savannah, Otto, Olivia, Lexie-Mae, Paddy, Charlie, Frankie, Noah and Sienna. We also welcome Daniel Fenton, Class 2 teacher and Mary-Jane Rayner who is assisting us as a temporary meal time assistant.



School Council

Our School Council has been elected and we have a new Head Boy and Head Girl. Well done to Tom and Chloe who will work with Isla N, Leo, Kacey, Faith, Freddie, Alix, Ollie, Isla L, Isla H and Harry. We look forward to seeing the difference they can make in improving our school.

The Council will be led by Tom and Chloe, who will meet weekly and who have an important task in helping to shape our school for the coming year.

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The new playground

Our younger pupils are enjoying the new playground area. Thank you to Mrs Watts for securing the £10,000 grant to ensure that the work could be carried out. The train, story-telling chair, new surface, stage, water track and sand pit are being used daily, which is wonderful to see.

We are in the process of improving the playground further by adding a sail shade near our basketball court. This is in preparation for a large community event we will be holding in the school later in the term. More details are to follow.

Science Quality Mark

Can I just let you know of some brilliant news. The team at Cockwood, led by Mrs Watts have been working hard to improve the quality of science provision in the school, and this will continue to be the case. I am very pleased to announce that after a rigorous assessment process the school has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark at Silver level. A huge well done to Mrs Watts in particular and this is a fantastic base to build on for this year. We look forward to seeing the exciting science activities take shape for this coming year!

School dinners

Sheree and Jo are busy preparing some wonderful school meals. We took on board some of the feedback from last term and portion sizes have been increased to meet the needs of some of our older pupils.

I am sure that you are aware of the budget constraints for schools at the moment. We currently subsidise our on-site kitchen at a significant cost, as we felt that it was essential to

have this provision. Numbers of children choosing a school meal have dropped dramatically since we have returned after the summer holiday and I think it is important for me to point out that if we do not meet a certain number of meals every day then the costs for the school increase further. Many schools of our size have not retained a kitchen on site and have meals brought in daily from outside providers. We do not want this for Cockwood as I am sure you do not, so I think it is important that you are aware of how we fund our kitchen. Sheree and Jo are very good at adapting particular dishes to suit the needs of the children but if you have any questions or points you would like to raise let me know.

A very important day is census day, which is Thursday 5th October. Our funding support for pupils' meal costs for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 is decided based on the number of children in these year groups who have a meal on this day. Could I ask all parents of children in school, and particularly in Foundation and Key Stage 1 to ensure your child has a school meal provided by the kitchen on this day if at all possible.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

We have a very hardworking group of parents who organise events and raise funds for the children and families of this school. They are always in need of additional help and support so if you have a little time your efforts would be greatly appreciated. You will often see me or my team thanking the PFA for helping to subsidise trips for example, and all children at the school benefit from their hard work. We are able to purchase ipads and playground equipment because of their fund raising efforts and this is crucial for our school. The charity bingo event at the Langstone Cliff is tonight if you are able to attend, and the PFA will be in touch with meetings, dates etc. very soon.

CAP Workshops (Child Assault Prevention)

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the CAP workshop this week. The children will take part in their workshops soon and we hope that the letter sent home was informative. If you have any further questions by all means contact the Devon CAP Team directly or have a word with Mrs Watts.

Pets as Therapy Read 2 Dogs programme

Ruth will be returning to school this year with Beeble the dog. This scheme has been designed to give pupils the opportunities to increase their confidence and enjoyment in reading. Letters including a parental permission slip will come home to parents throughout the year when it is your child's turn to participate in this activity. This programme was very well received last year, so we look forward to seeing Ruth and Beeble again soon.



New Sports Coach

We welcome Lucy Burch to the school who has replaced Nathan Keast as our sports coach on Fridays.

Class 1 Visit to Montacute House

Letters went home providing information linked to this school visit for Wednesday 27th September. Thank you to the PFA for helping to support the cost of this valuable visit.

