

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

## Focused February

February has flown by and everyone has been very focused on teaching and learning; each class has been engrossed in their topic and we have spent lots of time developing and improving our continuous provision for our youngest pupils.

We have welcomed Miss Murray in to teach extra sessions of dance on Tuesday mornings to prepare for our upcoming performance at South Dartmoor Community College, further details will be sent out next week for those attending. It is a very popular annual event and we are excited about taking part with a range of both primary and secondary schools, from across Devon.

This month we have welcomed the CAP team in to work with all children on assault prevention and we all enjoyed dressing up for NSPCC Number Day. The School Council are currently working on hosting events for Fairtrade fortnight and the PFA are holding a second-hand school uniform sale this Friday.

Class 1 and 2 have enjoyed swimming lessons at Dawlish Leisure Centre and it was fantastic to see the improvement many children made through swimming week. We all know the importance of being able to swim and understand that it is a life skill that could potentially save their life. Thank you to everyone who picked up from the leisure centre to support this aspect of the curriculum.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We hope pupils are enjoying the after-school clubs. It is so lovely to welcome Sally Stoneman back to school to run Cross- Stitch Club on Mondays. Sally has had a long association with Cockwood School and is a very big part of the local community; we are very lucky she has offered to give up her time to support our children. Thanks must also go to Mark Crowe who has volunteered to run the keep fit club on Wednesdays, after school. If we have any parents or carers out there with 'hidden' talents and an hour or two spare, then please get in touch with the school office.

## THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

World Book Day – dress up as a character from your favourite book or bring in a 'hint' to a book

## FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

PFA Second hand school uniform sale

## TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Olympic Athlete in school pm.

## TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

EYFS and Year 6 height and weight checks carried out by Public Health, England. (letters have been sent to parents)

## WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Music workshop all pupils

## THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

KS1 Festival- gym and dance

(a letter will be sent to those children invited to attend)

## FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Music in the Castle event (further details to be sent home shortly)

## SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

ECFC v Portishead 2pm kick-off at

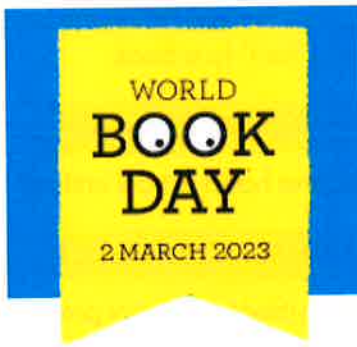
St Jame's Park, Exeter

(parents/carers to attend with their children)

## TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Class 1 and 2 attend Dance Festival at South Dartmoor Community College, Ashburton 1-8pm

## WORLD BOOK DAY

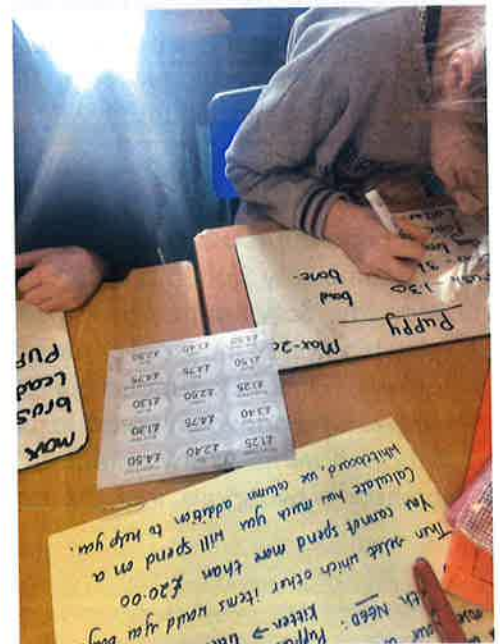


We will be giving each child a World Book Day book to keep on Thursday. It is for them to share and enjoy at home. Please check book bags, inside the book will also be a special bookmark to help the adult at home make the most of reading with their child by giving them prompts to support comprehension and understanding the text.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March is World Book day and one we all enjoy as a school family. Children can come into school dressed as a storybook character **OR** bring in an item that is a 'hint' of a book (and wear home clothes).

