

# Cockwood Primary School



Reflection



Teamwork



Learning Journey



Perseverance



Grow and Succeed

## Leadership Report **Spring Term 2017**

Presented in collaboration by *Governors and Teachers* - March  
2017

## **1. Staffing:** *NT & LC*

### **1a. Staffing & Organisation**

We will be losing a Teaching Assistant at Easter. Brigitte Hawkins will finish her TA role in Class 3 (Thursdays and Fridays) at Easter, but continue 2 afternoons a week in Class 2 until September. She will be continuing as Clerk. Brigitte's position will be filled by existing staff for the Summer Term.

Discussions have been held relating to the TA cover for the next school year. Decisions have been made and we will retain the amount of cover we currently have.

#### **Governors**

At the next Full Governing Body meeting in April, we will welcome Andy Lawrence as the new LA Governor. Andy will serve on the Resources committee. Andy has 2 daughters at the school, one in Class 3 and one in Class 2.

### **1b. Staff Development**

Investment in the development of our staff continues to be very important and with almost no training budget available for next year, we need to make sure that we are selecting the most effective training courses that will deliver the most impact for our pupils.

Any training that is undertaken is reported on and disseminated to all staff at regular staff meetings.

To date, the following courses have been attended or are planned for this term (early next term).

- The whole of the teaching staff have had a follow-up on the Maths training that was held last term.
- Lorraine Curry and Lewis Harben have also completed a training course on Maths Improvement at Key Stage 2.
- Lewis Harben has also attended an Administering Year 6 SATs training course in preparation for this term.
- Alison Roper has attended a Mastery in the Curriculum training course as well as attending further Somerset Literacy meetings on behalf of the school.
- The whole of the teaching staff have also undergone further Somerset Literacy training.
- As the lead in Literacy for the school, Alison Roper has attended a Literacy Shed training day, focussing on enhancing the quality of writing and inspiring pupils to write.
- Both Lorraine Curry and Alison Roper attended a School Pupil Tracker Assessment training session.
- Lorraine Curry also attended the DAPH conference where SEN, funding and assessment were the major topics discussed.
- Lorraine Curry was joined by Sue Jago at a Budget Workshop where the new finance system was a point of focus.
- Gill Watts has attended an Early Years training course where the focus was on Outdoor Provision.
- Gill Watts has also attended a training course related to the Science Quality Mark.
- With additional students coming to the school for their placements, Gill Watts has

also attended a course on Student Mentoring.

- Karen Hannaford has attended a Mindfulness course earlier this term and will be tasked to practise this methodology with pupils and disseminate to all staff.
- Lorraine Curry has also had a refresher course for Fire Safety Awareness.
- All staff have had their interim appraisal meetings, including the Head Teacher.

### **1c. Initial Teacher Training**

We have had Laura Pearce (Student Teacher) in Class 3 for this term, who has proved herself to be a very effective teacher. Laura will be leaving us at Easter to take up a full time position elsewhere.

In Class 2 we have had Savannah Quantance (Student Teacher) who will also be leaving us at Easter. We have also provided a platform for Bethany Harris, a college student, who is studying Early Years.

### **2. Pupil Numbers: *NT & LC***

There are currently 95 pupils on the register.

Regarding the intake for 2017/18, again our PAN is set at 12; however we have agreed to take 14, which could rise to 15 if required.

### **3. Attendance: *NT & LC***

The attendance for the term to date (March 26<sup>th</sup> 2017) is 96.1% (for the year to date 97.0%). The attendance has fallen this term due to a serious outbreak of sickness across the whole school.

Requests for absences will continue to be monitored by the Head Teacher and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, in line with our School's policy.

Pupil Premium children have achieved 96.5% attendance this term and our children with a Statement of Educational Needs have achieved 98.7%. Those who receive some form of SEND support have achieved 97.2% attendance for the year to date.

Nick Tallamy attended a Babcock training course on Attendance where they mainly discussed issues that didn't affect Cockwood School at this time. However it is important to be aware of the issues before they directly impact Cockwood.

