

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 15th December, 2023

Season's Greetings

It has been a fun-filled few weeks since our last newsletter! The choir performed at Exeter Cathedral and at the Dawlish Lights switch on; we held our annual whole school Christmas show at The Langstone Cliff Hotel; we have enjoyed Christmas lunch together as a school family and we all went to St Mary's Church at Cofton for Christingle.

Alongside all the festive events, we have been busy in school finishing off this terms units and completing the end of term assessments. This term, we have had a few issues with Accelerated Reader, the platform delivering the site has been modified and updated and the way they now calculate points has changed. We will update you in January with how we are going to manage this moving forward.

Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes or bought raffle tickets for the PFA Christmas Fete (today from 3.15pm in the village hall). We have lots of exciting things happening next year and the support we get from the PFA is invaluable. We plan to transform the library, Class 1 and 2 have residential in the Summer Term and, of course, there will be swimming lessons just after Easter. The PFA contribute to these costs and it is because of this help that we can offer such wonderful opportunities to our pupils. Please come along and support them after school, if you can. On sale will be school tea towels which will make great stocking-fillers.

DON'T FORGET the children are being taken down to the hall today at 3pm to sing a few Christmas carols and will be released to parents from the hall at 3.30pm.

THANK YOU

May we extend a MASSIVE thank you to each and every one of you for supporting the school this year; it has been a challenging year one way and another and you have trusted us with your child's education which we appreciate. The move to Hope Church was a massive upheaval but we are all reaping the benefits of the new extension on a daily basis; your support during Ofsted was incredible and we were very thankful for all of your lovely comments. As the saying goes, 'teamwork makes the dream work' and that is why our children flourish and succeed, we are all one team with the aim of delivering the best education we can to allow your child to be the best version of themselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY

Non-pupil day, school is CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY

First day of the Spring Term

FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY

PFA meeting in Class 1, 3.30pm

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Class 2 trip to Exeter

(details to follow)

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

Non-pupil day, SCHOOL CLOSED

MON-FRI 12TH-16TH FEBRUARY

Half term holiday

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

News Wise workshop Class 1

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Sport's Impact Day with Mr Baxter

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

World Book Day

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

Red Nose Day

Jazz Music event at Powderham Castle

Yr 5/6 Sport's Impact afternoon

CHRISTMAS SHOW AT THE LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL

We hope you were able to come along and watch the wonderful performance last week of our whole school Christmas show, 'The Magical Jigsaw Puzzle'. The children excelled with their super singing, dancing and acting skills. The costumes looked great and everyone rose to the occasion. It was amazing to see so many of you in the audience and it is a wonderful experience for our pupils to feel that level of support.

Staff and pupils worked hard to put the show together but these moments are what the children will remember when they are older.

Thank you once again to the Rogers family for allowing us to use the Langstone Cliff Hotel, to Mr Tallamy for sorting out the sound and microphones and to those parents that helped with transporting props etc to and from school.



CHOIR PERFORM AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

The choir were absolutely amazing when they sang alongside the Teacher Rock Choir at Exeter Cathedral a couple of weeks ago. The Cathedral had a capacity audience of over 500 and the choir stood up and sang (without a rehearsal or sound check) Adele's, 'Make you feel my love', which was so moving as they filled the cathedral with their voices; we were the smallest choir there and they definitely made the biggest sound! They also sang a range of songs with the Teacher Rock Choir ranging from 'Let it Be' to 'Rule the World'. This is such a magical event and we appreciate Miss Buttree for organising our involvement and the parents for bringing their children along and allowing us to take part.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We all enjoyed our Christmas lunch, thank you to the PFA who supplied crackers and soft drinks to make the event a bit more special. Kate and Nik did a fabulous job in the kitchen and as always it was a great treat to mark the end of term. Thank you to Mrs Wilkin, one of our governors, for also lending a hand.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT WITH GIN



The children who join Gin for play therapy on a Wednesday morning had a super time this week making Christmas wreaths. They were amazing and the children had great fun putting them together. Gin will be joining us four mornings a week during the first half of the Spring Term and will get to work with a wider range of children on outdoor activities and learning.

ATTENDANCE

This week you will have received your child's attendance report for this term, if you have any concerns please get in touch to discuss it in January. As a school we have ended the term with an average of 95.9% attendance so far this academic year. It is a shame we are not quite at the 96%, which is our school target. We are monitoring attendance closely and will be working with our Attendance Improvement Officer next term to support those children not reaching the 95% attendance requirement. Together we can all make a difference, every absence affects the schools overall performance.

FINALLY...

We hope you enjoy spending time with your friends and families over the Christmas period, remember there is no such thing as a 'perfect' family or 'perfect' Christmas...you do you! If you have a moment please glance at this blog <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/christmas-wellbeing-family-wellbeing-during-the-festive-period> there are some top tips to support families at a time when everything can be very overwhelming.

And as another year draws to a close, it is important we all set aside some time to reflect, think about what went well and what didn't turn out as planned! This is something we will talk to the children about in January, setting goals for the year ahead and think about what improvements we want to make and how will we achieve them?

I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, the staff definitely need a few weeks to reset and recharge their batteries, like many of you, we need to focus on our families for a few weeks and try and embrace everything that Christmas brings. We will look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 3rd January when we can do it all again!!!!

Alison Roper