

COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December



December has been a short, but jam-packed month. Amongst show rehearsals, learning and normal routines have continued right up to the last week of term. We were all incredibly proud of our amazing choir who performed at Exeter Cathedral alongside the Teacher Rock choir. A special thank you goes to Dartmoor Christmas Tree Farm for donating a lovely tree that now sits outside our main door. I'd also like to celebrate the children who attend Breakfast Club - your efforts in making wonderful decorations and helping to decorate the tree have made us all feel very festive.

Thank you all for keeping abreast of all the many goings on over the last week. I know it's a lot when you are bombarded with emails asking you to book lunches and make packed teas etc! But we made it... as from tomorrow you can breathe a sigh of relief and have 2 weeks off the school run!

Just a reminder: we return to school on MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2026.

Dance in January

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Whenman will be returning to us in January. She will be working with Class 1 and Class 2 during the first half of the term. Class 1 will be preparing for the annual Let's Dance Festival, which will be held at Ashburton in March. We'll provide more details about this wonderful event in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Class 2 will be focusing on developing their class assembly routine. To support our dance activities, could we kindly remind parents that Class 1 and Class 2 pupils should wear their PE kit starting Thursday 8th January, as dance sessions will take place on Thursdays, in addition to PE on Fridays.

We look forward to an energetic and creative term ahead!



Christmas Lunch



Class 3 trip to see The Jolly Christmas Postman

Our youngest children experienced a delightful adventure this week with a trip to the Barnfield Theatre in Exeter to watch The Jolly Christmas Postman. Their behaviour was impeccable, and every single one of the children were buzzing with excitement. This was a fabulous opportunity that beautifully built on their classroom learning of the book. A massive thank you goes to our wonderful PFA for helping to fund this magical experience for our pupils. The joy and wonder on their faces made this such a special day for our little learners.

