

COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



October

We are sending out our newsletter early this month, as when we return after half term, we'll be fully immersed in November.

Despite it only being two weeks since the end of the month, I was worried I wouldn't have much news... but in true Cockwood style, it has been an incredibly busy few weeks.

The School Council demonstrated fantastic initiative by running a French Cafe to raise funds for their chosen charity, Farms for City Children. The event was a huge success, and we're already planning to repeat it before Christmas.

Class 2 enjoyed a fabulous day trip to the SS Great Britain. It was wonderful to see them engaging so enthusiastically with their history topic. Even more heartening were the comments from members of the public about their impeccable behaviour around the ship - well done, Class 2! We are incredibly proud of you.

Alongside Dance and Forest School, Year 5 also participated in Bikeability, adding another exciting dimension to their learning experiences.



We've been hosting wonderful 'stay & play' sessions and conducting tours for prospective families with children starting school in September 2026, which have been incredibly successful so far.

If you know any families with young children looking for a nurturing primary school environment, we have one final open session coming up on **Thursday, November 6th from **1:30-3pm**. We would be grateful if you could help spread the word about this opportunity to explore our school.**

STAY & PLAY



Forest School

Class 2 pupils have been enjoying their Forest School sessions, immersing themselves in nature and learning through exciting outdoor activities. They've been busy crafting dens, exploring their creativity, and engaging in hands-on experiences like apple pressing. The children have even discovered the magic of creating fairy crafts, connecting with the natural world around them. These outdoor learning opportunities provide our pupils with invaluable experiences that complement their classroom education, helping them develop skills, confidence, and a love for the environment.



Year 5 Bikeability

This week, our Year 5 pupils have been engaging in an important road safety initiative – Bikeability. This cycle training programme provides pupils with practical skills and knowledge about safe cycling on modern roads. Over a few days, our pupils have been working diligently to complete Level 1 and 2 of the training, developing crucial road awareness and cycling techniques. It's been wonderful to see our pupils gaining confidence and learning such valuable life skills.



Oracy October



As a Voice 21 Centre of Excellence, we've been embracing Oracy October with enthusiasm and creativity. Our pupils have been engaging in weekly challenges that develop their speaking and listening skills in exciting ways. This week, our focus shifted to 'giving instructions' – a critical communication skill. Our Talk Detectives were on the lookout for pupils using imperative verbs and delivering clear, concise directions. The highlight was a fantastic practical demonstration involving Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Fitton, who bravely volunteered to be blindfolded for an exciting challenge; they were directed around the playground to find treasure!



Shoeboxes



We are once again supporting the Rotary shoebox appeal, a powerful initiative that brings hope to families facing significant challenges. These simple gifts can make an extraordinary difference, especially for traumatised children who need to know they are not forgotten.

We are always delighted to participate in this compassionate project. Boxes should be carefully wrapped and properly secured, and clearly labelled for a boy, girl, or family, with age ranges where possible.

Donations can be brought to the school office in the first week after half term.

Each shoebox represents more than just a gift; it's a message of care and solidarity. We understand that many families are experiencing difficulties, which makes this gesture even more meaningful.

A list of suggested items for your shoeboxes is attached to the end of this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support in spreading kindness.