A number of Best Practice points were identified and will be discussed with the Head Teacher.

### **4. School Improvement Plan**

#### ***A. Outcomes for Pupils – Writing BF***

An external literacy audit highlighted some positive findings, with evidence of very good standards achieved across the school in writing, particularly in Year One.

Other observations have questioned the inconsistency between the quality and quantity of work produced by Year Four girls in Class Two compared to Year Four boys in Class One.

Additional staff meetings have been devoted to improving writing, with the coordinator also benchmarking standards across other local schools.

## **A. Outcomes for Pupils – Reading** *BF*

A recently introduced reading reward system has started to address a reluctance by some parents to read with their children in the evenings. Over twenty parents attended a school based training session and staff have been matched to appropriate CPD opportunities.

There have been targeted grammar and spelling interventions for Gifted and Talented Year Six pupils in response to the recent external literacy audit.

School Benchmark Screening Reports for Year Six indicate an increase from 58% to 83% of pupils at or above the appropriate level. For Year Two they indicate an increase from 30% to 67% of pupils at or above the appropriate level.

## **A. Outcomes for Pupils – Maths** *RH*

White Rose Maths Hub is becoming embedded particularly in Class 1 and Class 2 and is proving to be a very effective teaching tool.

Regular monitoring of progress continues with Star Maths and SPTO and interventions have been taking place over the last 10 weeks using the Success@Arithmetic Number Sense. LC will feedback with a clearer picture of outcomes at the end of the term.  
SIP: Year 5 – On track to meet 50% of pupils to meet expected standard  
Year 6 – 67% of pupils achieving expected standards is not clearly on track. Intervention with pre-teaching and maths boosters are taking place daily with TB, LC and LH.  
Boys v Girls – To improve progress for boys in maths to be more in line with girls is on track.

STAR	At/above	Working towards	Intervention	Urgent intervention
Year 6	10	2	0	0
Year 5	12	0	1	0
Year 4	10	2	0	0
Year 3	14	0	0	0
Year 2	8	3	0	1

A maths grant was awarded, which covered maths training for all staff in developing teaching within a mastery curriculum, using resources to enhance provision.

## **A. Outcomes for Pupils – Science** *LW*

Lots of developments with Science at the school.

Primary School Quality Mark (PSQM) on course to be submitted in June 17. Silver mark is hoped to be achieved.

Science week was a great success with all classes focusing on scientific investigations ranging from balloon racing, to dissolving skittle sweets, to making parachutes out of plastic bags.

Science club is being run during the Spring Term and is greatly enjoyed and even posts on

Twitter.

From this club and based on the science lessons in class, Science Leaders have been established and have been used to help younger children with science including some pupils from Trinity Nursery.

A STEM challenge is planned before the Easter break and will involve the transportation of an egg by a wheeled vehicle. Key stage 1 will be judged on distance travelled in the hall while Key stage 2 will also have to navigate an obstacle course.

DCC Science challenges also continued to be supported.

Forest school is due to start during the Summer Term.

## **B. Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment** *JM*

### **Reviews**

2<sup>nd</sup> external literacy audit this academic year by Sarah Cook.

She looked at literacy across the school and there are some positive findings. Evidence of writing is very good across the whole school.

Year 1: very impressive impact of interventions and level of improvement in children's work

Class 1 and especially year 6 evidence was considered with improvements required in planning and spelling.

Gill Winston from Babcock conducted joint observations

Classes 1 & 2, and a learning walk (Class 3) with LC.

LC fed findings back to individual staff, which has led to individual areas to focus on. One outcome is the need for Middle Leaders training for subject areas (LH Maths, AR English and GW (EY).

### **Assessment**

LC is very confident that the staff are very knowledgeable in terms of what is expected and standards, and this will help when work goes to moderation.

LH and AR met to do joint writing moderation.

### **Training/CPD**

All class teachers attended a 2 hour training session after school to consider how to get children at expected and greater depth, drilling down to fully understand what these mean.

