



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

Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Curry



3rd June 2020

## Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The Staff and I welcome you back to a new half term, with some children being in school and some children working from home. I hope that you all managed to enjoy some of the sunshine last week, and hopefully the children who have been working so hard took a well-earned break.

I would like to say a huge well done to all of our pupils and parents, who have managed so brilliantly with the situation we found ourselves in. It is lovely to see some new faces in school, as we have welcomed Reception and Year 1 pupils, split across the week.

Following on from my emails before the holiday, I would like to just send you some reminders about how school is operating at the moment. As a staff we have put in place many different safety procedures as new pupils have joined the school. This is to protect all staff members, pupils and their families. This is what we currently have:

- A timetable of cleaning during the day, to include before and after school, lunchtime and other times
- Soap dispensers have been installed in all classrooms to enable separation of pupils
- New bins for safe disposal of paper towels/waste
- Pupils grouped in 'bubbles' who do not mix with other pupils when on site
- Desks are 2 metres apart and taped areas show the children where their 'zone' is
- Staggered drop-offs and pick-ups. Please adhere to these times, to ensure we avoid parents congregating at the gate
- Only one parent to collect and drop-off
- Pupils provided with their own stationery and other equipment, kept in sealable bags
- Non-uniform in place to support parents changing clothes on a daily basis
- Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes
- Play equipment allocated to 'bubbles' and cleaned daily after use
- Have a designated area if a child or adult has an infection
- Regular education around hand washing for the children

- Monitoring of children going to the toilet - only one at a time
- Deep clean on a Wednesday
- No items other than lunch and water coming from home
- All reading books are hygienically wiped on arrival and when leaving school. All returned books are kept for 1 week before going back on the shelves.

As you can see, we have worked hard to maintain the DfE guidance as safety is our priority.

It is important to note, that we have one third fewer members of staff in school than we had before Easter. We have smaller groups but all staff are supporting children each day. They are also maintaining the remote learning for all other pupils, so can I say thank you to all parents at home, who have helped us to continue educating our pupils.

Can I just remind parents that if you are thinking of sending your child into school we must have notice. It will not be possible for you to ask for a place the day before, simply because organising children into bubbles and keeping them staffed, separate and covering all lunchtimes etc. has not been an easy task. We have very limited space in our school. I have attached some photos to show you how the school currently looks. In all cases, we will maintain safe social distancing and we therefore have a finite amount of space in total.





We can only offer places for pupils who have parents who fall into the keyworker category, Reception and Year 1. Reception and Year 1 are split across the week (please refer to previous email) but we are open for keyworker families every day. If your child is attending school at the moment can you please provide them with the following:-

- Sun cream and hat (named). Please apply before school if possible.
- Rain coat
- Packed lunch
- Comfy clothes with trainers so PE and dance can be delivered

For all parents:-

- Could all books come back to school before new ones are issued
- If photocopying or books are required, please give at least 1 day's notice, as all staff are in class each day and need time to organise

As the children are working online, please try to monitor their actions, as we must keep them safe. I have a link below which you might find useful. I have also emailed information in the past about the National Online Safety group, where you can complete a parent course or look at the resources, which are regularly updated. I have attached the parent guide on Instagram for you to look at.

The DFE link is

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

Below is some further support available to parents.

### **Devon Family Advice Line**

*ECI have launched a new phone advice line for parents and carers across Devon. The number for the new service is 01392 949059 and it will be manned from 10 - 2pm Monday to Friday. People will be able to leave a message outside of these hours, or when the operators are all busy.*

*It will offer advice on a specific issue around their children and their family relationships, including any communication issues or conflict they are having with their partners or co-parents of their children. It is not meant to be a replacement for more targeted work, but just a way to offer people a place to be heard and a few tips on how to deal with a particular situation or to signpost them to an organisation which may be able to help them.*

### **Pupil Premium and Free School Meals**

Mrs Jago is continuing to navigate the government website to ensure families who are eligible receive their food vouchers, to help with the cost of grocery shopping. If you feel that you may now be eligible, please contact Mrs Jago.

Devon County Council administers the eligibility checking service for free school meals and the application process is quick and easy. An application can be made in two minutes from a phone, tablet, laptop or PC and there will be an immediate decision at the end of the process. A child may be eligible if their family receives -

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you applied on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)

Families can apply online, and need to supply their child or children's name, date of birth and current school as well as their own name, date of birth and National Insurance number. Apply through Devon Citizens Portal or call 0345 155 1019.

The staff are working hard to add options for children with their learning at home, and we are still marking work, providing feedback and rewarding the children for their efforts. Lots of pupils have received awards and we will continue to do this. Please encourage your child to do as much of the home learning as possible. Do what works best for your family situation and above all, ensure that your child is reading daily, working on their maths times tables, and completing the Class 3 tasks linked to phonics and key words. We have a virtual assembly at the end of each week, for your child to watch and celebrate success at our school.



### Supporting younger children

The DFE have provided some guidance on supporting younger children at home. I have added the link here if it is of use to you.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Have a super week and please call or email with any questions.

Kind regards

Lorraine Curry



Perseverance



Respect



Reflection



Creativity



Ambition



Happiness