

# COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### JANUARY

This month has been filled with exciting developments. We've welcomed back Mrs Whenman to deliver dance lessons for Class 1 and 2, and experienced an incredible visit from the Space Dome. Class 1 has also received a fabulous new class set of iPads to support their learning.

Our pupils have been incredibly busy with enriching experiences. Class 1 enjoyed a wonderful trip to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in Exeter, while Class 3 has been exploring some amazing learning about Space. Class 2 is currently immersed in their new topic focused on India.

We're currently implementing a whole-school focus on handwriting and presentation. Your child might have come home eager to 'practise' their cursive script! We've dedicated significant time to ensuring every child develops the correct tripod pencil grip and techniques for holding their pen properly. It's fabulous to see the progress in their books, and the children are genuinely proud of how far they have come.

This term, we're also concentrating on the linguistic strand of Oracy. We're exploring ways to improve all children's vocabulary, helping them articulate exactly what they want to say through our assemblies and lessons.

Lastly, plans for our Class 1 residential are taking shape, and we'll share more information as arrangements are confirmed.

### NEW FACES AROUND SCHOOL

We have welcomed two wonderful trainee teachers who are already making a significant impact on our learning environment. Lily Kelly has joined Class 3, and Lisa Lane is now part of Class 2. Both Lily and Lisa have quickly become integral members of our staff team, supporting pupil learning and bringing fresh energy to our classrooms. Their enthusiasm and commitment are already evident, and we are thrilled to have them as part of the Cockwood School family. We hope Lily and Lisa will enjoy their time with us and find their experience both rewarding and enriching as they develop their teaching skills.

# Oracy



Linguistic

THIS TERM WE ARE WORKING ON THE LINGUISTIC STRAND, OF THE ORACY FRAMEWORK, AND THINKING ABOUT THE VOCABULARY WE ARE USING

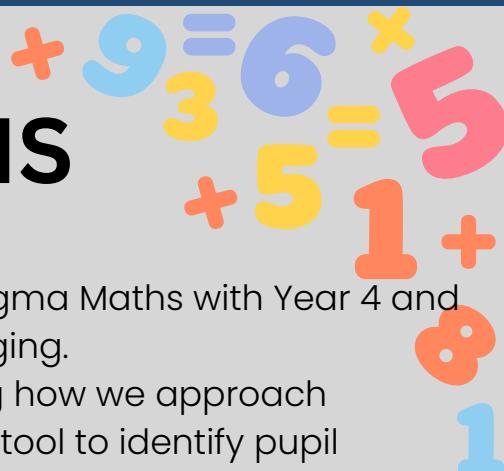
## Vocabulary:

How are you choosing what vocabulary to use and tailoring it to your audience?

Are you using sentence stems to link others' ideas?



## MAGMA MATHS

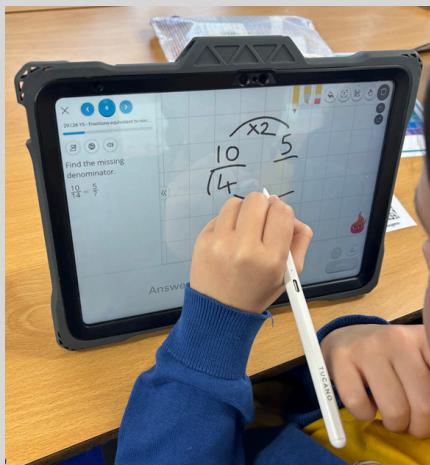
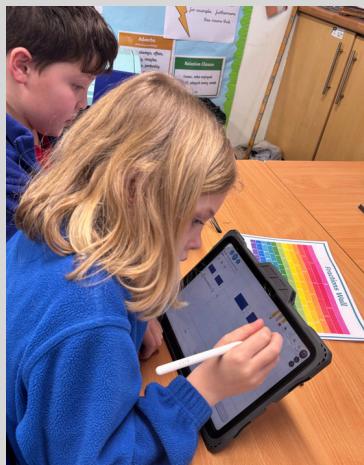


Mrs Mitchell is currently leading an innovative trial of Magma Maths with Year 4 and 5, and the initial feedback has been incredibly encouraging.

