

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

## Half term holidays already ...

It has been a very busy half term, with the move back to Cockwood School, settling the children back into routine and then having Ofsted visit the school this week! I am sure we are all ready for a rest and the chance to recharge our batteries!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the parents who completed the Parent View survey for the Ofsted Inspectors; we had an excellent reply rate and it was wonderful to read a lot of your very positive comments.

The children were incredible on Wednesday, lots of the children got to read or talk to the inspectors and the feedback we had mentioned how articulate, polite and friendly our pupils were. We do not receive our report from Ofsted for a couple of weeks but of course as soon as I can I will share it with you.

Of course, looking forward, the next half term is always a busy one. Please don't forget Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October is a non-pupil day and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October is our first day back. Parent's Consultation times have been sent out and they will run the first week back. We are nearly ready to go live with Tapestry across the school, we are still chasing up a few permission slips but our aim is to be live straight after half term so please download the free app so you can keep in touch with your child's learning journey.

## PFA AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual PFA AGM held at the Langstone Cliff on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was great to see some new faces come along and support our wider school family. Danielle Nisbett, Kellie-Jo Blackwell and Celia Genders, have all stepped down from their roles within the PFA and we appreciate everything they have done over the last few years to raise much needed funds to support the school in providing wonderful learning opportunities for every child. They have agreed to support the new committee to ensure a smooth transition over the coming term.

We welcome our interim Chair: Sally Stoneman, Vice Chair: Hannah Strudwick, Secretary: Rachel Gibson, Vice Secretary: Katie Orchard,

Treasurer: Charlotte Crowe

Please come along and meet the new committee at our next PFA meeting on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 3.30pm** after school, **everyone welcome.**

After school child care will be provided.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Non-pupil day

TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

Back to school

'Halloween' fancy dress- donation to the PFA (optional)

Parent's consultations

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER

Parent's consultations

FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

Year 6 –Theatre Royal- Opera afternoon (letter to follow)

MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Forest School starts Class 1

MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Parliament Week

THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

PFA Film night in the Village Hall 5-7pm

MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Odd Sock's Day

TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Class 1 Assembly 9.15am in the Village Hall

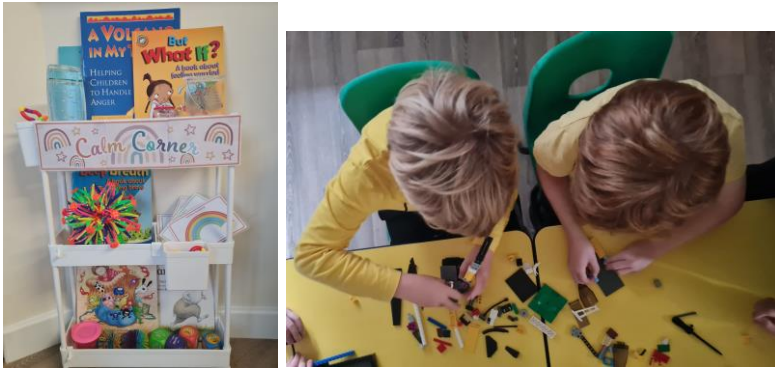
TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Whole School Christmas production at the Langstone Cliff Hotel

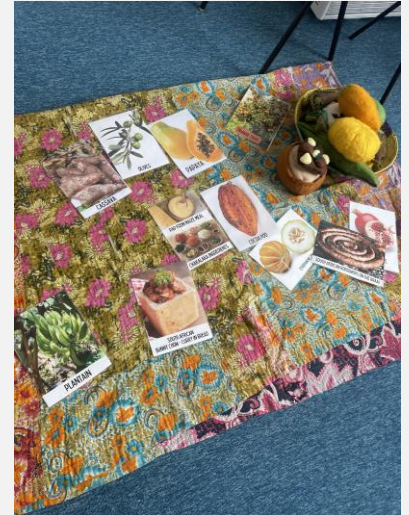
FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Break up for Christmas

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

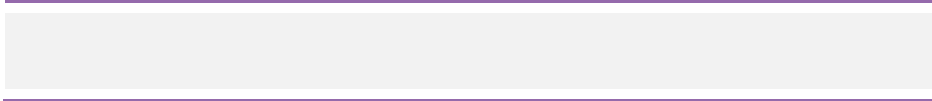


Everyone enjoyed World Mental Health Day on October 10<sup>th</sup>, it was a day when we all talked about mental health and learnt some mindfulness 'tools' to help us look after our own mental well-being. Pupils did yoga, used a breathing ball, gem play to music, had lego therapy, peer massage and used sand and oil timers to regulate and calm their breathing.