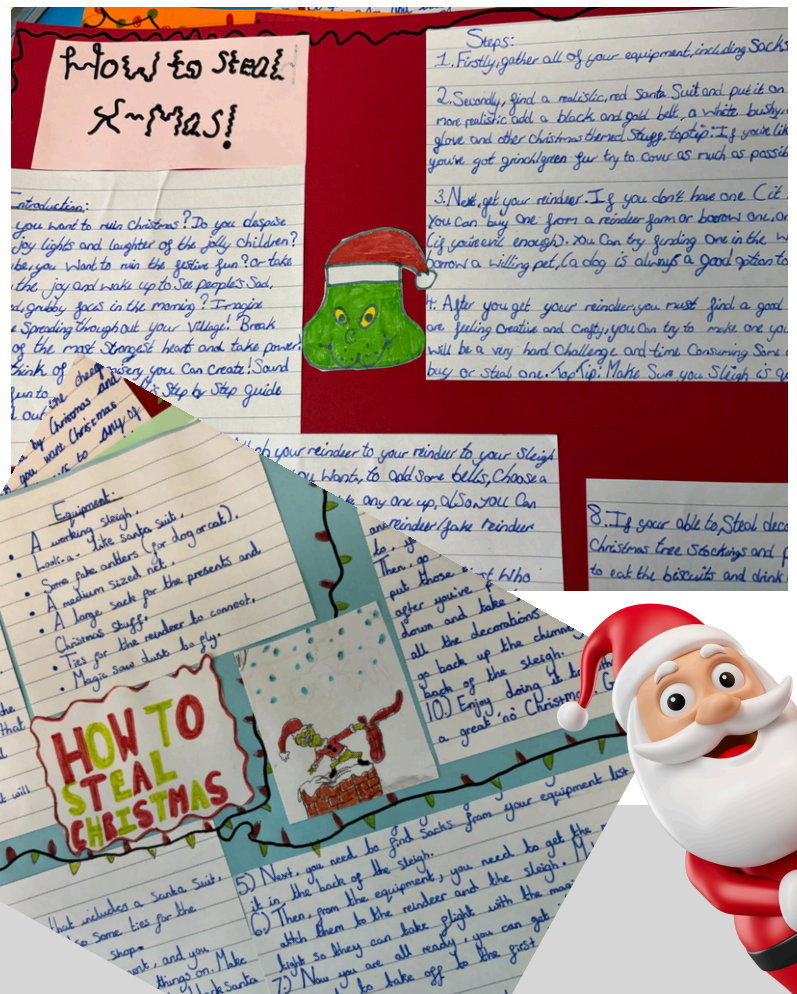
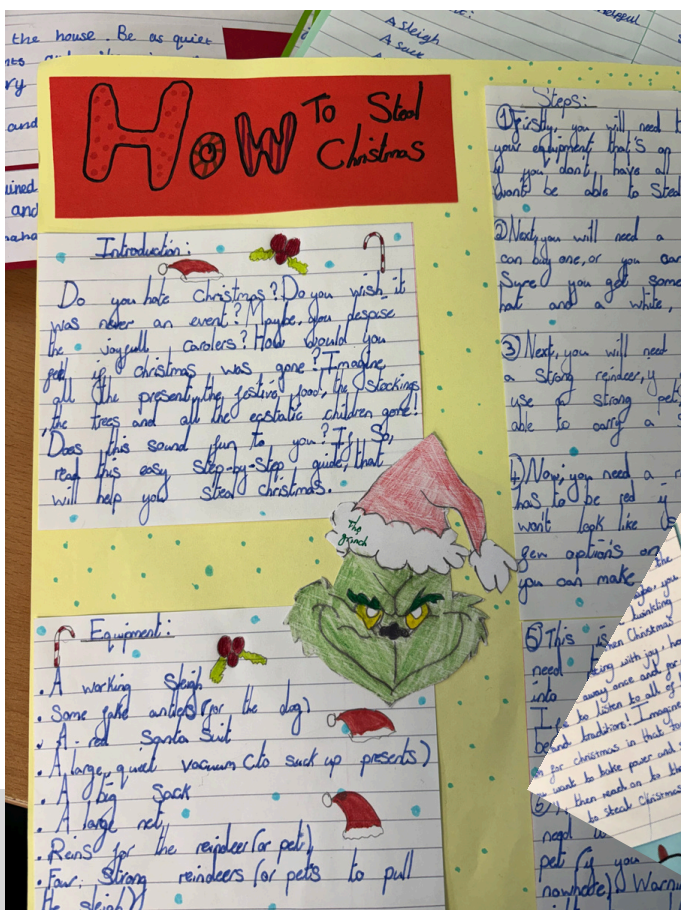
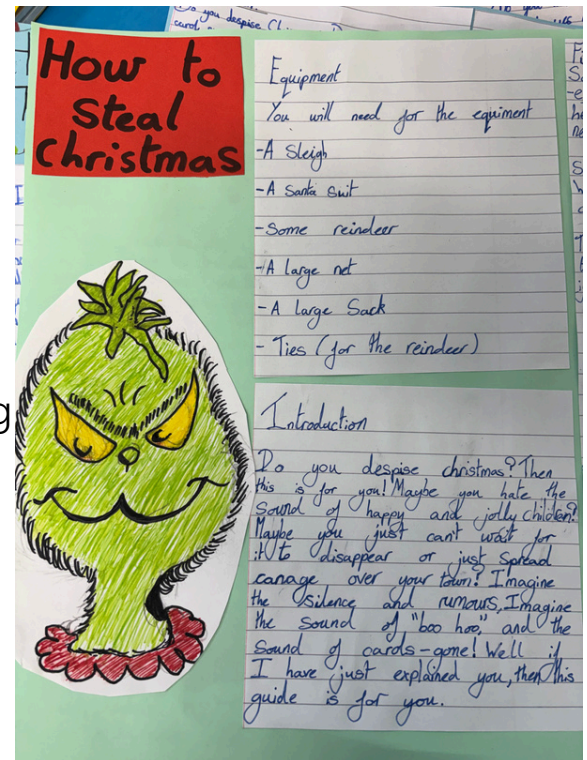




CLASS 1 NEWS

Class 1 have been exploring the festive magic of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", which sparked an exciting journey into instructional writing. Our pupils have been working diligently to understand the key elements of creating clear, engaging instructions. They've carefully learned what makes a good set of instructions, focusing not just on clarity but also on making their writing entertaining to read.