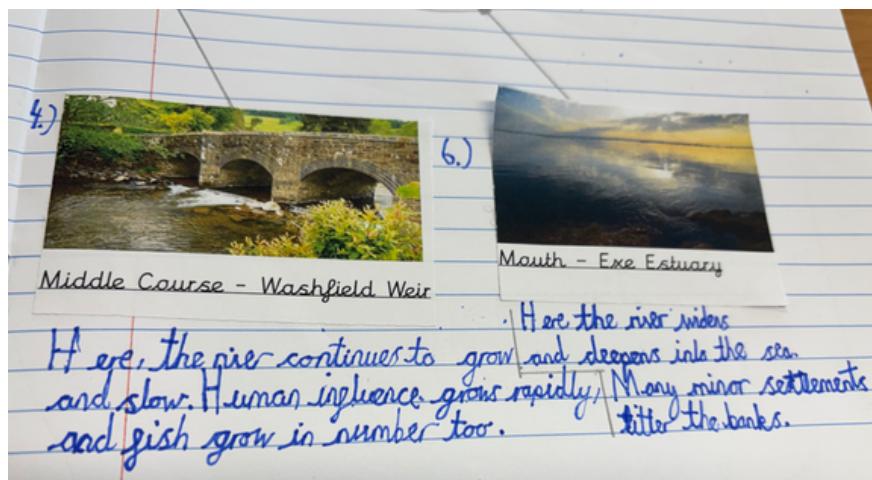
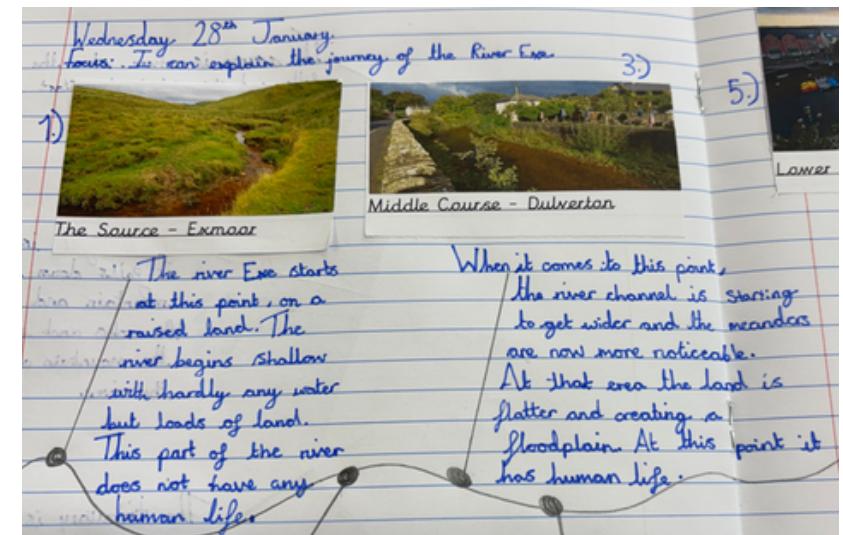
1 Magma Maths is a dynamic platform that's transforming how we approach mathematics teaching. It offers our teachers a powerful tool to identify pupil misconceptions instantly, set personalised work, and view all pupil responses simultaneously on the interactive whiteboard. What makes this particularly exciting is how it shifts our mathematical focus from simply obtaining the final answer to understanding the complete solution and pupils' thought processes.

Our pupils are thrilled with the new technology, and their enthusiasm is palpable. We've invested in a class set of iPads and a new charging trolley, which has been met with great excitement. The children are eagerly engaging with these new devices, bringing a fresh energy to their learning.

The positive responses from both staff and pupils highlight the potential of this innovative approach to mathematics education.



# CLASS 1 NEWS



Class 1 are currently exploring the River Exe, investigating its remarkable journey from Exmoor through to the Exe Estuary. They're also making fascinating comparisons with the River Thames, which will support our upcoming residential trip in June.

We are particularly proud of the exceptional work our pupils are producing. Our focus on presentation and handwriting is yielding impressive results, and the quality of work from Class 1 is truly remarkable. The care and attention they are now showing when writing is brilliant. Well done Class 1!



## LONDON RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Things are really picking up pace with our upcoming London residential trip! We are thrilled to share some exciting developments. We've confirmed a fantastic workshop and tour of **Parliament**, which will be an incredible learning experience for our pupils. Even more exciting, we've secured tickets to see **Paddington at the Savoy Theatre** - an absolute treat for everyone involved! As more activities get booked, we'll continue to keep you fully informed about all the details of this memorable trip. The anticipation is building, and I know our pupils are going to have an unforgettable experience.



