

COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



November

November has been a busy month. There has been a definite shift in the temperature and the dark nights have really drawn in. I was extremely proud of the whole school community coming together on Remembrance Day, from our very youngest to oldest pupil taking part in the two minute silence and creating some beautiful artwork based on poppies. The Class 1 assembly on World War 2 was outstanding and it was wonderful to see so many of you come and support your children in showcasing their learning. Parliament Week has been great and we welcomed a visit from our local MP, Martin Wrigley, alongside our older children taking part in a live online workshop with the Lords. Learning about democracy and the rule of law is so important as our pupils will grow to be the next generation of voters.

We were very grateful to the Dawlish Water Rotary Club who visited this month to present a class set of dictionaries to the school. This very generous donation was very much appreciated and will benefit every child as they move through school. We have enjoyed welcoming lots of prospective parents to visit the school over the last two months, either to one of the Stay and Play events or an individual tour. As a gentle reminder the applications are now open for admissions for September 2026. Please ensure if you have a sibling at the school get your application in and put us as your number 1 preference.

December is shaping up to be equally busy in the run up to the festive season, please keep abreast of any dates and events on either the website or Instagram.



Always Club

Recently, our newest members were treated to a special morning at Vue, Exeter, where they attended a film screening through the Into Film School's Festival. This wonderful experience was in recognition of their continued exemplary behaviour, manners, and enthusiasm.



DT Day Class 1

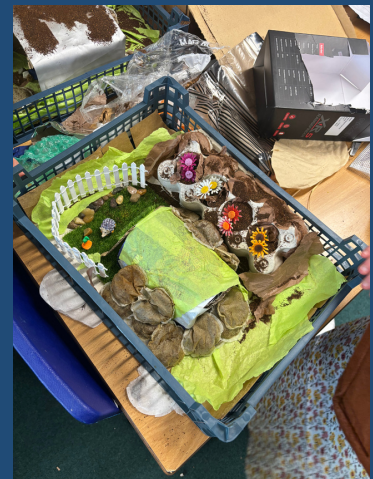
Anderson Shelters

Following their inspiring trip to Bovington Tank Museum, our pupils explored the fascinating world of World War II through a hands-on, immersive day of learning.

After presenting a wonderful class assembly, the pupils spent a remarkable day designing and building their own Anderson shelters. Their previous research and careful planning came to life as they created intricate models that captured the essence of wartime living.

With remarkable creativity, our pupils considered every detail of their shelters. They thoughtfully included essential items like beds, chairs, and small food supplies. Beyond the interior, they also designed surrounding spaces, incorporating vegetable patches and useful garden areas that reflected the resourcefulness of the era.

By dedicating an entire day to this project, our pupils were able to fully immerse themselves in the build, developing a range of skills and gaining a deeper understanding of historical living conditions. The result was a collection of super models that demonstrated their incredible learning and imagination.



PFA Christmas Fair

Friday 19th Dec 2.30-4pm

Village Hall, Cockwood

***Raffle, tombola, games, and
seasonal goodies. Choir 2.30pm***



Dawlish Water Rotary Club Visit

We were delighted to welcome members of the Dawlish Water Rotary Club to our Celebration Assembly, where we expressed our heartfelt thanks for their incredibly generous donation of a class set of dictionaries and thesauruses. The current Rotary Club president, Ed McLaughlin, spoke directly to our pupils, explaining the important work of the Rotary Club and how they support both local and international causes. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn about community service and generosity.



KS1 Aesthetics Event by Mr Baxter

The Dawlish Learning Community came together last week for the KS1 Aesthetics Festival, where over 140 children from across our local schools took part in an exciting range of gymnastics, dance, and yoga activities.

Pupils from Gatehouse, Starcross, Orchard Manor, Exminster, and Cockwood all joined the festival, each bringing a brilliant group of young learners eager to get involved and try something new.

Throughout the session, children rotated around a series of engaging stations, including:

Vaulting

- Rolling
- Travelling
- Balancing
- Frog Yoga
- Superhero Dance



Every pupil showed fantastic enthusiasm, effort, and resilience, throwing themselves into each activity with confidence and a smile. It was wonderful to see so many pupils challenging themselves, supporting each other, and celebrating their achievements.