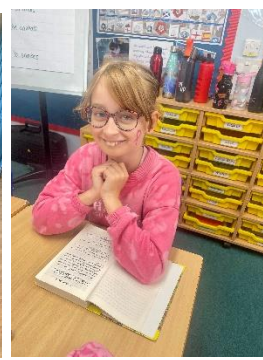
## TINY TRAVELS WORKSHOPS

This week we welcomed Tiny Travels into school to support our learning about Black History Month. The workshops focussed on the rich and diverse history in Africa and challenged the perception of how it is often portrayed. The children got lots of opportunities to handle artefacts and ask questions to build their own knowledge. Please ask your child what they remember from the sessions and we will build on this learning when we come back after half term.



## 'WEAR IT PINK' FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Today it has been wonderful to see our school family come together to wear pink, and raise money to help fund life-changing breast cancer research and support. Breast cancer affects 1 in 8 women and every 10 minutes someone in the UK is told they have breast cancer. We have raised £120 which will go towards funding over 70 cutting-edge projects to discover how we can prevent breast cancer, save lives, and help people to live well with and beyond the disease. Please take a moment to check for signs of breast cancer, early diagnosis could mean a better chance of successful treatment, see the link below.



For more information please follow this link:

<https://www.itv.com/lorraine/articles/download-the-change-and-check-sticker>

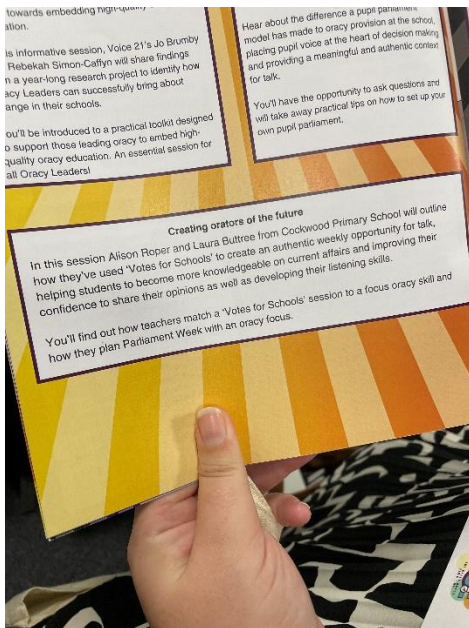
## HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

Don't forget **TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER** the PFA have invited pupils to dress up for Halloween, or wear home clothes for a small donation. Can we refrain from wearing any masks, and costumes are appropriate. There will be reading parties for Class 1 and 2, but normal learning will be taking place, possibly with a Halloween theme! The PFA will provide a 'treat' for all pupils at the end of the day.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this half term has been hampered by a bout of illness that swept through the school a few weeks ago, but we have ended this first half term on an average of 96.3%. We need to try and raise this to 98% by Christmas. If we can all make a concerted effort to ensure pupils are in school every day please, together we can all have an impact on our attendance outcome. Children need to be in school so they can make the most of their learning every day.

## THE GREAT ORACY EXHIBITION



Mrs Roper and Miss Buttrees were delighted to represent the school at a recent national conference held in Manchester focused on Oracy. They were asked to present to teachers and senior leaders from across the United Kingdom on how at Cockwood School we empower our students to develop confidence in advocating for themselves and how pupils learn to speak their mind in a clear and respectful way. The session focused on our work with Votes for Schools but also highlighted the amazing opportunities we create for our pupils to use their voice.

## FINALLY...

*I would like to wish you all a super half term holiday, in some ways the last few weeks have flown by, but in other ways it has felt like a long time since we returned to Hope Church in September! I am sure you will join me in saying a HUGE thank you to our incredible staff team, they have gone above and beyond over the last few weeks, we have had many late nights and worked weekends, and it is that dedication that makes me so proud every day to be part of the Cockwood School family. Happy half term!*

*Alison Roper*