

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 29th February, 2024.

Fabulous February

Despite the long, dark days of February, everyone has been busy this month and pupils have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities. There has been substantial work going on behind the scenes to plan for the residential for the Summer Term and the library is finally taking shape.

We have taken stock of lots of new non-fiction books and Mrs Moorehouse and Mrs Buttree have been very busy labelling and getting the books ready for the children to borrow and read. We have ordered vinyl wall art, bought new bookshelves and had shelves built-in, all paid for by the PFA. They have contributed £4,000 towards the creation of the new library and we are very grateful for their support. When your child starts bringing home the new books inside every one, that has been donated, there will be sticker.

We were also kindly donated a range of Geography themed books from Judith and Kevin McGrath. They have been involved with the school for many years and Judith has been an excellent Governor who has supported us through the journey joining the academy and, most recently, through our latest Ofsted. We really appreciate our school community coming together to help us create a library that will have such an impact on our learners today and moving forward for many years to come.

We are creating an Amazon 'wish- list' and should you or any family member wish to donate a book (and have your own sticker in recognition) we will share details with you shortly.

RESIDENTIALS

We are so excited for our residential in the Summer Term. It will be a new experience for us taking Class 2 to Hooke Court in West Dorset and Miss Buttree is working closely with the team there to organise a fun-packed few days. We will of course have a parent's meeting to discuss the finer details of this trip on **Monday 22nd April**. If you have any specific worries or queries please get in touch with one of the staff team and we will do our best to answer any questions. The Hooke Court website is very informative

We are waiting for the Parliament slots to open on March 6th before we can confirm London. Our visit to parliament subsidises our trip heavily and without this in place the cost would be too high. Please bear with us, as soon as it is definite we will let you know in due course. We aim to make a final decision next week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY 4TH MARCH

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

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

WORLD BOOK DAY (see note below)

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH

Yr 3/4/5 Gymnastics festival at Dawlish Leisure Centre

(letters to follow)

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH

Always Club- cinema treat at Vue, Exeter

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

PE Impact day Yr 5/6

Powderham Castle Jazz Ensemble

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH

Class 2 Trust-wide music event (details to follow)

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

Dentist workshop Year 3 and 4

SAT 23RD/ SUN 24TH MARCH

PFA need help at the Shanty Festival in Cockwood

MON 25TH/WED 27TH MARCH

Parent's Consultations

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH

Class 2 assembly in the village hall 9.15am start.

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH

Easter Service at Cofton Church

DANCE FESTIVAL AT SOUTH DARTMOOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We are all very excited for the Dance Festival on Monday. The children attending will leave school after lunch and travel to Ashburton in time for the technical rehearsal. Please remember they will need to bring a packed tea to have in the breaktime 3.15-4.15pm, before the first performance at 5.15pm, followed by the second performance at 6.45pm. Children need to be picked up from their 'dressing room' (a classroom in the Humanities block) by 8pm. Staff will release the children direct to parents. **IF** you need your child to travel back on the school minibus please contact admin@cockwoodschool.co.uk and we will arrange a pick up point in Dawlish or Teignmouth.



PFA



Thank you to the PFA for organising the Valentine's Disco at Cofton. It was a great evening and the children really enjoyed the entertainment and dancing. Thank you very much to Jeffery and Kirby families for supporting the school and donating the room, it is such a fantastic venue and the balloons and DJ really made it.

It was super to see families getting together, and taking part in the PFA February Forest Walk at Mamhead during the half term. It is a great chance to get outside in the fresh air and let the children have fun with their friends, without spending a penny!

FOREST SCHOOL RESUMES

Year 3 have been enjoying Forest School this month, they have been learning to build a camp fire, helping to clear the stream, making clay mandalas along with having time to 'play' and enjoy being on the site. They have one more week and then it will be the turn of Class 2, Year 4 and Year 2 up until Easter.

