



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



27th November 2017

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Time is flying by and Christmas will soon be here. I have sent a letter to you, both by email and hard copy, giving you some further information about our whole school Christmas performance. If you have any questions do please get in touch. Here are some additional highlights of the month and some important reminders.

Safety around the school

Could I please ask all parents to ensure that they keep a close eye on their child when they leave the school site. Some children are running out of school and down the hill without supervision, and in some cases, pupils on scooters are also doing this. We have drivers who use the roads around the school who are not local to the area and may not see the school sign, so can I please ask all parents to keep their child with them until they reach their vehicle. Thank you to all parents who continue to support the safety of all children by parking down the hill by the village hall or on Kenbury Crescent. Can I appeal again to the parents who are parking by the school to please not do this and park away from the entrance.

PE Kit

There are a number of pupils who are regularly coming to school without their PE kit for lessons. Physical education is incredibly important and all pupils **must** take part in lessons, so this is becoming a challenge if they do not have the correct footwear. I mentioned in a newsletter a little while ago that this was something we as a school were going to look at so once again can I please ask all parents to ensure that their child has their PE kit for lessons. PE kits should be left in school where possible. I know that pupils sometimes use their kit for after school clubs so they may go home, but they do need to come back. I am monitoring the situation very closely now and I am hoping that all pupils have their kit in school from now on. Class 1 and 2 pupils need their kit on a Tuesday and a Friday and Class 3 pupils need their kit for a Wednesday and a Friday. Trainers/pumps are essential please.

Absence in term time

Just a further reminder that absences in term time, unless there are clear exceptional circumstances, will not be authorised, in accordance with Devon and National guidelines.

Website: www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk
E-mail: admin@cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk
Telephone: 01626 890471
Fax: 01626 891425

Parents could be subject to a penalty notice if this is the case. If a parent receives more than one of these within a set period, then they may be summoned to appear at Magistrates Court. I am grateful to all parents who schedule their annual holidays within the 13 weeks holiday available to them and not within important learning time.

Please have a chat with me if you have further questions in relation to term time absences. There is an absence request form which should be used if you are, in exceptional circumstances, needing to ask for time off school for your child. Please ask Mrs Jago in the office. As stated on the bottom of this form:

The law requires parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.

Dartmoor Christmas Tree Competition

Following on from the success of last year, where we won the competition and were able to spend £250 on our pupils as a special treat, we have entered the *Best Dressed Christmas Tree Competition* again. The children will be decorating the tree this week and once we have sent in our school photo, you will be able to go online (Dartmoor Christmas Trees facebook page) and like our tree. Please support this again. We were quite astounded last year with the number of votes we received and would very much like to win again. The voting will not begin until next week and we will let you know when we receive further details.

Christmas Light Switch on Dawlish

The choir are singing in Dawlish this Friday (1st December) to celebrate the annual switching on of the Dawlish Christmas lights. The children are performing at 5:00pm so we hope to see you there if you can make it. Thank you to Miss Buttrees and the choir.

PFA

Bingo success

Thank you all parents who supported the bingo event at the Langstone Cliff Hotel where a staggering £1451.10 was raised from the raffle alone. An incredible achievement and we at school are so grateful, as all funds raised through hard work goes back to support every child and therefore every family. Well done.

50:50 October winners

£50 Mrs Al Khalili

£20 Mrs Z Clifton

£20 Ann and Peter Large

50:50 November winners

£50 Mrs Z Clifton

£20 Ms N Brookes

£20 Mrs E Butler

Christmas Fayre

Please come and join us and support the PFA on Saturday 9th December from 10:00am until 12:30pm at St Mary's Hall. The choir will be singing and there will be a visit from Santa. The children will be making a lovely Christmas gift soon and these will be on sale on the day, so you can come along and buy a wonderful gift made by your own child! Please do help to support our very hard working PFA. Luxury Christmas puddings will also be on sale soon.

Sport and fixtures

The children have been taking part in a huge range of fixtures recently, so well done to them! These have included girls' and boys' football and we are taking part in football and cross country this week. Well done to the Hi Five Netball Team who won the silver medal in the tournament today! Great result. Well done to the Class 2 team who attended a Boccia festival

last week. The children who went along had a brilliant time and we are very proud of their achievements.



