

# MARCH NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to see all of the children back here with us at Cockwood. Everyone has certainly faced challenges this year, and we recognise that both you as parents and the children have gone through so much.

Now we are back and getting towards some sort of normality, we will be building on the positives and working hard to support the children at school. Within covid restrictions, we continue to plan enjoyable activities for the children for the term ahead, and as restrictions continue to be lifted slowly, we will hopefully add more to our programme.

The staggered pick-up and drop-off times will continue into the Summer Term. This is important as it reduces the numbers of people around the gate. Can I ask all parents to ensure they arrive as close to the time your child leaves as possible. If you have more than one child could you arrive at the latest time please.

I think that the lovely sunny weather we are seeing this week certainly lifts spirits and I hope that it continues to stay pleasant, so that everyone can spend time outside as much as possible.

As always, there are some really important messages in this newsletter. Please also refer to the school website where there is plenty of information.

We look forward to our awards assembly at the end of the week, where the adults will be recognising amazing effort this term.

## SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

I know that I have often written about keeping our children safe. We seem to have so many parents now who are driving up to the gate instead of parking away from the school. This means that additional cars are driving past children and parents who are doing the right thing by parking away from the school. This is dangerous, when there are vans and other vehicles using these roads too.

**Can I draw your attention to this statement [which as a parent you have signed and agreed to](#) from the home school agreement.**

***Always put the safety of our children and other road users first, particularly at drop-off and pick-up times and only drive up to the school in very exceptional circumstances.***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

Last day of term

MONDAY 19TH APRIL

Return to school for all pupils

MONDAY 19TH APRIL

Forest School begins for Class 1

MONDAY 3RD MAY

May Bank Holiday

TUESDAY 4TH MAY

Class 1 workshop with Western Power

FRIDAY 7TH MAY

NSPCC Number Day

THURSDAY 20TH MAY

The Wizard of Oz production

WEEK BEG MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY

Half term break



I once again ask **all parents** to stay away from the school in their vehicle and walk to the gates please.

We had an ambulance by the school this morning, which again brings it home to us that the school community is making access difficult for emergency vehicles and adds to congestion. If you are late then we would rather you arrived late than parked near the school.

On another note, it has been reported that children are running away from their parents down both School Hill and Cofton Hill. This is very dangerous so can I ask all parents to keep their children close until you reach your car.

And finally, if parents are picking-up or dropping-off, can you wear masks please, as the staff do.

Can I say a huge thank you from the staff, governors and children to all parents and relatives who collect their child from the school and park at the bottom of the hill. It is very much appreciated.



## COMIC RELIEF

We had a lovely day supporting Comic Relief and the children certainly enjoyed the sponge throwing, coin trails, penalty shoot outs and the other fun activities on the day. It was important to give the children a different sort of day as we welcomed them back and we raised a super amount of money: £60 on red noses, £115 on the Just Giving site and £143.29 from cash donations on the day. This totaled £287.79 so a huge thank you for your support.

It was lovely to see the children having so much fun.



## DONATION FROM DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

We applied for a grant from Dawlish Town Council to support the purchase of essential phonically decodable reading books for our pupils in Class 3. These are hugely expensive but so essential in supporting the children with their early reading skills. The committee chose to double the donation, and have provided £500 to help fund these. Thank you so much to the town council for helping our children in this way.

COMIC RELIEF TOTAL £287.79

## FOREST SCHOOL CLASS 1 REMINDER

Forest School sessions begin on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. This is the first day back to school for all pupils after the Easter break.

Please refer back to the Forest School letter which was emailed to you. The collection arrangements will be changing. The pick-up location for the children after the session is going to be different. We will let you know this week where and when that is. The cost of these sessions was mostly covered by the school as we secured grants to help fund this. The remaining cost for the 5 sessions is £5 per child, payable on School Money. We still have 15 outstanding payments and consent for Forest School must be ticked on here. Please do consent to allow your child to attend the sessions. If you have any concerns please do contact me at school.

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

To all the Mums at Cockwood, we hope you had a lovely Sunday. The children produced some super flowers which were displayed around the school as part of the village celebrations. I hope you were able to catch a glimpse of these, as they were beautiful.

## 50 50 RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY

£50 prize to Mr Adrian Jordan

£20 prize to Mr David Parr

£10 prize to Mrs Gemma Birkett

## PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all parents who managed to complete the online survey asking for feedback after the last lockdown. The concensus was very positive on the whole, which is good to see. The survey is now closed and I will organise for the results to go onto the school website. The headlines are as follows:

- There were 57 responses
- 96% of parents felt that they were happy with the quality of the learning tasks provided in the last lockdown
- 98% of parents rated the quality of the feedback as good or very good
- 95% of parents felt that they were well supported by the school
- 83% of parents felt that the pre-recorded videos were very useful and 17% fairly useful

If you were a parent who did not agree with the above and you would like to talk to me about your survey responses and any concerns that you may have then do please get in touch, either by email or telephone.