Pupils have drafted, edited, and continuously improved their work. The final pieces are truly fabulous, with superb presentation that showcases their hard work and creativity. A special well done to Class 1 for their fantastic effort and achievement!



CLASS 2 NEWS



Expressive Art

Class 2 have had a fab half term. One of our highlights has been creating our birds in art. We studied some different sketching and colour techniques of artists who illustrate before looking at the book 'Robin's Winter Song'. We paid particular attention to the illustrations of the birds and how they all seemed to have their own personalities. From here, we designed our birds then made them. The process we used was:

- create a clay bird by rolling it into the right shape and pinching out its features
- draw and cut out wings to match the bird's shape and style
- decorate the body and wings carefully using tissue paper, feathers and googly eyes

We love the end products and think they look ace!



Class 2 have also thoroughly enjoyed their class reader this term: The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher. The children were so excited to hear there are more books in the series, so do see if you can share one or more of them over the festive period!



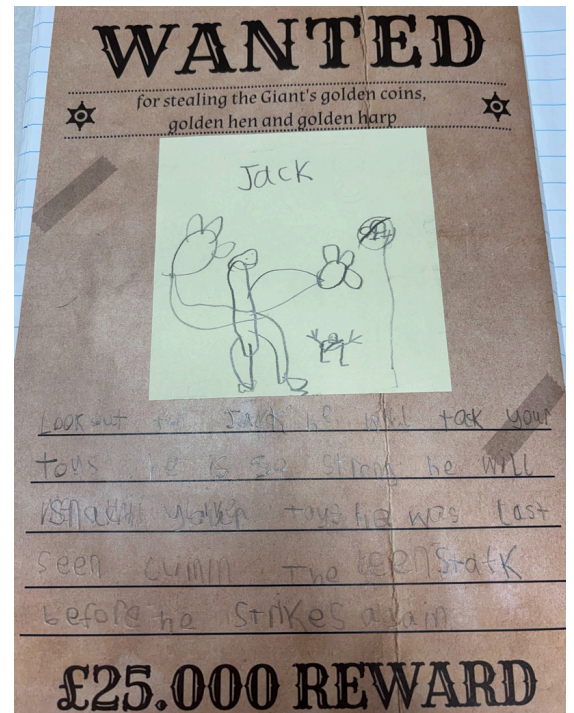
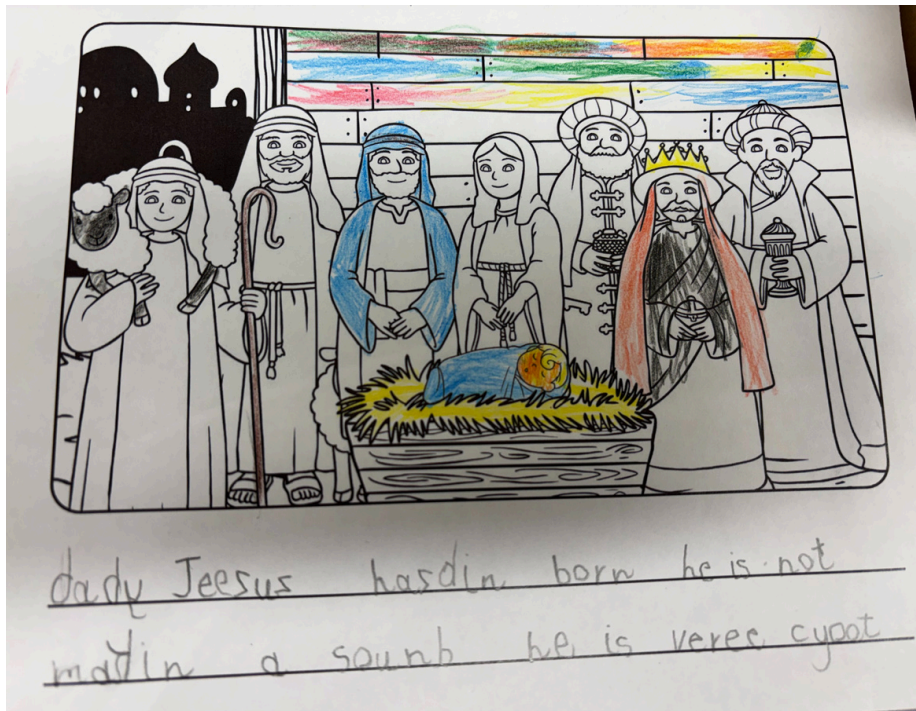
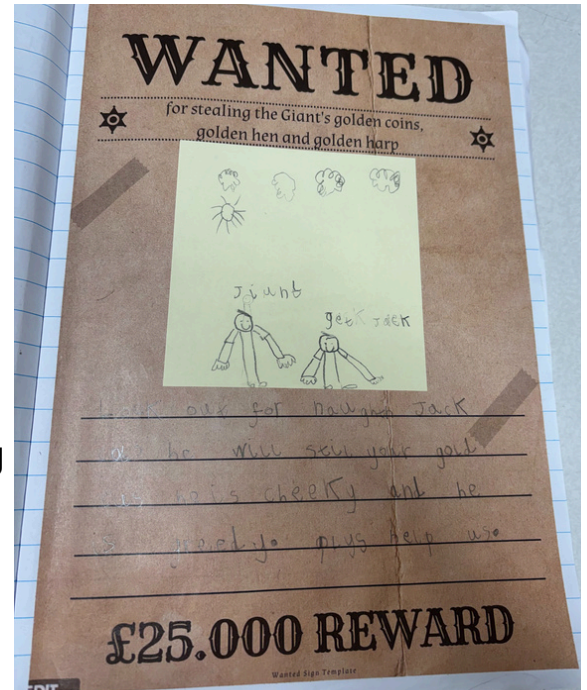