LC:

- To visit a teaching school to see how this might work for us.
- Will investigate SKIT, as this could be good professional training for our staff.
- Had an informal meeting in January with Kenn, Kenton and Mill Lane schools on writing and to review what each school is doing. She will now plan joint staff training going forward.
- Set a focus for staff meetings: assessment, drilling down for writing, achieving greater depth across all subjects, how to use pupil tracker effectively.

### **Reading**

Some parents are still not reading at home with their children and this is hampering their

progress. A parents' reading workshop was held in February, and over 20 parents attended. Teachers have also started a reading reward system. For those children that have read at home 5 times in a week, and can prove it, names will go into a ballot and 3 names will be pulled out every Friday to win a prize.

### **Science**

The science focus this term is about improving consistency and achievement, in line with achieving the Science Quality Mark.

- GW has responsibility for Science and will manage Science teaching across the school, as there is a need for closer monitoring
- The school is trying to assess science better, so this subject is now on Pupil Tracker. It took time to upload and now gaps in learning are highlighted and it is the teacher's responsibility to fill these gaps.
- LC purchased DfE recommended on line science scheme of work for years 1 -6 with layering activities.
- GW is running a Science club after school on Wednesdays

### **Writing**

There is a drive across the school for writing in non-core subjects. Staff will bring in children's books and there will be a joint review of progress to date.

### **Reading request for governors**

To support the children and help them progress, if any governors are able to come into school from 09:00 to 09:30 any day to hear children read this would be of great value.

## **C. Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare *NT***

Across the school, the children are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and make decisions that will impact on their progress. This includes the selection of their own reading material from the school library and the ability to bring books in from home to read and contribute to their Accelerated Reader points. Each pupil in Class 1 is set a target and if reached will be able to attend a party at the end of term.

A series of weekly Mindfulness sessions were held throughout last term for up to 6 pupils. All of these pupils responded well to the sessions and have benefitted from them. This prompted the school to send Karen Hannaford on a Mindfulness course and Karen is now able to operate these sessions as well as disseminate the skills to the rest of the staff.

At Christmas time, the school entered an online competition for the "Best Dressed Christmas Tree". With the support of parents and friends, our tree received the most online votes and a prize was awarded. The management team decided to reward the children with an additional opportunity to go swimming and spend some social time as a group outside of the school environment.

Pupils from Class 2 took part in a Puppet Workshop, watching a professional outfit perform, then created their own puppets for a special puppet show that was performed at their class assembly.

A number of pupils with a specific interest in music were invited to Powderham Castle to

listen to a range of professional musicians and opera singers.

Just before Easter, Class 1 took part in the annual Rotary Club School Quiz. The team, consisting of all the pupils of Class 1 answered some really tough questions and came out on top, winning the trophy once more.

The School Council has been very active this term with a new structure involving more regular meetings. The Council continue to be asked to contribute to the School Assembly every half term. The School Council has been working on creating a new School Prospectus with governors which is nearing its completion.

A Fairtrade breakfast was organised and run by the School Council and was particularly successful.

The School Council have also presented to several schools at an event at Westcliff School, based on their previous "business trip" to the Eden Project.

The School Council have sought the approval of the school to donate £300 towards a Phonics Scheme for a school in Ghana.

E-safety workshops have been run for the children and for parents, with the children being encouraged to ensure their parents attend a workshop. The NSPCC have been into school and spoken to the children about safety.

A SAFER Internet Day was held for KS2 by Rich Cottell. This was greatly received by the children and valuable lessons were learned.

## **D. Leadership and Management** *NT*

Lorraine Curry recently attended a DAPH Conference where the main focus of discussion was funding. Other topics discussed included SEND and Assessment. The knowledge gained from this conference will continue to assist in moving the school forwards.

A number of lesson observations have taken place this term, both internally and externally, with the Leadership Team being able to regularly check the quality of the lessons, alongside our Babcock Advisor. A writing review across the school has also been conducted with and the impact of the last review assessed. We can see some big improvements in some year groups and the school is moving forward.

