

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 27th January, 2023

New Year's Resolutions...

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. The children have all settled well and are back into the daily routine of school after the excitement of the Christmas break. How are your New Year resolutions going? Class 1 have been reflecting this week on the targets they set for themselves before Christmas, some children had begun working on all 5 targets, but some, like my own, are still 'work in progress'! It is easy to start with good intentions but often tricky to maintain. Many of the children challenged themselves to read more at home and we have discussed ways to help them to achieve this goal, by setting a timer, write it on a calendar the days they will read to an adult and read aloud in the car. If your child is in Class 1 please ask them what targets they set, if they are in Class 2 their reading target will be stuck in the front of their Reading Record book. In Class 3, they are still aiming to read to an adult at least 5 times a week to receive a small treat on a Friday. If we develop just one habit in 2023 then reading is an excellent one to choose, please support your child by reading at home, no matter how old they are, even our oldest readers benefit from reading aloud and working on their intonation and expression.

Please explore the reading section of the website for some book suggestions. <https://www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk/literacy/>

We have a busy few weeks coming up, both Class 1 and 2 have swimming lessons at Dawlish Leisure Centre, please see the reminder below. We are also focusing this half term on 'online safety'; February 7th is 'Safer Internet Day' and every child will be looking at this within their classes and in a special assembly, it is a perfect time to open the lines of communication and talk to your child about keeping safe online.

Friday 3rd February we are taking part in the NSPCC Number Day, children can come in wearing anything to do with numbers or math concepts. Please do not go to any expense, look online there are lots of great, easy to make ideas. There will be PE that day so please ensure children are dressed appropriately and have suitable footwear on.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs will start week commencing February 20th. Year 4 and 5 will also be starting Forest School that Monday, if any child attending Forest School has also requested a place for either choir or cross-stitch then they will miss the first 3 weeks and only be charged for the final 3 weeks.

W/C MONDAY 30TH JANUARY

Class 1 swimming all week at Dawlish Leisure Centre –pick up 3.10pm

(Monday – Friday included)

TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY

PE Impact Day- groups of children will be doing Gymnastics in the hall with a PE specialist – letter to follow

FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

NSPCC Number Day- come to school dressed up anything linked to numbers. (eg. Rock star, robot, number on a t-shirt)

TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

Safer Internet Day- special assembly and activities

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Non-pupil day- SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

Half term

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

First day back to school after half-term

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Class 1 Year 4 and 5 Forest School

Pick up 4.15pm at Kenbury Crescent

(Those Year 5s that DID NOT go with Year 6- letter to follow)

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book or story character
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(details to follow)

50/50 CLUB

If you haven't already joined please consider joining our 50/50 club, which raises money for the PFA, who support every child in the school. We have monthly draws with three cash prizes. It costs £2 a month to have a number and you can request a form from the school office to take part. In these tricky financial times schools are really feeling the pinch and we would not be able to provide such great opportunities for the children if we couldn't rely on the support of the PFA and their fund-raising. Please ask family and friends if they also would be interested in having a monthly number. Email admin@cockwoodschool.co.uk for more details.

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT EXETER UNIVERSITY

Class 1 were incredibly fortunate last Friday to attend a performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra held at The Great Hall, Exeter University. It was called 'Midnight Magic' and based on the journey of nighttime; the music encapsulated the range of emotions and feelings we all encounter in the middle of the night. They were also very generous and gave each child their own book to take home and use to compose music and lyrics. A brilliant afternoon, thank you very much to Miss Buttrees for organising such a wonderful opportunity for the children and the PFA for supporting towards the cost of the coaches.



"I loved how the music told a story." Molly Year 6

"I liked watching the orchestra." Charlie Year 6

"The double bass was bigger than the people playing it!" Vincent Yr5

"I liked the Baba Yaga song because it created an image in my head of me running from the witch!" Josh Yr 5



ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOPS



Class 1 and 2 welcomed Jonathan Taylor (an ex-undercover Police Officer who specialised in safe-guarding children by identifying online predators) came in to talk to the children about how to keep safe and vigilant online. The workshops were age-appropriate and he covered online bullying, what to do if something made them feel uncomfortable and strategies to keep themselves safe when using social media or playing games online.

With the older children he touched on using 'critical thinking' skills when viewing material online, thinking about how companies use our data and how virtual intelligence curates the adverts etc. we are exposed to when we are on devices. The children found this fascinating and were really engaged with the session.

John talked about how we need open dialogue between children and the adults at home so if something worries them online they know they can say something without 'getting into trouble'.

Please make sure you know what your children are viewing, who they are chatting to and what games they are playing. Check privacy settings are in place and your child knows what to do if they do 'stumble' onto something that makes them feel uncomfortable. John reiterated that the internet is incredible and children and parents shouldn't be frightened to go online, however they need the skills to navigate safely a digital world.

Class 1 will be continuing to explore Internet Safety in PSHE over the coming weeks so it is an ideal time to open the conversation with your child.

SWIMMING



DON'T FORGET

Class 1 have swimming Monday to Friday next week (week commencing Monday 30th January). They need a costume, towel and goggles (if required) in a swimming bag. **Collect from Dawlish Leisure Centre at 3.10pm.**

Class 2 is the week after, Monday 6th February. They will be going Mon-Thursday as FRIDAY 10th is a non-pupil day. **Collect from Dawlish Leisure Centre at 3.10pm.**

PLEASE WEAR PE KIT ON SWIMMING DAYS

EYFS FOREST SCHOOL AND CONTINUOUS PROVISION ON-SITE

During January, we have welcomed Gin (our Forest School lead) onto the school site to support continuous provision outside with our EYFS children. She has organised and supervised a range of activities all linking to a book of the week; this has included Stick Man and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. It has been great listening to the children learning through play and enjoying a wide range of activities to support their language and emotional development. It is super they have all got to know Gin really well so when they visit the Methley Meadow site in the summer term it will be an easy transition.



ATTENDANCE

Our current attendance for this week is 97.9%, which is fabulous, but so far this year our average is 94.1%. We must all try and make sure children are in school every day as we must aim for an average of at least 95%. Can I remind you that absences in term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

FINALLY....



It has been a busy start to the year in the Roper household, my first granddaughter arrived 3 weeks early, which caught us all by surprise! January is always a time for new beginnings and this year has certainly been a special beginning for my family. I am very excited what 2023 has in store for all of us at Cockwood School and hope the New Year has started well for you too. Enjoy the half term break and don't forget the non-pupil day on Friday 10th February.

Alison Roper