CLASS 3 NEWS

Class 3 have been particularly impressive this month, engaging in some truly creative writing activities.

Building on their exploration of the classic fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk, our pupils have been crafting imaginative Wanted posters that showcase their literacy skills. In Religious Education, they've been diving deep into the Nativity story, demonstrating their understanding through thoughtful and expressive writing.

These activities not only enhance our pupils' writing abilities but also encourage creativity and critical thinking. It's been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastically embracing these learning opportunities.



Dates for your diary



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

FRI 13TH FEBRUARY– NON-PUPIL DAY

MON 16TH FEB– FRI 20TH FEB– HALF TERM

TUES 24TH FEB– ANNUAL ROTARY SCHOOL'S QUIZ 4.30PM

MARCH

MON 9TH MARCH– FRI 13TH MARCH– BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

TUES 10TH MARCH– LET'S DANCE FESTIVAL, ASHBURTON

THURS 26TH MARCH– IVY TRUST MUSIC FESTIVAL

Attendance

It has been a tough month for sickness and bugs, although we seem to have dodged the awful viruses that have hit some other schools. Thank you for trying to get your children into school every day – it has helped to keep our attendance fairly stable, over what is a tricky time of year for germs.

I wanted to share our current attendance figures. We are slightly under our 96% target with a year-to-date attendance of 95.8%. Hopefully in the New Year we can come back refreshed and energised, and the flu strain that seems to be circling will have dissipated.

