

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 31st January, 2024.

Joyful January

The Christmas holidays seem a very distant memory but we have all returned for the New Year with fresh vigour and enthusiasm.

The Spring Term is always such an important one as the weather starts to improve and the children can get outside more; there are less distractions and pupils are settled into their new year group. This is the term when the magic starts to happen! Our Year 6 children start to focus and prepare for SATs in May and the learning picks up pace as classes start their new topics. Class 3 this term is called, 'Around the World'. They will start by looking at how transport has changed over the years and then move onto weather around the world. Class 2 are focused on 'The Romans' and how they changed Britain? Then in the second half of term, they are doing a geographical study of Italy and learning about all things Italian. Finally Class 1, they will be studying the 'Vikings and Britain', they will be thinking about how the Vikings tried to take over Britain and how close did they get to succeeding? The second half of term, pupils will be gaining a topological understanding of the UK.

Of course, if you have any artefacts or expertise in any of these areas and would like to support your child we would be very grateful. Please speak to the class teacher and see how you can help.

We are all incredibly excited to have an official opening of our new library in a few weeks' time, along with various events that are coming up. Class 2 have a trip to the museum in Exeter, pupils are performing at a Dance festival and the Always Club are having a special treat going to the Vue, Exeter. We have lots to look forward to, please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) @cockwoodprimary and on Instagram to keep updated.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

We are delighted to welcome two new children to our Cockwood School family this term. Both Esme and Harrison have joined us in Class 2 and they have settled really well and beginning to build some nice friendships. We have also welcomed Charlotte Brown, an ex-pupil, onto the staff team to support in Class 3, cover lunchtimes and help at after-school clubs.

Please join us in congratulating Miss Buttrees who got engaged over Christmas; we are all thrilled for Laura and Paddy (Mr Mitchell) and wish them many, many happy years ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

NSPCC Number Day- wear anything to do with numbers. Trust-wide Maths events happening across the day, alongside PE.

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

PFA Valentine's Disco at Cofton Holiday Park 5-6.30pm (see below)

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Class 2 trip to RAMM in Exeter for a Roman workshop

BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

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 29TH FEBRUARY

PFA Charity clothes collection

MONDAY 4TH MARCH

Let's Dance Festival at South Dartmoor College, Ashburton)

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

World Book Day

AUTUMN TERM AWARD WINNERS

PLATINUM AWARD

Class 1- Noah Kirby

Class 2- Wilbur Genders

Class 3- Georgia Higgins

ALWAYS CLUB AWARD

Class 1- Ottelie Mathers

Class 2- Myla Harris

Class 3- Eric Konetsky

EFFORT AWARDS

| | READING | WRITING | MATHS |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Class 1 | Reed Bearne | Oskar Smik | Savannah Harris |
| Class 2 | Amelia Cliffe | Sonaix Bearne | Myles Higgins |
| Class 3 | Polly Strudwick | Joe Code | Obie Pavey |

The House Cup Autumn Term 2024 was won by: **EXE (blue team)**

DANCE WITH MRS WHENMAN

Mrs Whenman (formerly Miss Murray) is currently working with every class on a Monday morning, some children from Class 1 are also working towards performing at a Dance Festival at South Dartmoor College in Ashburton in early March. For those of you who attended last year, I am sure you will agree the standard and quality of the work on display was incredible. This year we have one performance slot and additional sessions of Dance are taking place on Tuesday mornings to help pupils prepare for their performance. As soon as we have details of performance times and tickets we will send them out. Thank you to those children who have offered to take part and represent the school, it is sure to be a fabulous event.

After half term, Forest School resumes (letter to follow) and there will be no more Dance until the Summer Term.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND CAROLS

Thank you to the PFA for organising the Christmas raffle on the last day of term. It was wonderful to see so many of you filling the village hall to listen to the children sing and lovely to have a surprise visit from Father Christmas! Also, on the last day of term, we enjoyed going to Cofton Church for their Christingle Service. The children looked resplendent in an array of Christmas jumpers and it certainly put us all in the festive spirit. A big thank you to Ruth, Val and Alan for always giving us such a warm welcome at the church, it is so important for the children to have these wonderful connections with our local community.



PLAY THERAPY WITH GIN

During January and early February our Forest School site at Methley Meadow is closed, instead we have secured the services of Gin to work with various children on-site Monday to Thursday mornings doing play therapy and various outdoor bush-craft activities. Her Wednesday morning sessions were very successful during the Autumn Term so we are pleased we can carry them onto after half-term.