Governors will continue to work with the teaching staff to better understand the marking and assessment policies, attributed to their designated subjects.

The Leadership Team have continued to look at the opportunities available to link with other schools, particularly through a MAT arrangement. Regular meetings have been held with Lorraine Curry and the Head Teachers of Kenn & Kenton and Mill Lane. The focus of these meetings has been to build working relationships prior to linking through the MAT process. A recent meeting concentrated on writing across all the schools, where elements of best practice were shared.

The expansion of the school has again hit a number of obstacles. Lorraine Curry and Nick Tallamy have had meetings with the Local Authority and with Anne-Marie Morris (MP) in order to try and identify a way that the proposed plans could proceed. Unfortunately, there are a number of environmental issues that require discussion with Teignbridge Planning Authority that are preventing the school from taking advantage of the land offered to us.

This is an ongoing and sensitive issue and further updates will be given at the Resources and Full Governor meetings.

## **5. Curriculum Enrichment:** *JM & LC*

Very busy term as teachers work hard to embed maths and literacy into all subjects, e.g. helping children to practise grammar, punctuation and extended writing.

### **School Council**

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight the School Council presented their findings from the visit last term to the Eden project.

### **Class 2**

Class 2 are doing an India project which is proving fun as well as educational.

An Indian visitor came in to run a Hindu workshop and this week they are doing traditional paint throwing.

NSPCC project at KS2 linked to Childline and understanding all about keeping themselves safe.

### **Class 1**

Taking part in a Rotary Quiz as a Devon competition

### **World Book Day** – March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Children celebrated World Book Day with a range of activities. An author came into school and did storytelling with each class. The children all dressed up and enjoyed reading with each other.

### **Science**

A Science Week was held as curriculum enhancement to push science. The children did practical activities every afternoon for a week.

### **Music**

African drumming workshop in January

February – Years 5 & 6 attended an opera event at Powderham Castle.

## **6. Early Years:** *TW/GW*

Class 3 children have continued to enjoy an exciting curriculum this term with their topic of Journeys. The children have continued to have daily phonics learning and putting this into practice during class literacy sessions. In numeracy they have been learning to read, write and sequence numbers up to 20 amongst other numeracy topics. They have also been making biscuits and enjoyed sharing book day with children in other classes. Class 3 has enjoyed some PE sessions with Ben Whatmore (ex Cockwood pupil) from Exeter City developing their motor skills and hand eye coordination and have also been swimming at Cofton Country swimming pool.

Another ex-pupil, Bethany Harris who is studying at college has been spending one day a week with the class and a third year student, Laura Pearce has been working with the class



this term and proved invaluable during periods of staff illness. The foundation child who initially needed a lot of staff support is more settled into the class environment and is no longer having 1 to 1 support throughout the day.

The grant has been applied for to enhance the outdoor learning space and we have just been notified that we have been successful. This grant is for the sum of £10 000, and Mrs Watts has worked with local businesses to draw a plan for this space.

Next term it is planned to hold Forest School sessions for which parent helper/s will be needed and it will also be Class 3's assembly to be presented to the whole school.

There are currently 14 foundation children due to start at Cockwood in September 2017 with 15 places available and this will give Class 3 a total of 26 children for next year.

## **7. ICT: *NT & LH***

The Digital Leader (DL) project within Class 1 is continuing with varied success. The Twitter feed is being maintained by the DL's where there is time for them to update. Most recently, there have been updates regarding World Book Day.

In order to increase the impact of the DL project, it has been suggested that a Digital Leaders Club be formed for after school.

Since the implementation of the new Wi-Fi routers, there has been a huge improvement in both the coverage and the reliability of the service across the school. The Sunny Room, Library and outside in the playground can now experience better Wi-Fi coverage.

The use of iPads within the school continues to increase across the curriculum, especially in Classes 1 and 2, where the use of the "Lonely Screen" app is being used to display the iPad screen onto the whiteboard.