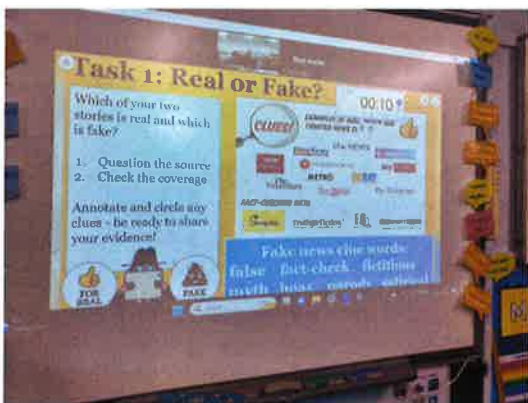


TAPESTRY

Hopefully you have enjoyed seeing what your child has been doing in school over the last few weeks through the Tapestry app; staff have been very proactive sharing lots of great photos and videos. Please add a like or comment on your child's photos, especially if it encourages them to talk about their learning with you at home. At present the engagement from parents is quite low, we have 4 families who are very proactive but for us to make this a useful long-term method of communication it needs to be valuable to all concerned. Developing this strong home/school link will promote lots of great discussions and give you a valued insight into your child's day. If you are having any issues downloading or accessing the app please contact us to see if we can help. Tapestry has been put in place in response to the parent survey last year that asked for more information on your child's learning journey but for it to be effective we do need more parents to add a like so we know you have seen the photo. We will assess the effectiveness and parental engagement at the end of the Summer Term.

CLASS 1 NEWS WISE

Class 1 are currently involved in a project funded by The Guardian Foundation, the Literacy Trust and PSHE Association. It is supporting pupils to tackle misinformation in the press and be critical consumers of the media. It is designed to increase the confidence of pupils in navigating the news and how to think like a reporter and create their own news story. To support them in writing their own news reports they have taken part in an online workshop, interviewed Mrs Brown from The Ship Public House in Cockwood and next week they are having a question and answer session with a journalist. Watch this space for their news reports coming shortly!!!



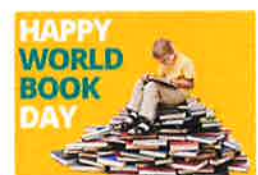
CLASS 2 TRIP TO RAMM EXETER



Class 2 enjoyed a fabulous trip this month to RAMM in Exeter to support their topic this term, 'The Romans'. They had the opportunity to dress up as various members of Roman society, along with a workshop on mosaics and learning to write their name in Latin! Pupils also had a guided tour of the museum and had the chance to handle some Roman artefacts. Their behaviour was excellent and we were very proud of the way they engaged with the day's learning. WELL DONE Class 2 and a massive thank you to the parents who volunteered to help on this trip, without your help it wouldn't have been possible.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Next Thursday 7th March is **WORLD BOOK DAY**. We have a range of different events planned for next Thursday to promote a love of reading. As always, if the children would like to come dressed as their favourite story character that would be great OR they can wear a 'hint' of a character and bring in a prop. Please do not spend more money on your outfit than the cost of a reading book- the day is about reading and not wearing fancy dress. The School Council would like invite every child to bring in a book in that they are prepared to swap; they will run a 'swap shop' throughout the day to ensure every child gets a chance to take home a different book along with their World Book Day book, which they will also choose on the day.



Cockwood Primary School Reads!

In February 2024, students have read...

290 Books

1,903,910 Words

for **27 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

ATTENDANCE

Unfortunately our attendance has dropped this month to 94.3%, this means our attendance for this academic year now stands at 95.8%, which is below the 96% target. There has been a few nasty viruses going around the school which has affected our figures this month but hopefully now the better weather is around the corner absence due to illness will decrease. All classes will be revisiting the importance of handwashing and personal hygiene in the next week to try and help protect each other when coughs and colds do enter school. If we could all have a concerted effort to improve attendance during March we would be very grateful.

FINALLY...

AND NOW IT'S SPRING BY LHTHEAKER

The grass is green across the hill,
But yellow blooms the daffodil.
It's sunshine on a little stalk,
A friendly flower, I bet they talk...

Of little kids, too long inside
They burst outdoors to play and hide.
Tracking mud and bringing bugs.
Look, there's footprints on the rug!

Tiny whirlwinds, these little tykes,
They skin their knees while riding bikes.
They rip and roar, they're running wild!
What fun it is to be a child.

It grows warmer every day.
Shoo the children out to play!
Pick the flowers, play in mud.
Too much rain, here comes a flood!

My snowy, winter days are gone.
I mourn them, but I hear a song
Of birds in trees; wind chimes ring.
I guess it might as well be spring!



As we say goodbye to Winter, and begin to welcome Spring, I wanted to share with you this lovely poem which encapsulates all the joys of warmer weather and the changing of the clocks.

It is such a delight to come to school and travel home in daylight, after months of darkness and I am sure you feel the same.

The children have loved being back at Forest School and we hope to get our younger pupils outside as much as possible as it begins to warm up.

The daffodils in the school garden have burst into life and it gives hope to everyone that Spring is literally just around the corner. We have a jam-packed March, with lots of events so please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) @cockwoodprimary and on Instagram.

Kind regards Alison Roper