

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 18th February, 2022

What a super start to the year we have had and as we approach the half term holiday it is important we reflect and look back at all the amazing learning that has taken place, as well as look forward to lighter spring days ahead.

I have enjoyed the challenge of a busy half term combining my Head of School role alongside teaching at the end of the week and this has been made easier by the overwhelming support I have had from every member of the Cockwood School family. Mrs Brewer has settled well into life in Class 1 and is enjoying spending more time with our older children. In Class 2, Miss Godbeer has become an invaluable team member supporting the learning, running a yoga club on Mondays and helping at after-school club. Change is never easy but our pupils have adapted well to new routines.

It has been a tricky few weeks with lots of sickness but staff have maintained strict cleaning routines to minimise the risks. Thank you to everyone who has engaged with home learning, when they have been self-isolating, it is always difficult when you are working remotely.

Last week every child took part in 'Safer Internet Day', please talk to your children about what they learnt and how they can keep themselves safe online. In an ever-changing society it is important that as parents and carers you are aware of what your child is exposed to on the internet, who they meet, and what they share about themselves. Please use tools to protect them and keep an eye on their activity.

Below are some links that you may find helpful in keeping children safe online:

- www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers
- www.parentzone.org.uk/advice/parents-guides
- www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
- www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Looking ahead we have a busy half term coming up, starting with Year 1 pupils attending Forest School on the first day back, Monday 28th February. We will celebrate together World Book Day, Class 1 and 2 have swimming lessons and Class 2 have a trip to Shaldon Zoo. Please keep an eye out for reminders on the app and website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Children return to school

Year 1- Forest School (3 weeks)

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

World Book Day

THURSDAY 10TH MARCH

Dress up as a Rock star Day to relaunch 'Times Tables Rockstars'

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH

Class 2 visit Shaldon Zoo

FRIDAY 11TH MARCH

David Haynes in Class 2 creating a song based on their visit to Shaldon Zoo.

WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH

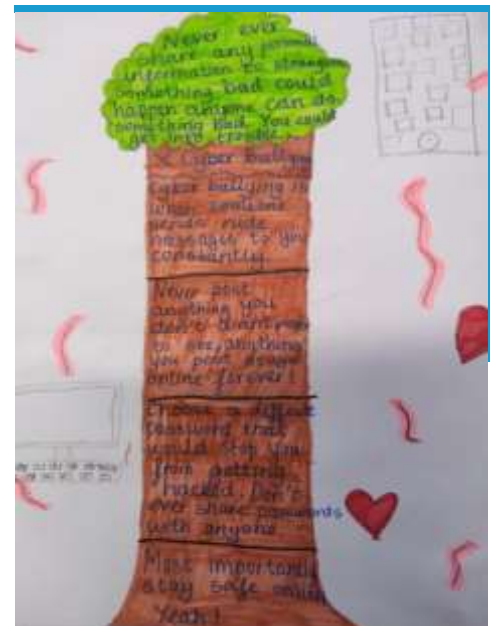
Afternoon- Class 2 perform their David Haynes song at the Village Hall

MONDAY 21STMARCH

Class1 swimming lessons, Mon-Fri at Dawlish Leisure Centre

MONDAY 28TH MARCH

Class 2 swimming lessons Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri.



AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

Please do not forget we are offering after-school provision every day until 4.45pm. At present the request for places has been limited, however we will run it up until Easter and then assess if it is viable to continue into the summer term. The phrase, 'use it or lose it' comes to mind, the school has to ensure it is financially viable. The charge is £5 a session, which includes a drink and a snack. Children have a choice of activities and it is designed to be a relaxing time for them at the end of the day. If you are interested please contact the office for necessary forms prior to the first session.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

We are very excited to relaunch Times Table Rockstars with our 'Dress up as a Rockstar Day' on Thursday, March 10th. Children are invited to come into school dressed as a disco diva, musician or just wear a wig and bring an inflatable guitar! During the day, we will focus on times tables and number facts as well as introduce lots of fun and exciting tournaments to inspire and encourage pupils to play in school and at home. Confident recall of times tables and number facts are a fundamental skill needed to increase attainment in Maths and we want to support every child to improve their fluency with number. We look forward to sharing lots of fun photos with you after the event.

VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Since September, Class 1 have taken part in Votes for Schools, every Friday; over the next half term we will be rolling it out across Class 2 and 3. Votes for Schools was created to give all young people a better knowledge of current affairs and get them voting! Every vote is shared with decision makers and makes a difference.

Weekly resources are appropriate for the Key Stage and age; it includes ideas for discussion, facts and figures and different viewpoints. Giving the children the facts allowing them to come to their own decision by the end of the lesson, when they have to vote. It encourages the children to **'BE INFORMED, BE CURIOUS, BE HEARD'**.

Recent voting topics have included: Is space tourism a good idea? (KS2), Should all children learn about coping with loss & bereavement at school? (KS2) and Do punishments work?



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

DEVON YOUTH PARLIAMENT VOTE

Class 1



Our older children have been invited to take part in the Devon UK Youth Parliament Elections. They will be finding out about the candidates and voting for who they think is most suitable to represent the young people of Devon. They will also get the chance to vote for the topic that they care about most including: Covid-19 recovery, Education and Learning, Environment, Jobs and Opportunities, Rights and Democracy or Poverty.

UNDER THE SEA ART

There has been some fabulous artwork produced across the school over the past few weeks. We have all been working on the theme of 'Under the Sea'. The children have been on a journey of exploration and letting their imaginations run wild thinking about creatures that you might find under the sea.

Class 3 have been creating their own sea-creatures using a range of techniques including painting with watercolours.

Class 2 have designed and created dioramas, they planned their ideas using collage and drawings before creating the 3D version. They have also worked collaboratively on a large mural, which we will develop further next term.

Class 1 researched various sea creatures, before drawing and creating their own design on a theme of sustainability. The class voted for their favourite design and then worked collaboratively to create large scale 3D sculptures from recycled paper.

It is super to see such creativity running through the school. We hope to be able to share the finished artwork with you at a later date.



THE DENTIST VISITS CLASS 3



This week Class 3 had a visit from the dentist. We took part in a national survey to collect data based on children's dental hygiene and to promote the importance of getting your teeth checked regularly.

The children were very excited to lay down and get their teeth looked at.



WORLD BOOK DAY

As a school we always enjoy World Book Day. This year we will celebrate together on Thursday 3rd March, children can dress up as their favourite story-book character or wear home clothes and bring in a prop as a clue to a book. Pupils will also need to bring a book they enjoy into school to share with their friends.

CLASS ONE CORAN CODING

Class 1 enjoyed taking part in a week-long coding extravaganza run by 'Coran Coding'.

The children worked with their Computing partner to explore and navigate the code behind Minecraft and Chase the Pizza.

Each morning the children interacted with a live online workshop, building on the previous days learning.

A super experience and a big thank you to Miss Buttrees for organising it and Mrs Brewer for helping to facilitate the learning.



Feedback from the children:

I have learnt that you can look at javascript after your code. I enjoyed that we got to do coding all week.

ISLA

It was fun because you basically created a game.

BILLY

I have learnt a lot of things about coding, I really enjoyed making the characters move.

LOLA

KS1 AESTHETICS FESTIVAL_AT DAWLISH LEISURE CENTRE



Last week some children from Class 3 were invited to attend an Aesthetics Festival as part of our involvement with Dartmoor School Sports Partnership. They took part in a range of activities based on gymnastic and dance skills. The event was designed for enjoyment and to build confidence in this area of PE.



UNICEF UK RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD



We are delighted to announce we have been awarded the BRONZE award for Rights and Respect in schools. It demonstrates our commitment to placing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of what we do. A big thank you to Mrs Brewer for working with the School Council to begin our journey in becoming a 'Rights Respecting School'; we look forward to developing this further through assemblies and exploring the 6 articles that we have chosen to focus on over the coming year.

Further information will be sent to parents in due course.

PARKING

Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to park at the bottom of the hill and walk their children up to school, there has been a noticeable improvement, but we are still getting some families who are flouting the request to keep everyone safe near the school building. Hopefully as the weather improves it will be easier for **everyone** to put this small act of exercise into their daily routine and support the school.

What a shame we have missed the last day of the half-term, but safety must be our first priority.

Enjoy the week off, it is very well-deserved; I hope the weather improves and you get the chance to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

Alison Roper