

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

20th October 21

Dear Parents

Here is the October newsletter for you.

The children have been enjoying some time outdoors when the rain hasn't been too heavy and it is lovely to see them engaging in their learning. I have seen some wonderful Science, Art and Music in school, and what an amazing Forest School site the children are now visiting.

We are looking to remove the class bubbles after half term; we needed to put these in place as we are such a small site and I think that with the Covid cases that we have experienced within the school, this was definitely the correct things to do for everyone. We are keen to start to move on now, so after half term the children will have lunchtimes together. We will start to build in more assemblies and gradually we will work towards having our Christmas events, where we very much want to invite parents and family members.

Morning routines will remain the same, so pupils will come straight into class, and they can change reading books, enjoy some quiet reading time with an adult or settle ready for the day.

We are continuing to clean the shared areas around the school several times a day and the children have maintained their super hand washing routines. We do have a number of coughs and other illnesses, and it is important that if your child does show any Covid symptoms they receive a PCR test, just so that we can be as careful as possible in school. The tests are coming back very quickly, and this way we can keep all children, staff members and family members safe. If we do get an outbreak of cases in any one class then we will return to bubbles for a period. I think this will be how the school must run for the coming months, but our goal now is to ensure we can provide as many of the enrichment opportunities that we so enjoy.

Lorraine Curry

FOREST SCHOOL

Class 2 have started their Forest School activities and I know that they had such a wonderful time at Bickham Farm. Gin, our Forest School leader was delayed in starting but she is now up and running and we are so pleased that the first session went well for Class 2 pupils. They have another few weeks and then Class 1 will have a chance to experience some outdoor learning and enjoy being in the fresh air. Pupils behaved impeccably, so well done to our first group of Forest Schoolers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 4TH NOV

Sports fixtures for selected pupils DCC

THURSDAY 11TH NOV

KS1 invasion games for selected pupils DCC

MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Forest School – Class 2 pupils (Group B)

MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Forest School – Class 2 (Group B)

MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

Class 1 begin Forest School (Group A)

MONDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

Class 1 Forest School (Group A)

WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

Flu vaccinations

MONDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Class 1 Forest School (Group B)

MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Class 1 Forest School (Group B)



Harvest

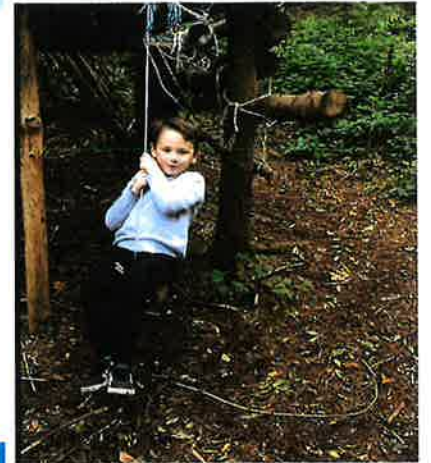
Thank you to all of the parents who made donations to the homeless charity in Teignbridge and to Mel Kirby for delivering these. The video of our harvest celebration is on our school website.



Music at Cockwood

The children enjoyed a super musical workshop with songwriter David Haines, who came in to teach the children some songs about the environment and climate change. He spent time in both Class 1 and Class 2, and commented on how beautifully the children sang and how well they picked up the new songs. It was fantastic to see the children singing and enjoying making music, and we look forward to providing more singing opportunities for the children in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

We also welcomed Kip Pratt, who taught the children some lovely playground songs. We have received some wonderful Music enrichment from experts during the last two weeks.



MORE NEWS

CLUBS

We have sent home some information regarding the variety of clubs we have available for the children after half term. Please contact the school if you have any questions.



WELCOME

Here are our lovely new pupils who have joined our school family. Welcome to our EYFS superstars.





RIGHTS RESEPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

At Cockwood we are working hard to become a Rights Respecting School. This means we are working with UNICEF UK looking at children's lives both in the UK and around the world. We are taking part in an exciting opportunity to improve life in school and get involved in a great programme with the schools in The Osprey Learning Trust as well as thousands of other schools across the country. There will be more news to follow soon.