We know that the lockdowns have been incredibly difficult and we will always look at ways to improve how we can support you and your children further.

From the perspective of a school leader, I would like to say at this point that the last 12 months have been the most challenging that we have seen in education settings. I am incredibly proud of the team here and how hard they have worked. If there are ways that we can improve then we will always try to do this to support all families. As mentioned above, do contact me if there are points you would like to discuss.



## STUDENT TEACHERS

We say good bye to Mr. Tom Pengelley who has worked with Class 3 this term. We wish him well in his teaching role in September.

We also welcome Miss Lucy Walker to Class 2.

## READING OVER EASTER

It is vitally important that the children continue to read over Easter. This 2 weeks is crucial for ensuring the children keep moving forwards and build on the wonderful start we have seen from them this term.

What we have noticed is that many children are unsure of their vocabulary, so when reading with your child, please do talk about words that they are unsure of and what they mean. This will help them enormously.

It is also very important that all children, even those in Class 1 , read aloud at home, so hopefully Easter will allow the children some time to practise this key skill before they return to us in the Summer Term.

We are continually adding books to our library and I know that the children enjoy choosing new books. Reading is the key to unlocking all areas of the curriculum and we are very proud of our children and how hard they try at school. If we can continue this great effort through Easter then we can hit the ground running when we return.

## VIRTUAL PARENT MEETINGS

These will take place next term. They will be either via Google Meet or via a telephone call.

We will let you know the dates of these very soon.

Your child will receive an annual report at the end of the Summer Term as usual.

## COVID RESTRICTIONS

We have been so very lucky here that we have not had to send any children home. Thank you for supporting our school by being careful and following the guidelines set by the government.

If your child displays any symptoms within 48 hours of finishing school on Thursday (or anyone else in the family home does) then please do contact me. The school is asked to support the track and trace process and we should let other families know if their child has come into contact with a potential positive case.

If you are concerned, please text the school mobile during the first 48 hours of the holiday. The school does not need to know of any cases after the 48 hours, but please do let us know when we return to school.

The school mobile is 0747 3217452.

## AND FINALLY

The Get Set to Tokyo challenge is still running so the children can log all of their exercise sessions.

Please read through the update from Nick Tallamy, Chair of Governors [here](#).

We wish you all a super Easter break. Fingers crossed that the weather remains sunny so that we can enjoy the outdoors.

If you have any concerns or questions please do get in touch with us at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Lorraine Curry

### MESSAGE FROM NICK TALLAMY

I am sure, like me, that you were all thankful that your children have been able to return to school and that the return has been well structured and safe for all.

As governors, we are responsible for ensuring that the school is a safe place for your children to come to. To do this, I have recently visited the school, during the school day and have seen first-hand the processes and procedures that are in place.

After a negative Covid test, wearing a face mask and having sanitized my hands, I was allowed to enter the school site to see what the school had put in place. I chose to visit at lunchtime on Red Nose Day, and there was great excitement around the school. Despite the differences to a normal day this brought, I was impressed to see that each Class followed the procedures that are in place without hesitation.

Each Class was separated and involved in different activities. The activities were timetabled to allow all Classes to partake in them and to allow thorough cleaning of equipment between each Class.

During lunchtime, Class 2 left for the Village Hall, Class 1 were in the playground and Class 3 were having their lunch. All meals are served in plastic "takeaway" boxes and are brought to the children at their table. Class 2 lunches were taken down to the Village Hall.

Once they had finished, Class 3 and Class 1 swapped over. Class 3 went to their section of the playground and the "lunch" room was cleaned and sanitised. Class 1 left the playground, washed their hands, and had their lunch.

Toilet runs are separated (as much as possible) by Class. All children are aware that they are not to enter the toilets if there is someone already in there. The toilets are cleaned thoroughly after each Class has used them.

In the playground, the toys are colour-coded, so that each Class has their own selection to use (Class 1 are red/green; Class 2 are blue/yellow). Class 3 have their own section of the playground with their own set of toys.

Whilst the children are having their lunch, the 2 classrooms not being used are cleaned and sanitised by the Class Teachers.

Each child has their own "pouch" for books and stationery, which is sanitised and put away. The tables and chairs are wiped down. Each child has their own seat which they sit at for all lessons. When iPads are used, they are kept separate until they are sanitised and placed back into the charging cabinet. Children know to only take an iPad from the cabinet.

The children all seemed happy and knowledgeable about the rules they must follow. All my questions were answered quickly and correctly. The children have taken to the new rules and actively enjoy following them.

The staff are constantly busy to keep the classrooms safe for use. The cleaning routines have become "the norm" and the school is operating like a well-oiled machine.

I have nothing but praise for the children and the staff. The cooperation between them has ensured that the school is a safe and happy place to learn and work in.