CLASS 1 NEWS

WW2 Assembly

This month we were treated to an outstanding performance by Class 1 in their recent assembly about World War 2.

The pupils delivered an incredibly moving and informative presentation that captivated a packed audience. They skillfully explained the timeline of the war, sharing poignant details about its origins. One of the most touching moments was when pupils read aloud emotional diary entries of evacuees leaving London for the countryside, bringing history to life with remarkable sensitivity.

Their dramatic portrayal of an air raid was both powerful and educational, helping everyone understand the experiences of those challenging times. The performance was further enhanced by exceptional singing and an uplifting dance routine symbolising the war's end. Pupils dressed in superb costumes, with memorable characters like Vera Lynn and Winston Churchill making appearances.

What truly stood out was each child's commitment to demonstrating their deep understanding of the topic. Their individual contributions showcased not just historical knowledge, but also incredible confidence and teamwork.



CLASS 2 NEWS

Exploring sound in Science

This half term, Class 2 have been diving deep into their sound learning journey. Building on their previous work about hearing, pupils have been exploring how sound travels. They've investigated sound waves, crafted their own instruments to create vibrations, and examined how sound moves through different states of matter – solids, liquids, and gases.

Well done to Class 2 for some super hands-on learning. It's been great to see you so engaged in your science topic!



Learning about Remembrance Day

Class 2 explored the powerful poem "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae, they learnt about the symbolism of poppies. Their creative work beautifully captured the poem's essence through stunning poppy-inspired artwork.

A particularly moving moment during our Remembrance Day commemorations was Mrs Fitton playing the Last Post on the clarinet at the end of our two-minute silence. We were immensely proud of how respectful our children were throughout our learning, truly embodying our school value of respect.



CLASS 3 NEWS

Christmas Arrives



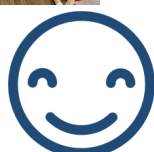
Class 3 is buzzing with festive excitement as the Christmas Post Office and Grotto have arrived! Pupils are thoroughly enjoying writing and role-playing, wrapping parcels for Santa and crafting their Christmas lists. It's a wonderful opportunity for creative and imaginative learning.



Bonfire Night



Our youngest pupils have been exploring the fascinating history of Bonfire Night this month, they crafted delightful sparkler lollies and unleashed their artistic talents painting vibrant firework pictures using varied techniques.



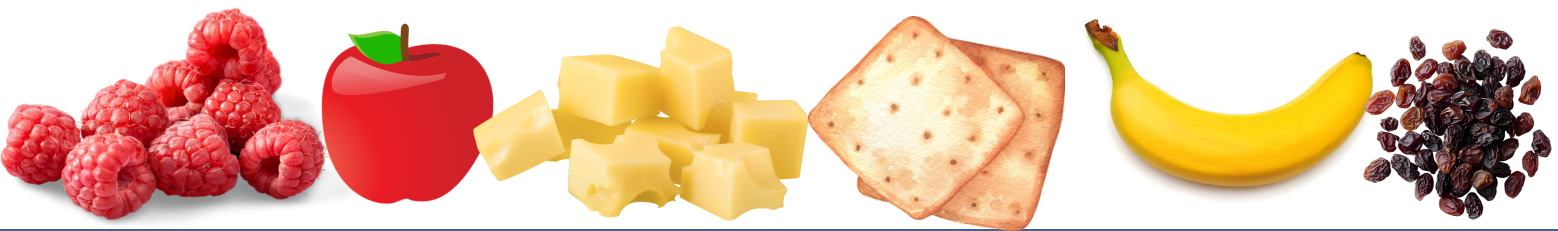
School Council Healthy Snacks

The School Council have been looking at breaktime snacks. They are working with staff trying to promote healthy snack options.

During our oracy assembly, pupils worked in groups to come up with a list of acceptable snacks, such as: raisins, fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese, crackers, flapjack, rice cakes, breadsticks, malt loaf, pitta bread, hummus and carrot sticks- this is not an exhaustive list.

We want our learners to be fuelled, ready to learn. Healthy snacks provide sustained energy, helping students concentrate better in class throughout the day, it can also positively impact on a child's mood and behaviour.

Please help our School Council in their quest for 'healthier snacking'.