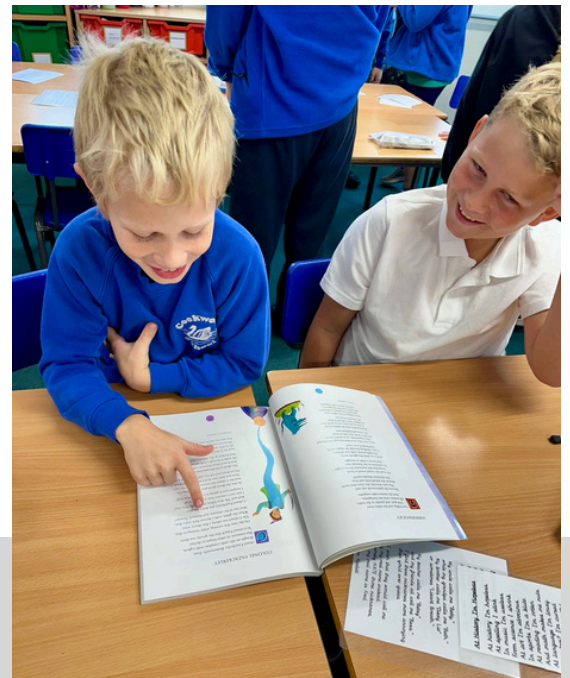
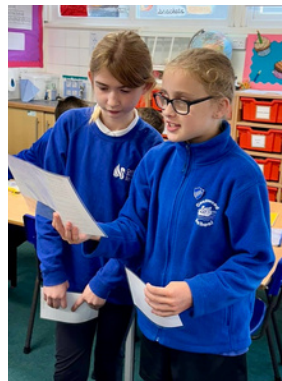
CLASS 1 NEWS



On Poetry Day, our pupils spent a lovely morning immersed in the world of poetry, experiencing a rich and engaging exploration of verse.

During the morning, pupils had the opportunity to enjoy poetry in multiple ways. They listened to poems being read aloud, which allowed them to hear the rhythm and emotion of different works. They also enjoyed quiet reading time, giving them space to personally connect with the poems.

What made this session particularly special was the discussion that followed. Pupils shared their thoughts, talking about which poems they liked or disliked. They made personal connections, discussing which poems reminded them of experiences or sounds they had heard before.



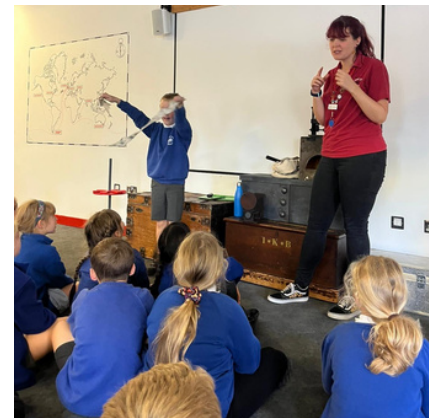
Class 1 Trip to London

A gentle reminder we require a deposit of £50 to secure your child's place on the London residential, payable by Tuesday 4th November.

CLASS 2 NEWS

Our recent Class 2 trip to SS Great Britain was an extraordinary day of learning and exploration! Our pupils were absolutely outstanding, impressing the education team with their deep knowledge about Brunel. They confidently answered every single question, demonstrating their remarkable understanding of the historical context. During the visit, pupils worked collaboratively in groups, managing a steam engine and discovering special items throughout the Brunel experience. The afternoon was spent exploring the magnificent ship, with pupils showing tremendous enthusiasm and curiosity. This was truly an amazing opportunity for our pupils to engage with history in such an interactive and immersive way. Their excitement and engagement were a testament to the power of experiential learning.

SS Great Britain



CLASS 3 NEWS

Nature Walk



This month, our pupils embarked on a delightful nature walk around our village, taking time to truly appreciate the wonderful natural environment right on our doorstep. As the Autumn season unfolded, our pupils enthusiastically explored the changing landscape, collecting leaves and transforming them into creative classroom projects. We crafted beautiful dream catchers, unique necklaces, and artistic pictures that captured the essence of this magical season.



Learning about Grace Darling

In History, Year 1 have been learning about Grace Darling. They have been finding out about lighthouses and how important they are in saving lives at sea- they even built their own to take home! Well done Class, they look great.



Dance



Class 1 and 3 are enjoying dance sessions with Mrs Whenman this term. It is amazing to see our new EYFS children already picking up the routines.



6TH  NOV

GLOW DISCO

COFTON HOLIDAY PARK
5-6:30

Tuck Shop Glow Sticks

£3 PER CHILD (YOUNGER SIBLINGS
REQUIRE A TICKET BUT ARE WELCOME)

ORDER ON ARBOR OR ON THE DOOR

CLASS 3 PARENTS AND THOSE WITH YOUNGER SIBLINGS
MUST STAY FOR THE DURATION.