CLIMATE CHANGE

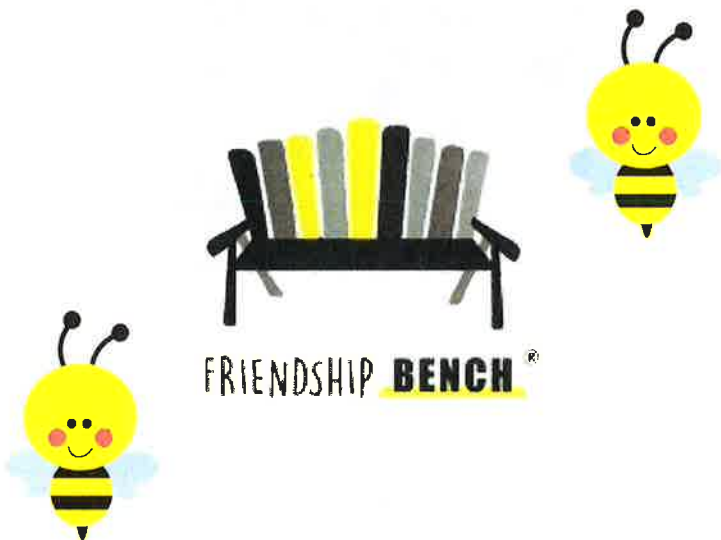
Every child at Cockwood has sent a message to world leaders coming together in Glasgow in November to plan how to tackle the urgent threat of climate change. The children have sent their leaves to Glasgow to contribute to the FairTrade Forest of Promises. Each child has designed their own leaf - on one side they have written their own promise: what are they going to do to tackle climate change. On the other side of their leaf they have written what they would like the world leaders attending the COP26 to promise to do to tackle climate change. We will be creating our own Tree of Promises in the playground. Here are some of our promises.

Well done to Leo Clifton, who has been selected as the candidate to represent Teignbridge at the COP26 Youth Parliament to debate this issue.



FRIENDSHIP BENCH

Thank you to Cllr Martin Wrigley and Cllr Rosie Dawson who joined us at school with some colleagues, as they presented our pupils with a lovely friendship bench. This is a quiet place for pupils to sit and talk and it looks amazing in our playground. This gift will be widely used so thank you to Dawlish Town Council. You may wonder why we had some bees on the bench. This is because we are encouraging the children to relax on here and just **be** themselves.



50 50 WINNERS

Well done to the following winners in our September and October draws. We have some very lucky parents.

September

£50 – Liz Price-Holden

£20 – Debbie Barnes

£10 – Daniella Jordan

October

£50 – Liz Price-Holden

£20 – Suzie Squires

£10 – Debbie Barnes

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council have been elected and here they are. We have two Head Girls this year as we had a tie on votes so well done to Isla Nicholson and Lola Chapman-Hunt. Our Head Boy is Max Butler. They will lead the Council in achieving the Rights Respecting School Award and work with the adults to continue to improve our school and be the voice of the children. They will have a regular slot in the newsletter going forward and I am excited to be working with them. Some of our Council are poorly today and so not in the picture – but we will meet them throughout the year.



WELL DONE

We have a number of parents who competed in the marathon recently – so well done. What an amazing achievement. Could I also say a huge well done to Mrs Watts, who has achieved a national SENDCO award. This is almost equivalent to a Masters Degree, and she is very equipped to support our pupils who have additional needs. Thank you to Mrs Watts for all of the time and effort you have applied to your studies alongside your normal teaching. Another huge achievement.

NEW GOVERNORS NEEDED

We are hoping to recruit some new governors to our Governing Board. If you can offer some time to support our school and shape how we further grow and develop, please read the letter attached to this newsletter, from our Chair of Governors, Nick Tallamy.

Have a wonderful half term break. Stay safe and we will see the children back in school on Monday 1st November.

Kind regards

Lorraine Curry



Cockwood Primary School
Cofton Hill, Cockwood, EXETER EX6 8RB



10/21/2021

Dear all

Can you help shape the future of our school?

We need parents of pupils registered at the school or members of the local community to make a difference in our school's community by volunteering to become **governors**.

Currently we have **vacancies** for parent governors and co-opted governors on the governing body.

Your voice is very important to our school and it is vital that the governing body has good representation of our parents and our local community among its membership.

Information about the role

Once elected or appointed for a term of four years, you will take on the role of a school governor, a public volunteer. All governors are equal, no category of governor is any more important or influential than any other. Parent governors exercise a strategic parental voice on the governing body and community governors identify how the school impacts on the local environment.

We are seeking people who have a real willingness to help, who can listen carefully, read important documents, ask questions, attend training and be able to actively contribute at meetings.

If you can spare approximately eight hours or more a month then please consider nominating yourself for this interesting voluntary role.

The governing body is particularly seeking applicants with skills relating to finance monitoring, health & safety and premises management.

What can you offer as a governor?