Attendance

We want to share some important updates about our school's attendance this term. We are pleased to report that we've been doing really well, with last week's attendance reaching an impressive 97.8%. Our year-to-date attendance sits at 96.4%, which is a solid achievement.

We do have a few challenges, with some unauthorised absences due to family holidays impacting our overall figures. But we're not letting that discourage us! We have just 15 days left until the end of term, and we have an exciting opportunity ahead.

We are calling on everyone to join our 15-day attendance challenge. Our goal is simple: let's have every single child in school every single day. This isn't just about numbers - it's about ensuring every pupil is part of our upcoming celebrations and the wonderful excitement building this month.

We all have a role to play in supporting attendance. By pulling together as Team Cockwood, we can finish the term on a high note and make these last weeks truly special for our pupils.

Parliament Week

Visit from our MP

We were honoured to welcome Martin Wrigley, MP, who visited to explore our oracy journey. Oracy remains the golden thread that runs through our school, and with its recent prominence in the Curriculum and Assessment Review, Martin was keen to witness our approach in action.

What made this visit particularly special was Martin's personal connection to Cockwood. His own children were once pupils here, and he still resides in our village. It was truly heartwarming when he remarked that 'Cockwood still felt like Cockwood'. In an ever-changing educational landscape, it's wonderful to know we've preserved the essence of what makes our school such a unique and special place.



Year 1 Geography

We are delighted to share an exciting learning moment from our Year 1 class. This term, our pupils have been exploring Geography through a wonderfully creative approach to learning about the continents of the world. They crafted their own globes, carefully adding each continent, which transformed their lesson into a truly memorable experience. This innovative method of delivering curriculum content has brought their learning to life in the most engaging way. We hope they have shared that knowledge with you at home.



DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@COCKWOODPRIMARY

Dates for your diary

December



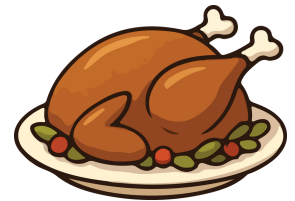
Thurs 11th Dec– Whole School Christmas Show at Langstone Cliff Hotel

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– Christingle Service at Cofton Church (pupils and staff only) drop at 8.45am –walk back to school

Break up for Christmas holidays



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



Whole School Christmas Show at the LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL

We are looking forward to welcoming parents, friends and family to our upcoming Christmas show. Please come and share this very special event, there is no limit on numbers and seats are not reserved. Doors will open at 4.30pm for a prompt 5pm start.

We will send out more details next week via email, but they will be transported to the hotel after lunch to do a dress rehearsal on the stage. They will need a packed tea or snack to have at 3.30pm before we have them seated and ready for the performance. They will be released by their class teacher at the end of the show.



Cockwood Primary School Reads!

In November 2025, students have read...

214 Books

1,732,497 Words

for **30** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®



Christingle Service



Cofton Church have invited us once again to their Christingle Service on Friday 19th December. This will be a service **just for pupils and staff** to spend a moment of quiet reflection after what has been a very busy term. Pupils will need to be dropped at St Mary's Church at 8.45am on FRIDAY 19th December. Once the service is over we will walk back to school, so please ensure your child has a coat and sensible shoes. Please wear SCHOOL UNIFORM not PE Kit. There will be no PE on the last day of term.

Finally...

As the busy festive season approaches, I am always aware of how stressful it can be, especially if you are the person who 'makes' Christmas happen. Last week, I came across a thought-provoking post on Instagram that really resonated with me. *A lot of people are smiling on the outside but struggling within. Grief, stress, finances, pressure - all carried quietly. No one is wearing a sign that says, 'hanging on by a thread'. So choose kindness, offer patience. A small moment of compassion might be the thing that brings someone hope.*

Please make sure in the busy weeks ahead you stop to enjoy time with your children. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas show, but remember to take a moment for yourself. Frazzled staff and parents are no good to anyone!

If you forget the Christmas jumper, or to buy the raffle tickets, or cobble together a costume at the last minute, please don't let us cause you any more stress or worry. Christmas will be here before you know it, and no one will remember every detail.

Our door is always open. Come and talk to one of the team if you need support with anything, and we will do what we can to help.

Alison Roper