



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

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 soon, which will give you an overview of the term.

I am very proud of how our children have settled into the new school year. We welcome many new pupils, and the school community has really taken them under their wing.

We welcome all of our new families, and we look forward to seeing you at school events in the future. Our PFA (Parent Friends Association) are always needing extra members, so please help us if you can. The first meeting is the 24<sup>th</sup> September, at 7:30pm at the Langstone Cliff Hotel. Please see the additional information within this newsletter.

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 Linus and Lara who will work with the elected School Council members for the year. Mrs Morris is looking forward to spending time with the group, who will meet weekly and have the important task of helping to shape our school for the coming year.



### **Nut Free School**

I wrote to you at the end of last term and informed you that we have a child in school with a life threatening nut allergy. No nuts must come into school please, as we must keep this child safe. Just check snacks please, as many cereal bars for example contain nuts. Please also encourage your child to wash their hands if they have nutty cereals at home or nutty spreads on toast before they come into school. Governors will be looking at a specific policy with this in mind in the coming weeks, and I am sure that you will all do your best to support this family. Thank you.

### **Class 2 Forest School**

Just a reminder that sessions start tomorrow. Please ensure that we have your consent via the online school money system by tomorrow. Children will need outdoor clothing and sensible footwear for a Forest School session. Please refer back to the original letter for all of the details or give us a call. Thank you to all of the parents who have offered to help with these sessions. The class teachers will liaise with you regarding which sessions we need help with - but thank you!

### **Funfit**

This begins tomorrow for selected children in the hall at 8:30am. Mrs Morris is speaking to the children today.

### **Christmas Card Designs**

Your child will come home with a Christmas card design this week. The children love to see their design being sent to family and friends. The original design once ordered needs to come back into school so that we can send them to the company, but all orders need to be placed online. The PFA receive commission for these orders, and these funds go to supporting your children in school.

### **The Book People**

We are always trying to raise funds for our school library. Please see the attached information from The Book People, who will donate £1 to your school of choice when you place an order of £10. You can go online to see what can be purchased at:

[thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost](http://thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost)

### **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.

### **School dinners**

Jane is 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.

Just a reminder that pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can have a school meal at no cost, as these are subsidised by the DFE.

### **Music lessons**

If your child is interested in music lessons please contact the school office. We currently have drums, keyboard, singing and guitar lessons on offer. Well done to Miss Buttrees for booking some amazing music teachers.

### **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. There is an informal one way system which operates in the village, should you need to drive up past the school. It is up Cofton Hill and down School Hill.

### **Dance Sessions**

We are very excited to welcome Miss Murray to the school from Step Up and Dance again this year. She will be enhancing the Literacy units through dance. She is working with Classes 1 and 3 this half term. This is funded through the Sports Premium and will take place on Thursday afternoons.

### **Class 1 trip to Bovington Tank Museum**

We look forward to this visit for Class 1 pupils on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to the PFA for supporting this event, which will enhance the children's learning of WWII. Mrs Roper will be sending home some further information soon.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

The villagers of Cockwood are organising a coffee morning to be held in the village hall on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. This was a lovely event last year, with the most amazing cakes! Our Year 6 pupils will be helping with this event, so please come along if you can. More details to follow.

### **Christmas Performance (whole school)**

This will take place at the Langstone Cliff Hotel at 4:15pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. All parents/relatives are invited to attend. There are no restrictions on numbers for this event as the hotel kindly supports us with this wonderful celebration.

### **Clubs**

Clubs start next 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. Children will receive slips tomorrow.

### **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 will be on Thursdays and Fridays. So for this term, all children across the school from Class 3 upwards will need their kit on a Thursday and Friday, to ensure that they are appropriately dressed for either dance or a PE session if they are not taking part in a Forest School afternoon. PE kits are not needed on Tuesdays.

### **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 **Friday 4th October (afternoon)** so these children will need to be collected at 3:15pm from the church. The celebration itself will be on **Monday 7th 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 Friday as space is a real issue, although Class 3 pupils will not be there on this day, so please bear this in mind. Class 3 children will be taking part in the harvest celebration itself on Monday 7th.**

### **School photographs**

These will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Parent consultations**

These will take place during the afternoon and early evening on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Sessions can be booked for the afternoon and early evening on these dates.

### **Bikeability Year 6**

This will be taking place the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Half Term Dates**

**We have a non-pupil day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

Half Term runs from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October through to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### **May Day 2020**

Just a reminder that the national bank holiday has been altered by the government. May Day is now Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and not Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Class 1 Assembly for Parents**

This will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 9:15am in the village hall.

### **Sport (selected pupils)**

KS1 festival - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

High Five - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

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. The children have settled in so well and we are enjoying some fantastic learning experiences.

Lorraine Curry  
Headteacher