The use of the Fizz Books has declined as they are no longer up to date. It has been suggested that a number of laptops for use in Class 3 would be beneficial.

Class 1 are still looking to purchase a further 8 Chromebooks (which may release laptops to Class 3). The additional Chromebooks would allow pupils to work independently or in pairs, allowing more engagement, as currently they are working at 3 or 4 to a Chromebook.

Chromebooks would also benefit the staff members who are still using laptops. This would help staff with their planning and sharing of resources.

Finally, it must be noted that Irfan from TCS has provided a massive, positive impact on the availability and use of ICT within the school.

## **8. Dawlish Learning Partnership/MATs: *NT & LC***

Progress within the MAT discussions has been made. A successful meeting has been held with the Trustees and Directors of the Teignmouth Learning Trust and following that, Cockwood registered their interest in becoming an Academy. We are still awaiting a response from the Regional Schools Commission.

We have continued to be open with staff and parents regarding the progress and the process.

We have been contacted by Dawlish Community College and have been invited to speak with them about a MAT they are creating with schools from Newton Abbot. In the interests of the school and its pupils we will explore every opportunity that is placed before us.

Within the partnership, there have been a number of sporting events including a Netball competition which Cockwood won. Cockwood also won the Year 5 Dodgeball and were the Team and Individual winners in the Cross Country. Year 6 competed in a Design/Technology Competition in which they finished second.

**9. SEND: BF & HH**

There are currently ten pupils on the SEND register, but there is an imbalance, with 50 % of these children in Year Six. This continues to represent a challenge with reference to this year's SATs. The coordinator is doing a very good job in identifying and placing appropriate expertise to support specific children. As well as a dyslexia support advisor, the school are also employing the visually impaired service, a teacher for the hearing impaired and a new Educational Psychologist.

Skilled Learning Support Assistants are providing important social and emotional support to certain children.

The SENCo is effectively surveying the views of children on the register across the year. She is also effectively overseeing the placement of children with special needs when transferring schools, working closely with pupils and their parents to achieve the best outcomes.

**10. Gifted & Talented: RH/RC & LC**

During the Spring Term AR has run targeted Grammar and Spelling interventions for Yr 6 which have included the G&T while LC has organised several gifted and talented events at Exeter University. These have included a History and a Science day and LC has just booked G&T courses for pupils in Yr's 3&4 including 4 places on a Maths course and 4 places for a non-fiction writing day linked to Science.

Our G&T in Year 6 had the opportunity to take part in the Rotary Design Technology Challenge at DCC and LC is currently arranging for our Yr 5 children to take part in the Maths Challenge at Maynards in June.

There have been a regular interschool sporting fixtures planned including football, dodgeball and netball. Cockwood won the Cross Country for the third year in a row.

The school has continued to provide a large number of clubs after school to cater for sporting and non-sporting talents including football training provided by Exeter football club, basketball, science club, art club and chess club.

**11. Pupil Premium: RH/RC & LC**

Cockwood currently has 9 Pupils receiving the Pupil Premium and 1 Service Child and after April 2017 will receive £11980 (9 x £1320 + 1 x £100)

Over the next few months LC will be heavily focusing on the outcomes for our pupils of the PP spending. She will be individually tracking each of our PP pupils and looking at their books to gauge the success of interventions that have been taking place during this term and ongoing interventions and will feedback to Governors.

Progress	TP	Below Expected	Expected or Above
Reading	1.0	11%	89%
Writing	0.8	22%	78%

Maths	0.8	22%	78%
-------	-----	-----	-----

In addition the PP funding has been and will again be used to provide additional pupil support, targeted resources, to support assessment in Literacy and Maths, targeted maths training for all staff, Thrive practitioner support, 1:1 intervention for Literacy and Maths, teaching advisor support, subsidise holiday clubs, trips and after school clubs.

