

MARCH NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 31st March, 2022

First may I take this opportunity to thank the staff team for pulling together over the last few weeks, it has been an incredibly challenging time with staff absence and sickness and everyone has done their utmost to cover classes and support the children to ensure there has been very little disruption to learning.

It never ceases to amaze me, when I sit down to write the newsletter, exactly how much we seem to fit into every month! At Cockwood School we have always tried to offer the children as many varied experiences as possible to enhance and improve their learning journey and this month, even with its challenges, has been no exception.

During March, we have celebrated together World Book Day and Times Table Rockstars Day; Class 3 have been to Forest School, Class 2 went to Shaldon Zoo and worked with the composer David Haynes, then performed their composition in the village hall; we welcomed the poet Matt Brydon into school to work with Year 2-6; Class 1 and 2 have had swimming lessons and groups of children have attended sports events! Wow- we have all been busy!

Coming up next week, we are really excited for Class 2's assembly and finding out what they have been learning about this term. It will be good to see some of you either in school or virtually for Parent's Consultation Meetings and we are looking forward to sharing your child's progress and targets. We currently have a few positive cases of Covid across the school so please can parents wear masks if attending Class 2 assembly and face to face Parent Consultations; it is our utmost priority to protect everyone as much as possible so we can all enjoy the Easter break.

Friday, April 1st we are holding a non-uniform day in exchange for Easter Eggs on behalf of the PFA in preparation for Chocolate Bingo on Thursday 7th April. It is wonderful that we can start to hold these events to bring our school family together and raise funds to support pupils' learning, however, if cases of Covid rise sharply next week we may have to review this event. We will keep you informed and do our best to give you notice should this event need to be cancelled; if that happened the eggs would be used in an alternative way to raise funds.



Don't forget Class 1 and 2 both have residential in the Summer Term and payment schedules are on School Money. If you are having any problems with making payments please contact the school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL

Non uniform day in exchange for an Easter Egg donation for PFA

TUESDAY 5TH APRIL

Class 2 assembly 9am in the village hall for parents **(masks to be worn by all adults please)**

Parent Consultations 4pm-6.30pm

WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL

Health Team in school to measure height/weight of foundation and Yr 6 pupils

Parent Consultation Meetings
1.30pm- 3.30pm/ 4-6pm

THURSDAY 7TH APRIL

Easter Service at Cofton Church **(pupils only)** Chn to be dropped at Cofton Church by 9am, they will walk back to school afterwards

THURSDAY 7TH APRIL

PFA Chocolate Bingo at Dawlish College, main hall -doors open 5pm

FRIDAY 8TH APRIL

PFA cake sale after school

Last day of term

MONDAY 25TH APRIL

First day of the Summer Term.

WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL

PFA Meeting 4pm in Class 1



WORLD BOOK DAY



March started with us celebrating World Book Day as a school family. It was fabulous to see everyone enjoying and sharing a wide range of books; our oldest pupils read with Class 3 and within each class children shared and recommended books to their friends. We also had a 'Where's Wally?' competition running throughout the day, with lots of Wallys hidden around the school. Every time a Wally was found pupils were put into a raffle and 2 children from each class were given a book as a prize. In Class 2 they had a very special Science lesson based on George's Marvellous Medicine they made a range of potions linked to the book. Some children listened to the World Book Rap by MC Grammar and were excited to try and identify every book title that was mentioned within the song. Overall, the day was designed to inspire and promote a love of reading and we hope the enthusiasm the children showed on the day has filtered through into their home reading.



DJEMBE DRUMMING WORKSHOP



The Gambian musician, Suntou Susso came and delivered a djembe drumming workshop to pupils in Class 1. He also played the Kora and taught them a traditional call and response song.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTAR DAY



Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed our Times Tables Rockstars Day. The outfits were incredible and everyone really got into the spirit of the occasion. We relaunched Times Tables Rockstars and set a weekly tournament between different year groups. The children practised their tables and number facts in a range of ways throughout the morning. Having quick recall of time tables is fundamental to underpin Maths and being confident with number supports future learning.

The day was designed to be a fun way to encourage pupils to focus on number facts and inspire them to use TTR at home and within school as a tool to help them learn and remember their tables. Everyone enjoyed it and I think we have some budding rockstars in the making!