Class 2 Parent Meal

Class 2 parents we look forward to seeing you for the Class 2 Parent Meal on Wednesday 27th September. A letter has been sent to you with the details.

Theatre Alibi - Whole School

This theatre group is excellent and we welcome them to the school on Tuesday 10th October to perform Apple John. Please return the slip and a voluntary contribution before the date to ensure that the production can go ahead for all children. Thank you again to the PFA for helping to support the cost of this event for all children.

Sports in School Event - Whole School

The pupils will be taking part in a sports event on Friday 29th September. This is very exciting as the children will be exercising with Dan James, a Paralympic Footballer throughout the day. Each group of children will complete some circuit based activities with Dan, and he will also spend some time talking to the children in assembly about his life and sport in general. I will send home a pack of information for every child next week, which will include some sponsor forms. We are hoping to raise funds to support Sports for Schools and the good work they do, and also to raise funds to buy sports equipment for the school.

Mealtime Assistant

Just a reminder that we have a vacancy for a meal time assistant, either every day or part of the week if this is preferable. The post has been advertised in the Dawlish Gazette but if you are interested please ask Mrs Jago for an application pack.

School Bus

There are some places available on the privately run community bus. If you are interested at all please contact Suzie Squires on 07881954193.

PE Kit

Some of our pupils in Classes 1 and 2 are not bringing in PE Kit on a regular basis. PE Kit needs to be in school for this half term and to go home at the end. PE lessons continue to be on Tuesdays and Fridays for these classes and Wednesday and Friday for Class 3 children. We want to ensure that the children exercise as often as possible so if your child does not have their kit we will still be encouraging them to take part in the lesson where possible or borrow kit from lost property if we have anything. If children are not able to improve in this area then we will be thinking of creative ways to encourage them to bring kit to school. Can I ask all parents to ensure that your child has the correct kit in school please, and the correct footwear. Some school shoes are looking very much like trainers and this is not the uniform for the school. Any questions at all please have a chat with me or your child's class teacher. We are here to help.

Parking

Could I urge all parents to be mindful of the residents and our children's safety. Please park away from the school gates, preferably at the bottom of the hill or on Kenbury Crescent.

Please also drive slowly through the village, as the roads are narrow and safety must always be our first priority.

Harvest

You will shortly receive a letter regarding our annual harvest celebration at St Mary's Church Cofton.

Just for information at this stage, the rehearsal will be for Classes 1 and 2 only on **Tuesday 3rd October (afternoon)** so these children will need to be collected at 3:15pm from the church if possible. The celebration itself will be on **Wednesday 4th October (morning)**. The children will need to be dropped off at the church on this day. We normally have our harvest at around 9:15am but we will confirm all details soon. We will arrange for the Rosie Bus to drop off and collect the bus children from the church on these days. **Just a reminder that we can only allow 2 people per family as the church is so small.**

School photographs

This will take place on Thursday 19th October.

Elf performance in Plymouth

For those families who signed up for this in the summer, the children will be travelling down to Plymouth on Monday 13th November. This was previously offered to children in Years 4, 5 and 6. We do however have a few seats left so are able to offer this trip to children in Year 3. A letter with further information will be sent home tonight.

Half Term Dates

The Half Term holiday runs from Monday 23rd October through to Friday 27th October. We have a **non-pupil day on Monday 30th October** so pupils will return to school on **Tuesday 31st October**.

Parent consultations

These will take place during the afternoon and early evening on Monday 6th November and Tuesday 7th November.

Phonic Workshop - Class 3 Parents

Just a reminder of the date - 3:45pm on Tuesday 10th October with Mrs Watts.

Non uniform and cake sale

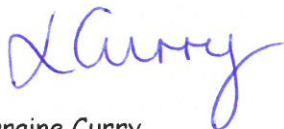
This will take place on Friday 20th October.

Class 1 Assembly for parents

This will take place on Thursday 9th November at 9:30am in the village hall.

We look forward to a busy and productive term. Please do pop in and have a chat to me or the team if you have any concerns or feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Curry
Headteacher