## **12. Safeguarding Children:** *GB & LC*

We have reviewed the actions agreed as part of the safeguarding audit undertaken in December 2017 and I can confirm that all relevant action has been taken apart from signing off a statement which requires an update from county (this is the case for all schools).

Details of safeguarding leads are now on the school website and the safeguarding policy as well as the safeguarding statement will be on the website under the new policy section which is much more obvious and therefore accessible.

We will also add a statement about the use of mobile phones on school premises making it clear that all personal phones, ipads etc must be left in the office and not taken into classrooms or the school playground.

I am currently working with Mrs Curry to create our own safeguarding check list based on 'The Key for School Leaders' document.

The appropriate staff are working with families to support parents whose children have more challenging needs. Whilst this is very resource intensive it is producing positive results and alleviating the need to escalate possible referrals to other agencies.

Parking and speedy driving in the roads around the school continue to be a major concern and we may wish to consider contacting the Highways Department again requesting signage indicating that there is a school at the top of the hill.

School Council

I met with five members of the School Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 and our discussion included issues around feeling safe at school. The children were unanimous in expressing how friendly and welcoming the school is and agreed it was 'just like one big family' but they would like more pens! During our discussion we talked about physical safety, stranger awareness, the fire alarm, bullying and different behaviour. I am confident that the children are very aware of areas of possible danger and that they can tell you exactly what they would do in any given situation where they felt uncomfortable, sad, anxious or unsafe.

## **13. Working with Parents:** *NT & LC*

Parent Consultations will be held at the end of March with opportunities for parents to attend during the day and after normal office hours. Governors will be present to encourage parents to complete the ParentView survey on the website.

A full survey cycle has been introduced and run with the new parent survey completed and the results published. A further parent survey is planned for the beginning of the Summer

Term (April).

An E-safety workshop has been held and was well attended by parents.

Two workshops advising on how parents can assist their children in reading at home were held and were well attended. The workshops gave pointers on how to encourage reading and the parents' role in this.

Events continue to be organised by the PFA and the next event will be Chocolate Bingo at the end of the Spring Term.

#### **14. Premises:** *LW & LC*

Several items raised over the past couple of months which have impacted on the school budget.

- Drain blockage – drain survey carried out by Metro - rod after another flooding incident which has revealed several problems including poor through flow of water caused by corners in the pipework, limited access via covers and an excess of root growth in the pipes themselves. Metro-rod found to be most competitive and on site (14<sup>th</sup> Mar 17) to carry out root cutting in the pipes. Due to the nature of the drainage system this root cutting exercise will be conducted every 6-12 months if successful in stopping further flooding. If not other options should be investigated e.g. replacement.
- To help alleviate the blockage problems in the drainage, the type of toilet paper has been changed at a cost to the school. The new type doesn't form clumps when wet and is therefore less likely to become snagged in the pipes and start to cause a blockage.
- Water Heater replaced at a cost of around £1000.
- Cooker switches replaced and small leak fixed by external plumber.

Work planned for the coming months;

- Clearance of the loft space to sort and remove anything no longer required. Skip will be required.
- Children's toilets to be repainted and then possible mural added. One classroom to be selected to also be repainted.
- Grant obtained based on hosting a celebration event for the local community which will result in sun shades being put in to cover 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way across the playground from the fence. Measurements taken by the same company for leisure centre style dividing net to allow the playground to be split into two. Price for this to be determined.

Two surveys have been carried out during the spring (DoE – Condition survey of buildings; MPS – Class 1) with results of them still pending.

Successful outcome from an Early Years grant application to transform top playground area.

Work to be commissioned in the Summer Term/summer holiday.

Fire provisions to be checked by Mrs Curry for the village hall to ensure everything is up to date e.g. extinguisher checks, fire alarm checks. Planned fire drill for the hall to be carried out to ensure children are confident in what to do in this location.

Flood evacuation scheme being discussed with the local community. In the past concerns raised with using the school premises out of school hours due to the possibility of removal/damage of school property. Proposal of being able to use the school building if during school hours to be discussed with governors and further consultation planned.