# CLASS 2 NEWS

## Hands-on Learning in Geography

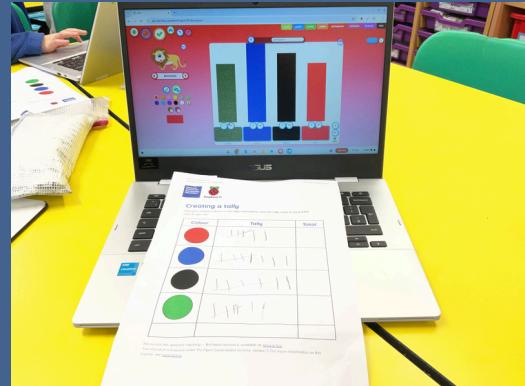
In Class 2 this half term, our pupils have been exploring the fascinating world of geographical mapping. They've been investigating the equator, longitude, and latitude through a wonderfully hands-on approach. Using playdough, they created a model Earth, carefully adding grid lines to demonstrate how these imaginary lines help us locate places around the world.

What a fabulous way to bring learning to life, transforming abstract geographical concepts into a tangible, interactive experience. By physically mapping out latitude lines, our pupils gained a deeper understanding of how we can determine locations across the globe.



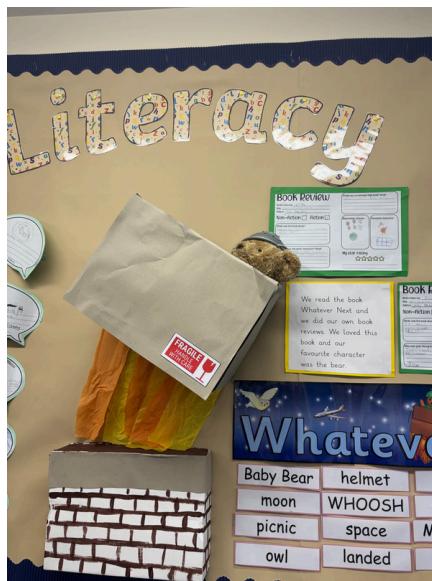
## Computing

Class 2 are enjoying their computing topic whereby they are creating online pictograms to represent data. This week, they learnt the term 'attribute' which is a way of identifying how data can be sorted. Using the 'attribute' colour, we did a colour hunt in the classroom and then created our own pictograms online. The children had to label their data axis and make sure the pictograms were presentable and clear. They also answered some questions about their data. Well done Class 2!



# CLASS 3 NEWS

We are excited to share our recent learning journey centred around the delightful book 'Whatever Next...'. Our youngest learners have been exploring this charming story about a teddy bear's imaginative space adventure. Year 1 pupils have been developing their writing skills, focusing on using capital letters and full stops while retelling the narrative. Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children used the story as inspiration for their sentence writing, creating wonderful pieces of work, alongside orally sequencing the story using props. Out of this world learning Class 3 !



## THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION COMES TO COCKWOOD!

Class 3 has transformed their classroom with an incredible new role-play area inspired by the International Space Station. Our pupils are now able to immerse themselves in an out-of-this-world learning experience. They can dress up as astronauts, explore space-themed books, measure rocks like real scientists, and even take control of a space rocket's controls. It's a wonderful opportunity for imaginative and engaging learning that brings science and exploration to life.



# Dates for your diary

## FEBRUARY

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> -Times Table Rock Stars Day  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> -Sport's Impact Day (PE KIT)  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> - Yr3/4 Invasion Games Festival (letter to follow)  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> - PFA Bake sale at 3.30pm  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> - Non-pupil day  
Mon 16<sup>th</sup> - Fri 20<sup>th</sup> - Half term  
Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> - first day of term

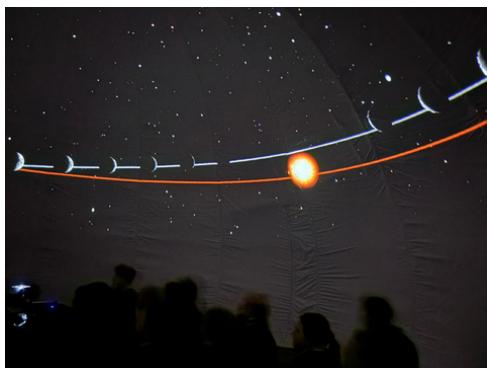
## MARCH

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> - Fri 6<sup>th</sup> - Class 2 swimming- Dawlish Leisure Centre  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> - Year 5/6 Football Festival (letter to follow)  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> - Class 2 Music workshop with Pat & Elfyn  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> - Let's Dance festival in Ashburton- Class 1  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> - Class 2 Assembly 9am, Village Hall  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> - Author visit (letter to follow)  
Tues 17<sup>th</sup> - Fri 20<sup>th</sup> - Class 1 swimming at Dawlish Leisure Centre  
Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> - PFA non-uniform day in exchange for Easter Eggs  
Tues 24<sup>th</sup> - Rotary Club Quiz Class 1 4.30-5.30pm  
Wed 25<sup>th</sup> - Sponsored event for Class 1 - details to follow  
Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> - Ivy Trust Music Event Class 2- Langstone Cliff Hotel