ROTARY QUIZ CLASS 1

This week, Class 1 children competed against other local schools in the annual Dawlish Water Rotary Schools Quiz. They participated in three rounds of questions based on People, Places and Things; in each round they had 20 minutes to answer 65 questions. A special mention must go to Nate Squires, who absolutely amazed everyone with his wide breadth of knowledge on all subjects! We were delighted to be awarded **SECOND** place in the overall competition with 136 points- which is incredible, a fabulous effort.

CLASS 3 FOREST SCHOOL



Our youngest pupils have spent the last few Mondays visiting Methley Meadow with our Forest School leader, Gin.

The children have planted seeds, made wild garlic pesto, decorated flags and played in the mud kitchen; they also enjoyed the freedom of playing with the various equipment on-site and paddling in the shallow stream.

The children love spending time outdoors and it is great to see a different side of their personalities come out when they are enjoying the freedom of play-based learning in this natural environment.



RIVER OF HOPE ARTWORK

We have submitted our artwork for the Queen's Jubilee Pageant. The children worked really hard using a range of techniques to create some superb work based on migratory birds and fish. The theme was 'flowing rivers' and we wanted to show the importance of the River Exe in the journey migratory birds make from North Africa to the Arctic. Like the river constantly flowing and evolving, so is the wildlife that visits Dawlish Warren. We worked closely with Jane Hirst, an ex-parent and local artist, to create an overall design fit for the Queen and we will look forward to sharing our finished entry with you in the next few weeks.

SWIMMING CLASS 1 AND 2

At swimming lessons last week, both Class 1 and 2 were a credit to the school. The swimming coaches commented on how well behaved they were during the lessons and how they really listened to instructions. The improvement in their swimming skills was incredible and we were particularly proud of those children who swam their first width and length. Living by the coast makes learning to swim an essential life skill and we aim that no child leaves Cockwood School unable to swim. We are very grateful to the PFA who heavily subsidised the cost of the transport this year to make it more affordable for parents.

50 50 RESULTS

£50 prize to Nicole Brooks

£20 prize to Teresa Buttree

£10 prize to Wayne Butler

CLASS 2 TRIP TO SHALDON ZOO AND SCIENCE WEEK

Class 2 visited Shaldon Zoo to find out more about the animals in preparation for writing a song with the musician and composer, David Haynes. They spent a whole day composing the melody and lyrics before performing their work in the village hall to parents.



SPORTS FESTIVAL AND GYMNASICS EVENTS



Pupils from Class 1 and 2 were fabulous at both recent sports events. The team that went to the Sports Festival on the Astro Turf worked really well together and threw themselves into every sport on offer and their behaviour was impeccable. The team that attended the Gymnastics at the Leisure Centre worked at a range of levels, Bronze through to Platinum. We achieved 2nd place in Bronze, 1st and 2nd place in Silver, 1st at Gold and 2nd and 3rd at Platinum. Absolutely SUPER effort from everyone that attended. Well done.

AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

We are only able to offer reduced days for 'After-school provision' during the Summer Term, as we are struggling to staff every evening and the up-take has not been as consistent or viable as we first hoped. We will offer Wednesday and Thursday 3.30pm- 4.45pm, as these seem to be the nights that are usually better attended. However, if numbers do not improve by May half term we will review the need; it is a shame as we have had many parents request childcare but we cannot run it at a loss. Please let me know your thoughts.

POET- MATT BRYDON



Years 2-6 spent a morning working with Matt Brydon on creating and developing poems. The visit was organised by Somerset Literacy Network, who we work with quite closely, and the funding came from the Arts Council. The children will be using what they have learnt to create a poem for a regional poetry competition called, 'Let There Be Light'.

ATTENDANCE

Please look out for your child's attendance report for this term, which will be sent home next week. May I just remind you I cannot authorise any holiday in term time; children have missed valuable learning due to Covid and it is imperative that they are in school as much as possible. Medical appointments should also be made outside of the school day unless it is for a hospital appointment. Please contact the office if you have any attendance queries and we will try and work with you to resolve any issues before they arise.

FINALLY...

As the Spring Term draws to a close, it just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter holiday. Make the most of the longer days and lighter evenings, the Summer Term is always very busy and we have lots to look forward to.

Come back refreshed, recharged and raring to go!

Alison Roper