TAPESTRY

First we need to apologise, there have been lots of 'teething issues' with Tapestry. We hoped to have the system up and running for all pupils by October half term but it has taken a lot longer than we anticipated. However, hopefully by now you have received your welcome email (if not please check your SPAM) and you have downloaded the Tapestry app. Class teachers have begun posting examples of your child's work or photos of them participating in learning activities. To start with we will aim for at least 3 posts for each class weekly so you have a window into their daily activity.

UPDATE ON THE NEW LIBRARY

The new library is taking shape, the shelving for the non-fiction areas has been built and we busy buying and labelling new books. New bookcases have arrived for our fiction stock and shelves are going in for the poetry and graphic novels in the next few weeks. The PFA have kindly donated £4,000 towards the restocking of the library and without their support we would not be in a position to purchase so many new and exciting books for your children.

Reading is the KEY most important thing you can do to support your child at home and because of this we will be running a 'house' competition from February half term to coincide with the launch and opening of our new library space. We will send home details with each child so they are clear on what they have to do to support their house team in a reading challenge that will run up to the Easter holidays.

ACCELERATED READER



Cockwood Primary School Reads!

In January 2024, students have read...

- 279 Books**
- 2,630,611 Words**
- for **34 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

The infographic features a background image of a stack of books on the left side. The text is presented in a clean, sans-serif font with key statistics highlighted in orange.

ATTENDANCE

You will see attached a copy of the dates for our academic year next year 2024-25; many of you have commented that you are pleased with the change to a two week half term in October as this gives families some flexibility on booking holidays. Our attendance for January is currently 96.4%, and our attendance for the academic year so far is 96% . Once again I need to remind you not to take **holidays during term time, will not be authorised** and we will issue penalty notices. The Attendance improvement Officer is in school at the end of March and we will be looking at individual children whose attendance is below 90%. She will also monitor those persistently arriving late and look for ways to alleviate this. You may have seen in the press, the national campaign, **“moments matter, attendance counts”**, the Department of Education want to encourage families to work with schools to improve their child’s attendance and as always we are here to support you. There has been some guidance released on when a child should be off with illness, please follow this link if you are unsure on whether to send them in or keep them at home. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

| | Sep-2024 | | | | | Oct-2024 | | | | | Nov-2024 | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| Monday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Tuesday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Wednesday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Thursday | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Friday | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Saturday | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Sunday | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| | Dec-2024 | | | | | Jan-2025 | | | | | Feb-2025 | | | | |
| Monday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| Tuesday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Wednesday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Thursday | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Friday | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Saturday | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 1 |
| Sunday | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 2 |
| | Mar-2025 | | | | | Apr-2025 | | | | | May-2025 | | | | |
| Monday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Tuesday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Wednesday | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Thursday | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Friday | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Saturday | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Sunday | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| | Jun-2025 | | | | | Jul-2025 | | | | | Aug-2025 | | | | |
| Monday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Tuesday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Wednesday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Thursday | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Friday | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Saturday | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Sunday | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| key: | Term dates: Pupils attend | | | | | Non-term dates | | | | | Bank Holidays | | | | |
| | INSET dates: Staff attend | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Don't forget our charity bag collection at school on **THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY 9am**, through the Bag 2 School company who specialise in the reuse and recycling of quality second-hand clothing. Fill a bag (any bag) with old clothes, they will be weighed then the PFA will be paid for the total weight collected. Half term is a great time to turn out unwanted or unloved clothes and help to make a few pounds for the school.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)



BAG 2 SCHOOL

FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation

Thank you to Celia Genders for organising this event; if you have any questions please contact the office.

FINALLY...

I always love the start of a new year, I try to make lots of plans so I have things to look forward to during the coming months. It is no different at school, we are busy finalising arrangements for both Class 1 and 2 residentials in the Summer Term, and thinking about how we can build on our Career's Week at the end of June. It was fabulous last year and the children got an awful lot out of it. This year we want to appeal to builders, plumbers, hairdressers, nail technicians, electricians, mechanics, cleaners, shop assistants, gardeners, tree surgeons and along with as many other types of professions as we can to really give our pupils a broad and varied opportunity to meet and talk to people about their job and what they 'actually' do. 'Ambition' is one of our core values and through opening children's eyes to a world of possibilities it will help them become ambitious and create their own goals.

Please get your thinking caps on and ask family and friends if they could find an hour in June, week commencing 24th, to help us broaden your child's experience of life. Of course, if you would like to come in and talk to a class or a small group (if you prefer) then let the office know and we will start compiling a list of willing volunteers.

Thank you as always for your support, the staff really appreciate you helping with homework, supporting trips and events and, the most important thing, reading regularly with your child. Let's start the year as we mean to go on and make an effort to support one another to make your child's primary experience the very best it can be.

I will leave you with this fabulous quote from the esteemed writer and author Neil Gaiman, it seems like the perfect resolution for us all to live by this year!

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before."

Alison Roper