## Attendance

We've noticed our year-to-date attendance has slightly dipped to **95.7%**, which is just below our target of 96%. While we understand that illness can't always be avoided, we're hoping the improving weather will help reduce the circulation of bugs and colds in the coming months. We must emphasise the importance of attendance and kindly request that families refrain from taking holidays during term-time. We continue to receive holiday requests which we cannot authorise. Working together, we can improve our attendance picture over the next few months and ensure our pupils are consistently present and learning. We appreciate your support in maintaining our school's high standards of attendance.

## SPACE DOME VISITS COCKWOOD



Our pupils experienced an extraordinary learning adventure when the Space Dome visited Cockwood! This dome, which is capable of displaying movies and still images, transformed the Village Hall!

The workshop perfectly aligned with Class 3's current topic on Space, bringing their curriculum to life in the most engaging way. But the excitement didn't stop there - Class 1 and 2 also participated in immersive workshops that sparked tremendous enthusiasm among our pupils.

The impact was remarkable. Class 2, in particular, continued this experience through guided reading sessions and were inspired to create some impressive writing. It was a truly memorable day that demonstrated how innovative learning experiences can ignite curiosity and passion in our young learners. These moments remind us how powerful this type of learning experiences can be.



**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**

**@COCKWOODPRIMARY**



# Dance with Mrs Whenman

Class 1 and Class 2 are currently enjoying weekly dance lessons with Mrs Whenman, each exploring unique and engaging styles. Class 2 is immersed in Bollywood dancing as part of their India topic, while Class 1 is preparing a special interpretive dance routine for the upcoming Let's Dance Festival at Ashburton on Tuesday 10th March.

We deeply value these experiences and view dance as a crucial part of our PE curriculum. Through dance, our pupils have the opportunity to keep fit, develop teamwork skills by learning routines, and explore rhythm and musicality in a creative and dynamic way.



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## Class 3 Art



## Have you thought about a career in teaching?

As a partner school with Exeter Consortium Schools' Alliance, we're proud to support their Primary Teacher Training programme. School-based training, placements across Devon and expert support from day one.

👉 **APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR TRAINING STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2026.**

**FIND OUT MORE: [WWW.EXETERCONSORTIUM.COM/TRAIN-TO-TEACH](http://WWW.EXETERCONSORTIUM.COM/TRAIN-TO-TEACH)**



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# Concert at The Great Hall, Exeter

Class 1 pupils were fortunate to visit the Great Hall in Exeter, where they watched the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform James Redwood's Four Elements. The children immersed themselves in a diverse range of musical styles, exploring everything from traditional to contemporary pieces. What made this experience truly special was their preparation beforehand – learning a song that they accompanied with body percussion, creating an interactive and engaging performance. A huge thank you to Mrs Mitchell for orchestrating this wonderful opportunity that allowed our pupils to explore and expand their musical horizons. These experiences are crucial in broadening our pupils' understanding and appreciation of different musical genres.



## Reading

### Our School Network Reads!



In January 2026, students have read...

**352 Books**  
**2,867,731 Words**  
for **38 minutes/day!**  
(individual student average)

# Breakfast

CLUB

COME AND JOIN THE FUN MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
FROM 7.45AM

£5.50

PAYABLE ON ARBOR



# After

SCHOOL  
CLUB

UNTIL 5PM £9

UNTIL 6PM £14

INCLUDES TRANSPORT TO  
STAR CROSS SCHOOL

# Finally...

We have made it through January, and with Spring just around the corner, hopefully we will start to see some brighter weather. I want to thank you all for being so understanding over the last week when we have altered pick-up times. In my 29 years of involvement with the school community, I have never seen flooding like it, and it really makes me think about what our children are going to have to face in the future.

We are hoping to do some work with the Exe Estuary Management team, and it will be fascinating for our pupils to learn more about what the council are doing to support the environment and tackle the flood risk.

February is already shaping up to be busy, but with half term looming in two weeks' time, hopefully we will all enjoy a week's rest. Please don't forget **Friday 13th February is a NON-PUPIL day**, so an extra day added onto your half term break.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

*Alison Roper*

