

APRIL NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 30th April, 2024

Happy Bank Holiday ...

It certainly feels better seeing some sunshine, the children have come back happier and healthier after the Easter break and they are raring to go! It has been delightful seeing the children playing outside and hopefully we can make the most of the village green over the coming weeks.

We are very proud of the Year 2's who over the last few weeks took part in a national assessment trial, an external examiner came in and administered the test on two mornings, she commented on how sensible and polite the children were. Unfortunately, we do not receive any results or get any further feedback from the papers. It is merely done as a checking exercise for randomly selected schools to assess the level of the questions in the Year 2 Reading SATs papers.

Year 6 are very busy preparing for their SATs tests in two weeks' time (*see note below*) and Year 4 SHOULD all be practicing for their Multiplication Check in June. Staff have been sending home additional homework and revision links; if you have any questions regarding either assessment please contact us.

SWIMMING

Well done to everyone in Class 1 and 2 for a great two weeks of swimming at the Leisure Centre. The staff there commented on your *'impeccable behaviour and how engaged and enthusiastic you were in the sessions'*. A special mention to Callum (in Class 2) for making outstanding improvement over the course of 4 sessions and for showing incredible perseverance every session.

AU REVOIR

Today we say 'au revoir' to Charlotte Brown, who has been supporting the learning in Class 3 for the past few months. Charlotte has had a strong connection to Cockwood School for many years, she was a pupil herself and then came back to undertake work experience. It has been a pleasure having her on our staff team and we are very grateful for her help.

We know it is not 'goodbye', just 'goodbye for now, until we meet again'.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 2ND MAY

Class 2 Parent's meeting for Hooke Court residential in June

FRIDAY 3RD MAY

Year 3 and 4 PE Impact Day- hosted by Starcross School

MONDAY 6TH MAY

BANK HOLIDAY- school closed

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY

Sam Banks, Head Teacher at Dawlish College meeting Year 5 parents at 3.30pm in Class 1

MONDAY 13TH MAY

YEAR 6 SATs Week – see post below for more information

LONDON Residential meeting 3.30pm

FRIDAY 17TH MAY

Choir perform at the Devon County Show

FRIDAY 24TH MAY

SPORT'S DAY- see post below for more information

MONDAY 27TH MAY

HALF TERM

MONDAY 3RD JUNE

BACK TO SCHOOL

FOREST SCHOOL

During April, Year 2 and 4 have been to Methley Meadow, along with Class 3 this past week.



SPORTS DAY- FRIDAY 24TH MAY

This year we have decided to hold Sport's Day a little earlier than usual on Friday 24th May, the last day of term. We will take the children down to the field at 12.15pm, and if you would like to join us for a family picnic before races commence at 1pm, you are very welcome. We will send out a letter nearer the time for you to order a packed lunch from the kitchen for your child, if needed. The PFA will be serving coffee, tea, cold drinks and cake (to take-away) in the Village Hall from 12 until the start of the races. Obviously if the weather forecast is dreadful or there has been significant rain that week and the field is too wet we will postpone. Our reserve date is Friday 14th June.

CHAT & CRAFT ON MONDAYS

We are incredibly lucky to have strong links with members of our extended school family. Sally Stoneman comes in every Monday afternoon and has worked with various children on a range of art, craft and gardening projects. During the afternoon, pupils 'craft and chat', allowing them a moment to press the pause button and just be 'in the moment' within a small group. The children choose their project and currently the four boys from Class 1 have chosen to do collage using magazines and newspapers. Their pictures are amazing and we appreciate Sally giving up her time and supporting our pupil's well-being.



CLASS 1 RESIDENTIAL

We are all very excited for the Class 1 residential to London on Monday 20th May. There will be a meeting after school on Monday 13th May, where we will go through everything in detail and happily answer any questions you may have. The children will have an amazing time and we are packing a lot into our 3 days!

If you are not following us already, please add us to your favourites on X (formerly Twitter) @cockwoodprimary or on Instagram 'CockwoodPrimary', we will update both regularly throughout the trip so you can see what we are up to throughout each day. We will also aim to send photos direct to your child's Tapestry account, please let us know beforehand if you are having any issues accessing this.

SATS WEEK MONDAY 13TH-THURSDAY 16TH MAY

Our Year 6 have an important week coming up, they will be sitting the Standard Assessment Tests (otherwise known as SATs). These formal exams are designed to check their knowledge of the National Curriculum, they are compulsory and used to assess your child against age-related expectations. Year 6 SATs results are used to measure both the school and each child's progress and achievements in Maths, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Reading.