Adam Stanstead Foundation

We were visited this week by members of the Adam Stanstead Foundation. They are fund raising in memory of Adam, a talented footballer who died of cancer a number of years ago. They have donated footballs, goals and additional kit to the school and we are very grateful. Hopefully we can fundraise at some point this year to support the Foundation, who help children across the region with football linked activities.

Class 2 visit to Dartmoor

Pupils and Staff had a wonderful day on Dartmoor this term, learning about the area and completing some art work linked to their topic in school. Thank you to the Pony Heritage Trust for supporting the event and also the PFA for helping with the cost for parents.



Trip to Elf

What an amazing show! It was a brilliant night, thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Thank you to the children, who behaved wonderfully and it was lovely to spend an evening with them. We hope to attend a show next year so watch this space!

Playleaders and School Council

We have some playleaders now in Year 5 who have received some training. They will build on this in the coming months and we look forward to seeing them develop their own games in the playground. The School Council are meeting weekly and making some important decisions around fundraising and improving the school. Well done on a brilliant Fair Trade Café organised this month.

Safeguarding

Within this newsletter I have attached an important summary linked to safeguarding from **Glynis Buckle, our Safeguarding Governor**. In the December newsletter I hope to share some advice centred on the use of You Tube.

Important Dates

Monday 11th December at 4:15pm - Whole School Christmas Performance

Thursday 14th December - Christmas Lunch

Friday 15th December - Christmas Carol Service for pupils at St Mary's Church Cofton. This is for pupils, governors and Year 6 parents. Time to be confirmed but around 10:15am. This is the last day of term.

Return to school for pupils - Thursday 4th January 2018.

Thank you once again for all of your support and we look forward to a lovely festive end of term.

Lorraine Curry

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

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. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children, staff and visitors and promoting a climate where children and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.

It is our duty to ensure that

- There is a positive culture and ethos where safeguarding is an important part of everyday life.
- We have safeguarding policies and procedures and that they are adhered to in practice.

- Staff are properly trained and supported to have a good understanding of safeguarding risks to children.
- There is evidence that staff know what to do if a child is at risk of harm.
- We work in partnership with parents and carers to share any concerns we may have about your child unless to do so may place a child at increased risk of harm.
- We work with other agencies as appropriate where there are concerns about a child's welfare.
- Proper recruitment checks have been carried out for staff, volunteers and governors.
- The Single Central Record (SCR) which holds information about staff, volunteers and contractors is kept up to date and monitored regularly
- We listen to what children say about how safe they feel and how they are helped to understand safeguarding risks.

Visitors and Volunteers

Our children enjoy meeting new people so we hope you are made to feel welcome and feel that the time that you spend with us is highly valued and very much appreciated. As part of our safeguarding commitment we do have a duty to ensure that all visitors and volunteers are aware of the following

- Please go to the office on your arrival and sign in (and then sign out when you leave)
- Please leave your mobile phone in the School Office
- Please avoid being alone with a child
- Please avoid initiating contact with a child unless they are in immediate danger (Younger children may choose to initiate physical contact with you such as holding your hand. In these circumstances it is best to warmly receive the contact in an appropriate manner but to avoid prolonged contact as this may result in other children feeling excluded)
- Never exchange phone numbers or email addresses with a child

If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a child, please speak to one of the Designated Members of Staff shown below

Safeguarding Contacts:

Lorraine Curry (Head Teacher)

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Gill Watts (Class 3)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Alison Roper (Class 1)

(If you cannot find any of the people named, please tell someone in the office so they can inform the designated person for safeguarding)

Preventing Radicalisation

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on us to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). Young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, in particular those via the internet and other social media. Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from any other type of abuse.

Working together

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 temporary or permanent changes to your child's 'pick-up' arrangements
- Internet safety awareness and diligent use of social media.
- Responsible and considerate parking.
The County Council have agreed to review some of the signage around the school but in the best interest of the safety of all our children we still need parents/relatives/carers to park at the bottom of School Hill and Cofton Hill for drop-off and pick-up
- Supporting school safeguarding initiatives. Thank you to everyone who attended the CAP (Child Abuse Prevention) seminar earlier this term.
(It was evident from my discussions with the school council that the session the children had with the CAP team made a very positive impact.)

Child protection is a very sensitive issue and it raises many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will do everything we can to 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, Mrs Roper or Mrs Watts.