

JULY NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

21st July 21

Dear Parents

We have reached the end of another year and I can't quite believe it. Many children were in lockdown last summer and this year we are without our wonderful Class 1 pupils for the end of term. It has been sad to finish 2020/21 with events not quite as we would like them, but I think it is important to recognise the achievement of the school community as a whole. The pupils, parents and staff have met the ever changing challenges with resilience and energy – no mean feat and I would like to say a huge well done to every member of our school family.

The children have been a joy, from our youngest in EYFS to our Year 6 students, who are more than ready to embark on their next stages in their educational journey.

I look forward to welcoming our new children to the school in September and I am excited to see each new class ready to embark on new learning experiences. Forest School will continue, but at a different site, so a huge thank you to Mel Kirby and Roger Jeffery for supporting us with this essential activity over the past year. Staff are busy looking at school visits and bringing more of the excitement back to school – we can't wait!

Have a very restful summer break and enjoy important family time together.

STAFF NEWS

I have three very important announcements to share with you. Firstly, Mrs Holly Hilliard, who has been with the school for 23 years is retiring this summer. She has been a valuable and well-respected member of staff here at Cockwood and has now been here longer than any other person on the team. She has taught the RE and French curriculum over recent years, whilst retaining the role of SENDCO, working with families and children across the school. She has been a part of all of the staff shows, organised our lovely harvest celebrations each year and been a huge part of our school. We wish Mrs Hilliard the very best of luck in her retirement and thank her for the amazing contribution she has made to us all.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY 6TH, TUESDAY 7TH SEPT

Staff training days

WEDS 8TH SEPTEMBER

Start of term for all pupils

MONDAY 27TH SEPT

Forest School begins for Class 1

THURSDAY 30TH SEPT

Class 2 Geography visit to Dartmoor

THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Tempest Photographs



Ms Winsor has given birth to a boy – Andrew Anthony – so huge congratulations to the family. The children will all be excited to meet him in the autumn. Well done Ms Winsor!

Finally, we wish Ms Tropman luck as she is getting married in August. We hope you enjoy your special day.

Class 3 butterflies and taste testing

The children in Class 3 have nurtured their caterpillars, watched over the cocoons and have now released their butterflies. A special moment for all of the children, who have learned so much science in the process.

The children also had the opportunity to try out new foods that they may not have tried before, such as fish, salad and different dressings. We saw great success so hopefully they will continue being adventurous at home!

Class 2 Forest School

Class 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School sessions this term. We look forward to seeing them enjoy these activities next term.

MORE NEWS

YEAR 6

I would like to take a moment to thank our Year 6 students, who have been a huge part of our lives for 7 years. We have seen many of them grow from 4 year olds to capable students, embarking on new challenges. Some of our group joined us a little later in their school career, and although the last year has not been as exciting as we would have liked, we have enjoyed many trips, experiences and fun together. From our Head Boy Callum and Head Girl Lexi, to the rest of the group, all have many special talents and have achieved so well at Cockwood. Their performance of Annie, even without an audience and the usual staff input, was excellent. Well done to you all and we wish you the very best of luck!

The performance is on our school website, with many other photos and memories of the year. <https://www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk/>



SPORTS DAY

Pupils across the school enjoyed Sports Day, and we saw some wonderful performances, teamwork and a real sense of enjoyment. Even though it was different to the Sports Days that we have organised in the past, it was very uplifting to see the children having so much fun together. Behaviour was exemplary and a huge well done to Cotton for winning the house trophy this year. Again, there are photos on the school website from the day.



APP

Just a reminder to add the Cockwood App to your phones, so that you are able to pick up messages really quickly. From September we will be moving to using the App so please contact us if you need support with this.

50 50 RESULTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

£50 prize to Gemma Birkett

£20 prize to Becky Breakwell

£10 prize to Carla Custons – Cole

£50 prize to Emma Butler

£20 prize to Lyndsey Jolly

£10 prize to Dan and Charlotte Wilkin

MOVING FORWARD IN SEPTEMBER

As we approach the new school year we will be following all DFE and Public Health England advice, whilst ensuring that we continue to protect all children, families and staff.

As with most schools, we will return in September and keep the class bubbles for the first couple of weeks as we do not know what the summer will bring. We will not set staggered starts from September so the gates will open from 8:40am and close at 8:55am. All children can be collected at 3:30pm. This will be reviewed at the start of the term, but for now we will aim to go back to our normal timings.

As always, please be prepared for things to change.

We are looking at a breakfast club for the new academic year, but due to Covid related pressures, have not been able to finalise the arrangements. When we return in September we will look at who as parents would like this provision and go from there.

ANNUAL REPORTS

You have either received your child's annual report or it has been posted to you. If there are any questions relating to the report please contact us by Friday or in September.

AND FINALLY

I am sharing some super photos from our Year 6 show. Please have a wonderful holiday and we will see most of you in September. Once again to our Year 6 students – good luck. We will miss you.

Kind regards

Lorraine Curry





Year 6





Message from Nick Tallamy Chair of Governors

Hi Everyone,

Once again, I think that we can all agree this has been a very strange school year and for some, not the end that they were expecting. I particularly feel for the Year 6 students who (like last year) have been denied their last days in primary school. All the governors will join me in wishing them the best of luck in their new schools, come September.

As a school community, we have continued to overcome several different challenges, to make sure that our children have had the best opportunities to continue their education at school.

I would like to thank you - parents, carers, grandparents - for all the efforts you have put in, especially when guidance for schools has been changing on a regular basis.

The children have coped exceptionally well, and their behaviour has been exemplary at school. For that I must thank them all.

Finally, I am sure you would all join me in expressing our gratitude and respect for the staff at Cockwood School. They have continued to support the children, parents and each other throughout this period, despite having the same concerns and worries that we have all had.

Once again, I am very proud to be a governor of a school that has such caring staff, engaging parents and wonderful children!

As a governing body, we are always looking for new members to join us. It is a rewarding role, knowing that you are helping to shape the future of the school, not only for your children, but for those coming up to school age.

It is a gentle on-boarding process, you won't be left to work it all out yourselves. There is a commitment to attend the Full Board meetings (4 per year) and to join either the Teaching & Learning or Finance & Resources committees (3 meetings per year).

If you would like to see what goes on, then please do join us as an observer, for any of our meetings. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do ask any of the governors directly, or feel free to email me at nick.tallamy@cockwoodschool.co.uk .

Current Governors

Nick Tallamy – Chair of Governors (parent of former pupil)

Neil Barnes – Vice Chair of Governors (parent of current pupil)

Judith McGrath – Chair of Teaching & Learning committee (local resident)

Glynis Buckle – Chair of Finance & Resources committee; Safeguarding Governor (grandparent of former pupil)

Liz Price-Holden – Wellbeing Governor (parent of current pupil)

Charlotte Wilkin – Health & Safety Governor; Deputy Safeguarding Governor (parent of current pupil)

Tania Weeks – Early Years and SEN Governor (parent of former pupil and local resident)

Gareth Harris – Parent Governor (parent of current pupil)

Holly Hilliard – Staff Governor

Lorraine Curry – Head Teacher

Nicola Rose – Clerk to the Governing Board