You should have received your child's individual attendance via email this week. If it is below 90%, I will be making contact in January to see how we can support improving their attendance during the Spring Term. We are here to support you getting your child into school every day, and it is imperative we work together to ensure this is the case.





2025 Christmas Show

The Inn Crowd

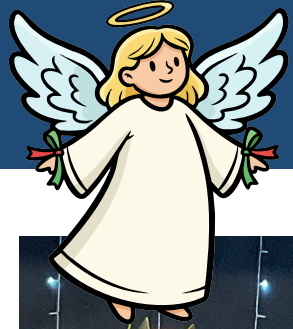
We had a fabulous evening at the Langstone Cliff Hotel for our annual Christmas production. This year, the children performed The Inn Crowd, a delightful tale of the animals in the stable and how their evening didn't quite turn out as planned when Mary and Joseph arrived!

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible talents of our pupils. The super costumes and great singing made the performance truly magical. It was wonderful to see so many people there supporting our pupils. The community spirit was heartwarming, and we are delighted to share that we raised an astonishing £181.96 towards PFA funds for next year through kind donations on the night.

Thank you to everyone who made this event such a special occasion.



DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@COCKWOODPRIMARY



2025 Christmas Show



FOR MORE PHOTOS PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE



Christmas Card Competition Winner

We are VERY proud of Kiara, in Class 2 whose Christmas card design was chosen by our local MP, Martin Wrigley, for his official card this year.

Mr Wrigley sent Kiara a personal thank you along with a gift token as a prize. How super, Kiara's design will have been sent to all MPs and dignitaries across the country!



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Choir Perform at Exeter Cathedral



The choir took part in a very special performance at Exeter Cathedral.

Singing alongside choirs from across Devon, our pupils performed a beautiful selection of songs including 'The Climb', 'Aint No Mountain High Enough', and 'Tale As Old As Time'. They also had a stunning solo performance of 'Colours of the Wind', which was absolutely breathtaking. Our choir members not only sang beautifully but also demonstrated exceptional behaviour and stage presence. We are immensely proud of their achievements.



Reading

Cockwood Primary School Reads!


In December 2025, students have read...

334 Books

3,027,716 Words

for **86 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®



**INCREDIBLE
READING**

Finally...

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to simply say thank you. December has been a challenging month for me and my family, and I am forever grateful to the wonderful team at Cockwood School who have all stepped up and got on with the day-to-day so I can spend some time focusing on my family needs.

Christmas has become a time of pressure and stress for many people. We see carefully curated social media posts of idyllic celebrations, annual accomplishments, and happy families, which can make us worry that our own festivities and achievements don't measure up. While Santa's gifts are a magical part of the festive season, the focus on wanting and receiving can contribute to an unhealthy belief that possessions are the only path to happiness.

I'd like to share a reflection on gratitude. It's a powerful feeling of appreciation – towards those who help us and towards the positive moments in our lives. Gratitude is an emotion we can choose to feel by deliberately focusing our minds on the positives in any situation. Even when circumstances are beyond our control, we have the power to shift our perspective.

This festive season, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on what you are truly grateful for. It might be family, health, friends, a much-needed break, or cherished Christmas traditions. Instead of comparing ourselves to others or dwelling on what we don't have, let's make time to appreciate the good around us.

Thank you for being part of our Cockwood School community.

Alison Roper

**FROM ALL THE STAFF AT
COCKWOOD
SCHOOL,
HAVE A LOVELY HOLIDAY**

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

PFA 50/50 WINNERS NOVEMBER

**1ST PRIZE - NO.35 - AMANDA DOICK - £25
2ND PRIZE - NO.1 - RIO GOODFELLOW - £10
3RD PRIZE - NO.25 - EMMA BUTLER - £5**

DECEMBER

**1ST PRIZE - NO.30 - WAYNE BUTLER - £40
2ND PRIZE - NO.33 - GARY ATTWOOD - £15
3RD PRIZE - NO.21 - DANIELLE GRAHAM - £10**

