



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



18th October 2017

Newsletter

We are approaching half term and the children have been enjoying many special events here at school and beyond. The children in Class 3 are so settled, which is wonderful to see, and enjoying the new playground space.

Here are some highlights of the month and some important reminders.

Reading at home

I am going to start my newsletter with something which is very important. It is crucial that all children are reading aloud to an adult at least 5 times per week. For older children who can decode the words and have learnt those skills, discussions around the text are vital. This support with reading has the biggest impact for any child and although we do our very best in school to support the development of reading skills, this must go hand in hand with parental support from home. We are sending home some book marks soon with ideas of questions you can ask your child linked to the book they are reading. We will also be looking to bring in some new initiatives after half term but we need your help. Please support your child by reading as much as possible at home.

Class 1 visit to Montacute House

We enjoyed a super day in Somerset, where pupils had the opportunity to learn about this special Elizabethan Manor House. We explored the house itself along with the gardens, and took part in a number of different workshops. The children were a credit to the school; they asked fascinating questions and are applying what they found out about portraits to the activities they are completing in school. Brilliant!



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Sports in Schools Challenge

This was a fantastic event for the whole school. We met Dan James, the Paralympic footballer who talked to the children about fitness, staying healthy and persevering at something that you find challenging. We then had a super afternoon in the hall tackling the various exercises in the circuit programme. This was amazing and we are so proud of our pupils who worked so hard.

Many of you have raised funds for Sports for Schools and Cockwood so thank you. The total sponsorship came to **£1,027.02** which is an amazing effort. The school receives £522.90, which will be spent on sports equipment for the children.

Here are some photos, but do have a look on twitter and our school website for further information from the day. Well done in particular to:

Frankie and Charlie (Class 3) £110

Lucy (Class 1) £30

Alix (Class 1) £31

Tia (Class 1) £79

Brooke (Class 2) £50

Devon (Class 1) £50

Izzy (class 1) £32

Audrey (Class 2) £31

Lexi H (Class 2) £91

Cerys (Class 2) £55

Charlie (Class 3) £46

Albie (Class 3) £31.50

Prizes are on their way to the children who were able to raise some sponsorship for the event.



Twitter

Please follow us on twitter at @cockwoodprimary. The feed is also on the school website at www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk.

Harvest

We enjoyed a lovely harvest celebration in St Mary's Church so thank you if you attended and sent in a donation for the homeless shelter in Exeter. This was gratefully received and I think we had more in the way of donations this year than ever before so thank you.

The children sang and read wonderfully and it was a thoroughly uplifting celebration. We also give thanks to the Rev Alan Smith who took part in the service with us and to all who helped set up the church for our celebration.



Bikeability

Pupils in Year 6 have undertaken their bikeability training. This important training is offered to all Year 6 pupils in the Autumn Term where they can learn valuable lessons in road safety.

Phonic Workshop

Thank you to all parents who attended the phonic workshop led by Mrs Watts. Please do pop in if you have any further questions.

Dance workshops

Every class has had the chance to work with Kate, a dancer, who has inspired their literacy work through dance and movement. The sessions were amazing, and Kate tailored her sessions around the text that the children are working on. It was great fun, very energetic and totally inspiring.



Welcome to new staff members and possible vacancy

We have appointed some new members to the team to support the children at lunchtimes. Welcome to Natasha Bennett, Yolande Louis and Annie Mascal.

We also have a vacancy coming up for a clerk to governors. The role is an administrative one and some experience in this field is necessary. The post is a flexible one but the candidate will need to be available for some evening meetings. The role is 5.25 hours per week (210 per year) and the pay range is from £9.37- £10.71. If you are interested in this post please contact Mrs Jago in the school office.

Absence in term time

Can I please remind parents that I am unable to authorise holidays in term time. If holidays are taken then you may receive a penalty notice, or if not the first penalty notice, you may be subject to a court hearing. If you are at all unsure then please do contact me at school.

PFA Information Sue please add

Please remember that it is non-school uniform this Friday in exchange for unwanted goodies to be used in Christmas hampers.

50 50 winners

Some reminders

Fair Trade Cafe	Friday 3 rd November
Parent consultations	Monday 6 th and Tuesday 7 th November
Class 1 Assembly	Thursday 9 th November (9:30am) in the village hall
Elf show in Plymouth for those who purchased tickets	Monday 13 th November
Christmas Fayre	Sat 9 th December
Whole school Christmas Performance at the Langstone Cliff Hotel	Monday 11 th December
Christmas dinner for the children	Thursday 14 th Dec
Carol service at the church for pupils, governors and Yr 6 parents Last day of term	Friday 15 th Dec

We have had a lovely productive half term. There is a super positive vibe in school and the children have been a pleasure to teach. Enjoy your family time over half term, keep up the reading and we will see you after the break.

Lorraine Curry