We will be running our special SATs Breakfast club each morning from 8am, should Year 6 wish to come in and join their friends for a croissant and some cereal. This has always proved very popular as they get some time to play outside before they start the day and it helps to alleviate any nerves. As we say to the children the SATs are a brief 'snapshot' of their ability and all we ask is they try their best. Once that week is out of the way they have the London residential to look forward to.

Timetable of assessments:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
SPAG Paper 1 (spelling, punctuation and grammar) SPAG Paper 2	Reading Paper	Maths Arithmetic Paper 1 Reasoning Paper 1	Maths Reasoning Paper 2

Assessments are all carried out in the morning and pupils will resume normal lessons in the afternoons.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance so far this year is **96%**, which is an improvement on last month. This is a positive move forward and hopefully we can continue to build on this as we head into the Summer Term. **Please can we remind you that in the morning the gate is open from 8.40am until 8.55am; anyone arriving after this time will need to bring their child to the gate and sign a late slip, giving a reason for the lateness.** Attendance is a huge focus for the Trust and we must encourage you to ensure your child is at school on time as the registers are done at 8.55am and learning starts promptly at 9am. From half term we will be moving onto digital registers so timing will be crucial.

We will talk to the children in assembly about being in on time and why it is important to their education to ensure they are here before the register closes.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Cockwood School Vision



Ambition



Creativity



Happiness



Perseverance



Reflection



Respect

We are delighted to share with you our updated symbols for our School Vision. We have been talking about our values in assemblies each week and discussing with pupils why each value is an important part of the Cockwood School jigsaw.

Swiftprint in Dawlish have very kindly donated wall art for the Class 3 corridor. This provides a constant reminder to our whole community the qualities we hold dear as a school.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

UPDATE: We are currently in discussions with staff, Devon County Council and the Trust to offer an after school club, from September, to support working parents. As soon as we have definite plans we will of course let you know.

ROTARY CLUB QUIZ WINNERS



WELL DONE...

...to the children in Class 1 who took part in the Dawlish Water Annual Rotary Club School's Quiz. Mr Carey came into assembly this week and presented the children with the winning cup as we won FIRST PRIZE.

CAREER'S WEEK

Don't forget we are holding our annual Career's Week June 24th -28th; thank you to those people who have already put their name down to come in and talk to the children. It would be great if we could have a wide variety of professions this year, if you are not comfortable talking to a whole class we can facilitate small groups, so it is not as intimidating. We would love to get some tradespeople in, alongside anyone working in hospitality. If you, or anyone in your family or friends has an interesting job and could give up an hour at any point that week we would love to hear from you. Please drop admin@cockwoodschool.co.uk an email and we will be in touch to arrange a time slot.

ACCELERATED READING

Our School Network Reads!

In April 2024, students have read...

171 Books

1,697,541 Words

for **21** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader

The children are really enjoying the new library; our student librarians are doing a great job keeping it tidy and helping younger pupils make their book choices.

SHARED READING

It was wonderful last week when Class 1 paired up with Class 3 for a reading session. To see the wonderful interactions, and the level of engagement, between our oldest and youngest pupils was very special.



Reading together is so beneficial for both parties, the younger children are able to access a wider range of books and vocabulary. And for our older pupils, they are able to be the 'experts' and practise reading aloud with fluency and intonation to ensure they are engaging their audience. We hope to do more of this in the future as the feedback from staff and pupils was very positive.

50/50- PFA

June will be the last month of 50/50 as we know it. Please cancel all direct debits or standing orders as we will NOT be drawing a JULY winner. 50/50 will continue from September but there will be a set date each month for payment so the draws are easier to manage. Details of the new 'improved' 50/50 will be released early September.

FINALLY...

As we embark on the journey of the summer term, we are thrilled to share in the excitement of the season with you and your children. With the May Day Bank Holiday just around the corner, we're eagerly anticipating the festivities and quality time spent together as families. This term promises a plethora of memorable events, including our much-anticipated Sports Day, where our students will showcase their athletic prowess and team spirit. Additionally, we're excited for our upcoming London residential, offering our pupils the opportunity to explore the rich tapestry of culture and history that our capital has to offer. From sunny days spent outdoors to thrilling city excursions, there's something for everyone to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Enjoy the extended weekend and don't forget no school on Monday, we will see you on Tuesday morning.

Kind regards,

Alison Roper