

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 15th December, 2022



And just like that it is Christmas....

My goodness the last few weeks have flown by as the children and staff have all been working hard getting ready for our Christmas Show, the Christingle Service and the usual end of term assessments. We are all looking forward to our Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner tomorrow and this will be a super end to a busy term. Each class will be doing 'Christmas' related activities this week to get the children in the festive spirit.

You may notice our classroom windows are all adorned with festive scenes as we are taking part in the Cofton Village Carol Trail, if you would like to take part and walk around the village with your family please email to get an entry form. The trail will run from Sunday 18th December.

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Please note that pupils are back to school on **Wednesday 4th January**.

GOODBYE

We are saying goodbye this week to two valued members of staff. Our Business Manager, Sue Jago, has decided it is time to step back after over 25 years of continuous service at Cockwood School. She has worked in the office under 5 different Heads and seen many changes; she has been a stalwart of our staff team and has been with us since her own children, Charlotte and Rosie, started here back in September 1993. Many of you may even remember her from your own school days at Cockwood School!

Sue has kept the office 'machine' going, sorting attendance, school dinners, trips, finance, personnel, orders....along with many, many other hats. She will be greatly missed but we wish her many happy days playing golf and spending more time with her family.

We also say goodbye to Miss Godbeer, she has accepted a teaching post within the Trust so it's au revoir rather than a final goodbye as she will still be part of our extended staff team. Olivia has been amazing and took over the teaching in Class 2 during Mr Fenton's absence and has been a super addition to our school. We wish her every success and look forward to working with her again in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY

First day of term

FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY

Online Safety Workshops Class 1 and 2

W/C MONDAY 30TH JANUARY

Class 1 swimming at Dawlish Leisure Centre (details to follow)

W/C MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

Class 2 swimming lessons at Dawlish Leisure Centre (details to follow)

W/C MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

CAP (Child Assault Prevention) Workshops across all 3 classes

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Non- pupil day

W/C MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

Half term

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

World Book Day

DRAGON READING TENT

Class 3 were completely amazed when a dragon came to visit them in the village hall last week! It was a very special 'story-telling' dragon who invited the children into his tent where they could share stories and dragon related activities. Once Class 3 had spent the morning with the dragon, the other two classes went down to visit him and shared dragon tales throughout the afternoon. It was fantastic day and so lovely to see the children sitting together and enjoying books.



READING WORKSHOP

Reading is a fundamental skill for all children although from my own experience, every child is unique in how quickly they pick up this skill as well as how enthusiastic they are to embrace it! On Wednesday 30 November, I attended the reading workshop where Mrs Roper and Mrs Watts took a small group of parents through the reading programme Cockwood School follows and how the Accelerated Reading system works; further details of these schemes can be found online here. <https://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/>. Listening to other parents reassured me that I wasn't alone in some of the challenges we all face as busy families. I wanted to share some of my own learning to hopefully provide some help so in terms of some top tip:

Interest: try to select books for your child to read that match their interests.

Once a child can read the world is their oyster although to start with it helps if they read things they have a natural interest in.

Energy: choose a time to read when you and your child have sufficient energy; that might be at the breakfast table in the morning before school or as soon as you get in from school in the afternoon. Creating a routine will ensure you have dedicated time for reading and you will see the positive progress your child is making.

Motivation: you may need to motivate your child with a reward system. This might be agreeing daily, weekly or monthly goals. We use marbles in a jar at home and then at the end of every month we count up the marbles and agree in advance what the reward will be; this might be a trip to the park or swimming pool, whatever works for you and your family.

Along with all of these I would also **STRONGLY** recommend reading to your child as part of their bedtime routine (or anytime that fits with you). Reading together creates a special bond and I personally love being as adventurous as possible with the voices of characters, you will get as much fun out of it as your child does!

Carla Custons- Cole, Governor



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT COFTON CHURCH

It was such a shame we had to cancel parents and carers at the Christingle service today but it was the right decision to avoid the spread of any more coughs and colds. It was a very relaxed and enjoyable service and each child will bring home with them this evening a Christingle orange as a gift from Cofton Church. Please ask your child to share with you the symbolism behind it.



A REMINDER OF TERM DATES FOR 2023/24

Ivy Education Trust: 2023-24 Academic Year															
	Sep-23				Oct-23				Nov-23						
Monday		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Sunday	3	10	17	24		8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
	Dec-23				Jan-24				Feb-24						
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
	Mar-24				Apr-24				May-24						
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
	Jun-24				Jul-24				Aug-24						
Monday		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Thursday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Friday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
key:	weekends				days outside Devon's school terms				Bank Holidays						
	Training days				Occasional days										
					Academy days										

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD CHRISTMAS SHOW



Wow- what an amazing evening we had at The Langstone Cliff Hotel for our Christmas show 'Children of the World'. It was fabulous to see so many of you come together to watch and support your children. Every child took part and enjoyed performing to a packed audience. The atmosphere was wonderful and it was an excellent way to see the Christmas story through the eyes of children from across the globe. The singing and dancing was excellent and we were very proud of every child who stood on the stage and delivered their lines beautifully. It is fantastic to see such young children having the confidence to perform in front of such a large crowd.

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the PFA raffle and tombola, we raised over £1000, which is absolutely incredible. We are always very grateful to The Langstone Cliff Hotel who allow us to use their facilities free of charge and it has become a Cockwood tradition being at the hotel at Christmas time. A massive thank you to Miss Buttrey who organises every aspect of the show and all the staff who made props, helped with rehearsals and supported the children learning their lines. It is a huge team effort but a very worthwhile experience that will stay with the children for many years.



ATTENDANCE

Our current attendance for this term is an average of 94.3%. Unfortunately, during the last week or so we have had lots of colds, sickness, sore throats and ear aches, the cold weather has definitely had an impact. Hopefully once we are all rested over the Christmas break we can work to improve our overall score.

FINALLY....

As the year draws to a close it is a time to look back and reflect on the past twelve months. It has definitely been a journey since taking over as Head of School in January and I have loved (almost) every minute of it! One highlight has to be our afternoon tea celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, alongside our London residential. These precious moments create lasting memories and that is what I believe primary education is all about. Thank you to everyone who has supported me during the last year and I am sure we will have many more adventures in 2023! Have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends and we will see you on Wednesday 4th January.

Alison Roper