



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



17th September 2018

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 have arrived home, 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 Thomas, Jasmine, Dylan, Reed, Malachy, Sophie, Robbie, Chloe, Jaydon, Faye, Oscar, Molly, Rocco and Harvey.

Within this early newsletter there are already some key dates and notices for you.

School Council

Our School Council has been elected and we have a new Head Boy and Head Girl. Well done to Elliott and Lucy who will work with William, Emily, Ozzy, Maisie, Menna, Annabel, Audrey and Logan. We look forward to seeing the difference they can make in improving our school. The Council will be led by Elliott and Lucy, who will meet weekly and who have an important task in helping to shape our school for the coming year.

Play Leaders

We also have a super group of Year 5 pupils who will be our new play leaders for the coming year. Training is in a few weeks, but we wish lots of luck to Lara, Alix, Katie, Jamie, Tia, Michaela, George, Linus, Freddie and Max. Millie and Ollie have also been recognised as being superb ambassadors in the school and so they will take on the role of leading the play leaders.

Buddy System

All pupils in Foundation have been assigned a buddy from Class 1. These older pupils are there to support the younger children through the year, and we have already seen some lovely games being played. Well done to our older pupils for taking on the challenge and being so sensible and kind to the younger children.

Photo Consent/Data Forms

Could I ask all parents to send in their data and photo consent forms as soon as possible please. I would like to add photos to our school newsletters, so we would be most grateful if you could return these back to us as soon as you can. Thank you to all parents who have already completed theirs.

Christmas Card Designs

Just a reminder that these need to be back in school if orders are required by Friday 21st September so we can send them off for production. All orders need to be placed online.

Encouraging Independence

Could I remind parents in Class 2 that their child needs to be coming in independently and sorting their own things out in the mornings. This is vital for all children and they will rise to the challenge. It is ensuring they develop key skills as they move through the school.

Linked to this can I ask all parents to not go in the school library please before or after school. If your child needs to change a book a member of staff can support with this. We have to ensure we adhere to all strict safeguarding rules and the library is an area which isn't staffed all of the time. Thank you for your support.

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 PFA are holding a cake sale after school on Friday this week so if you can donate cakes please bring them to the Sunny Room at the beginning of the day.

We have a non-uniform day on Friday 30th November in exchange for charity bingo prizes.

School Dinners

Sheree and Jo are busy preparing some wonderful school meals. 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 on site. Numbers of children choosing a school meal have dropped 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 please let me know.

A very important day is census day, which is Thursday 4th 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. Thank you.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in guitar lessons please contact the school office.

Forest Schools

Pupils will be enjoying forest schools this year and you will all have received a letter providing important information. Classes 1 and 2 are going to enjoy Forest School activities this term, so just a reminder that your child needs to come into school on the scheduled Mondays in outdoor clothing, have a waterproof coat and sensible footwear. Just a reminder of the dates:

Class 2: 17th Sept, 1st, 15th, 29th October, 5th Nov

Class 1: 12th, 19th, 26th Nov, 3rd, 10th Dec

Class 3: Spring Term

The school subsidises these sessions and the PFA have also kindly agreed to support these by donating £5 per child. Can we ask all parents of Class 2 pupils to ensure that they have contributed £5 towards the cost and returned their consent forms. We still have some consent forms outstanding and the children cannot take part until they come into school.

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.



Accelerated Reader

Just a reminder that you can log into AR to see the results of your child's TOPS reports. Mrs Roper has sent home all of the details.

New Sports Coaches

We welcome Greg Mugford and Liam Wollington to the school who are our new sports coaches for the year.

Dance Sessions

We are very excited to welcome Miss Murray to the school from Step Up and Dance. She will be enhancing the Literacy units through dance. She is working with Classes 1 and 2 this term and Class 3 will receive some super sessions in the Spring Term. This is funded through the Sports Premium.

Virtual Reality Workshop

This is an amazing session and pupils in Class 1 and 2 will enjoy this next Monday. There will be details to follow.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Just a reminder that this is in Cofton Village Hall (morning) on Friday 28th September. Please refer back to your original email for details.

Christmas Performance (whole school)

This will take place at the Langstone Cliff Hotel at 4:15pm on Monday 17th December.

Clubs

Clubs start this week. Please ensure you collect your child in good time from the club. All clubs finish at 4:30pm. The pick-up location is on the clubs letter - some collections are from school and some are from the hall.

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 for all lessons. PE lessons continue to be on Tuesdays and Fridays for these classes and Wednesday and Friday for Class 3 children. The children in Classes 1 and 2 also need their kit for their dance session on a Thursday. 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.

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 **Monday 8th October (afternoon)** so these children will need to be collected at 3:15pm from the church. The celebration itself will be on **Tuesday 9th 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. We normally invite parents with very young children to the rehearsal on Monday, although Class 3 pupils will not be there on this day, so please bear this in mind.**

School Photographs

These will take place on Thursday 18th October.

Parent Consultations

These will take place during the afternoon and early evening on Monday 15th October and Tuesday 16th October.

Year 6 Bikeability

This will take place the week beginning Monday 15th October.

Half Term Dates

We have a non-pupil day on Friday 19th October.

Half Term runs from Monday 22nd October through to Friday 26th October.

Theatre Alibi - Table Mates

Theatre Alibi are visiting the school on Tuesday 30th October to perform their new play entitled *Table Mates*.

Phonic Workshop - Class 3 Parents

Just a reminder to Class 3 parents, we have a phonic workshop in the Sunny Room just after 9:00am on Thursday 27th September with Mrs Watts. This is mainly for parents of Foundation pupils but Year 1 parents are welcome to come along and use it as a refresher.

Class 1 Assembly for Parents

This will take place on Thursday 1st November at 9:15am in the village hall.

Friday 14th December

Christmas jumper day - fundraising

Christmas Dinner

Thursday 20th December

Carol service

This is for Year 6 parents only at the church on Friday 21st December.

We look forward to a busy and productive term. Please do pop in and have a chat with me or the team if you have any concerns or feedback. The children have settled in so well and we are enjoying some fantastic learning experiences.

Lorraine Curry
Headteacher