Throughout the day we will have opportunities to share and talk about books, along with a range of World Book day activities.

It would be lovely if everyone brought in their favourite book on this day to share with their class.



## NSPCC NUMBER DAY

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the NSPCC Number Day a few weeks ago. We raised £45, which has been donated to this very worthwhile charity. Class 1 and 2 took part in a Times Table battle against the other primary schools in the Trust and the children loved this challenge, their competitive streak definitely emerged!

To build on this enthusiasm, Mr Fenton is setting weekly times table challenges and each week there is a different focus. Please remember pupils can access TTR at home and their log in details are in their reading record books.



## CAP WORKSHOPS



All pupils had three workshops with the CAP team at the beginning of February. CAP takes a fresh approach to assault prevention and aims to reduce the fear by focusing on what the children can do, rather than on what they can't.

The workshops contained lots of drama and discussion to help the children know their rights to be **safe, strong and free**.

If you would like further information please look at their website, where there is a short video explaining what was covered.

<https://safestrongfree.org.uk/schools/>

## NEW MEMBER OF OFFICE STAFF

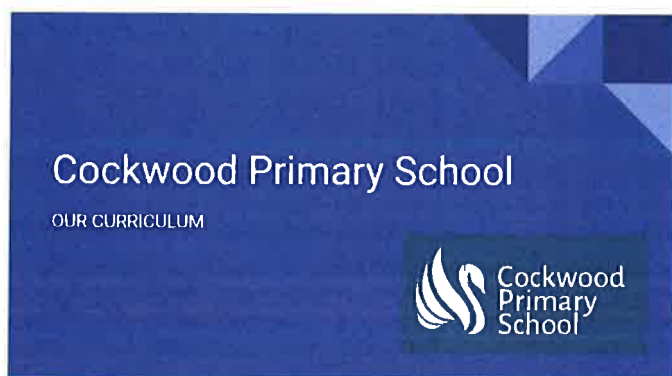


Some of you may have already met our newest member of staff in the office, Mrs Fran Moorhouse. She has joined our staff team as an Administration Assistant and currently works on Tuesday and Wednesdays. Mrs Moorhouse has two nephews at the school so has been part of the extended school family for a while. We welcome her to our staff team and hope she will find her time at Cockwood School an enjoyable one.

## CURRICULUM UPDATES ON THE WEBSITE

Staff have been very busy over the last few months updating and improving our curriculum information on the website. Please follow this link which will take you to our curriculum page, from here you can delve into subjects and see our curriculum offer. We are adding photos of each subject onto the pages, along with progression documents and any additional information we feel supports your child's learning journey. This will be an evolving process but hopefully it will give you an idea of the expectations for each year group.

<https://www.cockwood-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum-2/>



## FOREST SCHOOL



Year 4 and 5 have resumed sessions at Methley Meadow; this week, they have made pancakes over the camp fire. It is wonderful to see them working together and enjoying being outside in the fresh air, making the most of their time at Forest School.

## ATTENDANCE

Our current attendance for the year is 94.7% and it would be amazing if we could get to an average of 95% by the Easter holidays. Regular attendance and good punctuality are important for maximising achievement and gaining the greatest benefit from education. Please remember we are unable to authorise any absence in term time, unless absolutely exceptional circumstances.

## FINALLY....

*With the anticipation of spring just around the corner, our garden, just inside the gate, is starting to burst into life with the bulbs that the children planted a few months ago. Finally spring flowers are beginning to pop their heads out of the soil and I am sure, like them, we are all looking forward to lighter evenings as the days begin to get a little longer. We have a busy few weeks coming up, please keep an eye on the website and Twitter @CockwoodPrimary, for the latest photos and information. Remember we are a partnership and ultimately we all want the best for your child, whether that's attending the dance festival or going to watch Exeter City Ladies play at St Jame's Park in a few weeks. Every moment in time creates a memory and building a varied tapestry is what we want to offer each and every pupil so they have long-lasting memories they will carry with them forever.*

*Thank you for your on-going support, it is very much appreciated.*

*Alison Roper*