- Enthusiasm, time and commitment.
- Your local knowledge will be valuable: you will have a feel for what is important to people.
- Any professional or other skills you may have will be very helpful.
- An openness to learning and change, and wanting to make a difference.
- Governors also provide objectivity in debate and decision-making and can add further and different perspectives to school matters.

What are the benefits?

- Being a school governor is a privilege – you are a small but very important part in an educational system with a very long history.
- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving local children's education and supported the school's staff.

- A chance to develop new skills, to practice and strengthen existing ones, such as chairing a meeting, researching or leading on a key school issue.
- The opportunity to work as part of a team to make a real difference in the community.
- The opportunity to meet new people from all walks of life whom you probably would not have otherwise encountered.
- Knowing that the decisions you collectively make will have a huge impact on children's lives.
- You develop as a person and may even find that your experiences as a governor influence future career and life choices.

If you are interested in volunteering, here's what you should do ...

1) Please check that you are eligible to stand as a parent governor or a community governor.

The definition of "parent" includes:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not: and
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and
- "Parent" is defined as including "any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18". It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. The reference in the definition must be to someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

There are some criteria which can disqualify you from serving as any type of governor. This list is copied at the end of this letter. If you are applying, then you must confirm that you are not disqualified by those criteria.

2) Please send an initial email of interest to clerk@cockwoodschool.co.uk stating whether you are seeking to become a parent or community governor. One of our current governors will be in touch to arrange an informal chat and pass on an application form.

For parent governors only.

If the school receives more applications than there are vacancies, then we will hold an election and parents will be asked to take part in a secret ballot to vote for the candidate(s) they feel would be most suitable as a parent governor. The information you supply as part of your nomination will be circulated to parents to help them decide who to vote for. Your personal contact details will not be distributed.

If the school receives the same number of applications as there are vacancies, then those nominees are deemed to be 'elected unopposed' and become parent governors without the need for an election.

If no parents apply, then the governing body become responsible for appointing parent governors to fill the vacancies. If they can't find volunteers at our school then they may seek parent volunteers from other schools.

If an election needs to take place then I will inform all nominees personally, and all parents in writing, providing the details of how to vote and the deadline for doing so.

If there are any questions or you need further information, please let me know as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Nick Tallamy
Chair of Cockwood Governing Body

Eligibility

I confirm that:

- I am aged 18 or over.
- I am not a pupil at Osprey Learning Trust
- I am not an undischarged bankrupt.
- I am not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee under Section 72 of the Charities Act 1993
Section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 provide a person will be disqualified as a charity trustee for:-
 - *conviction of any offence involving dishonesty or deception (unless the conviction is spent);*
 - *being adjudged bankrupt or having his/her property made available to creditors and (in either case) he/she has not been discharged;*
 - *making a formal arrangement with his/her creditors which has not been discharged;*
 - *removal from the office of charity trustee by an order of the Charity Commissioners or of the High Court;*
 - *removal under Section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 from being concerned in the management or control of any body; or*
 - *being subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under Section 429 (2) (b) of the Insolvency Act 1986.*
- I am not included in the list kept by the Secretary of State under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999.
- I am not disqualified from working with children in accordance with Section 35 Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
- I am not barred from regulated activity relation to children (within the meaning of Section 3(2) of the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- I am not the subject of a direction under Section 142 Education Act 2002 nor am I subject to any prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction.
- I have not been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any offence that is spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence.
- I am not under a disqualification order made by a Court under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

*A disqualification order **must** be made against a director if he/she is or has been a director of a company which has at any time become insolvent and his/her conduct as a director of that company (taken alone or together with his/her conduct as a director of any other company or companies) makes him/her unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.*

*A disqualification order **may** be made against a director for:-*

- *conviction of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation, management, liquidation or striking off of a company or with the receivership or management of a company's property;*
- *persistent breaches of company's legislation (e.g. failure to file accounts and annual returns);*
- *fraudulent trading or of any other fraud in relation to the company;*
- *conviction for contravention of or failure to comply with any provision in companies' legislation requiring the filing of documents with the registrar of companies; or*
- *participation in wrongful trading.*

From 1 August 2018 individuals are automatically disqualified from acting as a governor of a school if:

- one or more of the reasons in Annex A apply; and
- they have not obtained a waiver of that disqualification from the Charity Commission.

I declare that:

- I am not disqualified from acting as a governor and
- I will inform the Cockwood governing body promptly if, after the date of this declaration, one or more of the disqualification reasons applies to me.