Reading

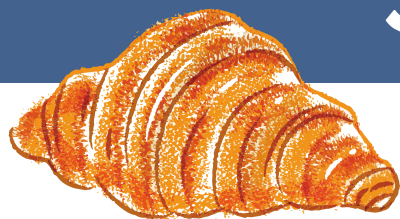
Year 6 have been down to the Village Library this week and changed the books. The idea behind the library is encouraging the adults within our community to read more, to be good role models for the children.

If you fancy a book to browse over half term then please help yourself to a book.

If or when you are able to bring the same or a different book back that would be great, but please don't feel obliged.



School Council News



Raising funds by holding a French Cafe



Our School Council has been busy making a real difference! They organised a delightful French Cafe to support our chosen charity, Farms for City Children. During breaktime in Class 3, pupils enjoyed serving hot chocolates and croissants. We are proud to share that they successfully raised £77, and the fantastic feedback means we'll be hosting another cafe in the coming weeks. It's wonderful to see our pupils taking initiative and supporting such a meaningful cause.



DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@COCKWOODPRIMARY

Dates for your diary

November

Mon 3rd Nov- Non-pupil day

Tues 4th Nov- First day of term

Thurs 6th Nov- Class 1 Assembly- 9am Village Hall

Thurs 6th Nov- Stay & Play session- 1.30-3pm new EYFS SEPT 26

Thurs 6th Nov- PFA Disco @Cofton 5-6.30pm

Fri 7th Nov- Dentist visit Class 2 (afternoon)

Wed 12th Nov- Always Club Cinema trip (letter to follow)

Tues 18th Nov- KS1 Aesthetics Festival DCC 1.15-2.45pm

Fri 21st Nov- Visit from our local MP, Martin Wrigley

Mon 24th Nov- Parliament Week (all week)

Tues 25th Nov- Class 1 Learn with the Lords

Fri 28th Nov- Choir perform at Exeter Cathedral

December

Thurs 11th Dec- Whole School Christmas Show at Langstone Cliff Hotel

Tues 16th Dec- Class 3 Theatre trip to see The Jolly Christmas Postman

Thurs 18th Dec- School Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

Fri 19th Dec- break up for Christmas holidays

Looking ahead...2026

JANUARY

MON 5TH JANUARY – FIRST DAY OF TERM

TUES 13TH JANUARY- SPACE DOME ALL PUPILS

FRI 30TH JANUARY- CLASS 1 CONCERT AT GREAT HALL, EXETER

FEBRUARY

THURS 12TH FEB- BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

MON 23RD FEB- FIRST DAY OF TERM

APRIL

THURS 2ND APRIL- BREAK UP FOR EASTER



Attendance

This week, our attendance has dipped to 96.6%, which is a slight decrease from our previous weeks' 97.5%.

Research consistently demonstrates that attendance plays a crucial role in academic success. Pupils maintaining 95-100% attendance are significantly more likely to meet expected standards across key subjects. As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child attends school regularly.

Absences should be limited to genuine illness or pre-approved exceptional circumstances.

We are also implementing stricter procedures around punctuality. Our school gate closes at 8.55am, marking the start of lessons. Timely arrival is essential to ensure pupils do not miss critical learning time.

We kindly ask for your support in maintaining high attendance and ensuring pupils arrive promptly.



Finally...

I cannot believe we are already at half term, the last 7 weeks have flown by. Our new EYFS children have started to settle down and we are excited to really get going with the learning once we are back in November. When we come back it will be full steam ahead to Christmas, my favourite time of year in school. Please put the date for the Christmas show in your diary.

We all hope you enjoy the two weeks break and manage to get outside for some nice autumnal walks. Thank you for your continued support, staff really appreciate your involvement and genuinely it is a partnership, we all want the best for your child. Have a super break and we look forward to seeing you on **TUESDAY 4th November**.

Alison Roper