

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



COCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

## Where has this month gone...

Time definitely speeds up once Halloween and Bonfire Night have happened! We have started our festive events with the choir singing at the Hope Church Christmas Fayre and they will be following this up with a performance in Exeter Cathedral this evening, alongside representing the school at the Dawlish Light Switch On tomorrow. Busy, busy, busy!

We are all very excited about our whole school Christmas Show on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, please see the information below, this is always a highlight of the school calendar when every child gets to perform on stage to celebrate the Christmas story. We hope you are able to come and support your child at this wonderful family event.

The PFA are holding their annual Christmas raffle at a Christmas Fete after school on the last day of term, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. This year we are raising funds to transform our new library, support next year's residential and various school trips. Every penny helps so please sell as many raffle tickets as you can to family, friends and neighbours- there are lots of wonderful prizes up for grabs! Please ask in the office if you require more books.

There is lots happening over the next fortnight and we will do our very best to keep you updated, please check the website or social media for further information.

**Please note this is the last week of clubs until January.**

## CHOIR SING AT HOPE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE



We were very proud of the choir last week who sang a range of Christmas carols at the Hope Church Christmas Fayre. It was fabulous to be invited back and see some familiar faces, and the feedback from the audience was super. It certainly got everyone in the Christmas spirit and was a wonderful start to the festive event calendar.

Thank you to everyone for giving up their time at the weekend.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Teacher Rock sing at Exeter Cathedral

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Choir attend the Christmas Light switch on in Dawlish

TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**Whole School Christmas Show at the Langstone Cliff Hotel 4.30pm**

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Christingle Service at Coffon Church (see information below)

Christmas jumper day

Christmas Lunch

PFA Christmas Fair in the Village Hall from 3.15pm-5pm (see below)

TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY

Non-pupil day

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY

Back to school- first day of the Spring Term

FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

PFA meeting after school 3.30pm

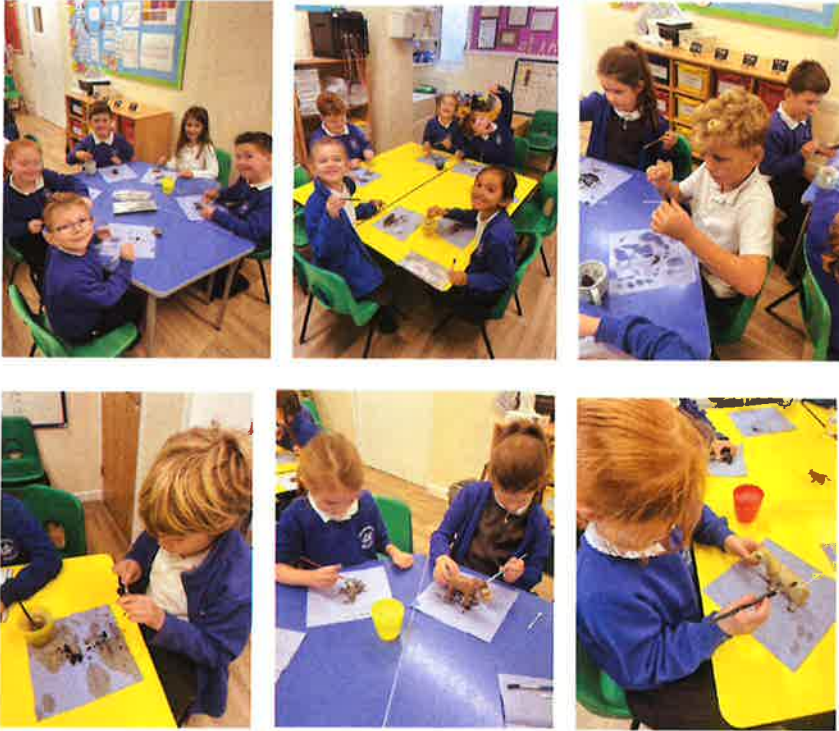
FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Non-pupil day- Trust wide teacher training

**HALF TERM 12-16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

## CLASS 2 HOW TO WASH A WOOLLY MAMMOTH

This month Class 2 have been doing some fabulous learning using the book, 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. They began by having to wash their own 'dirty' animals, using warm, soapy water and a range of tools, including brushes, cotton buds and wipes!



Once they were 'cleaning experts' they wrote their own set of instructions, before creating a woolly mammoth model. Fabulous to see all the children so engaged in their learning.

## CHRISTINGLE AT COFTON CHURCH

We are delighted that Cockwood School has been invited to attend a Christingle service at St Mary's Church in Cofton; this is the second year we have done this and we are very grateful to the church for organising this for the children to be a part of.

The service will take place at **9.00am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, all children need to be dropped off at the church by 8.45 am and we will walk the children back to school afterwards. We would appreciate any parents who would be able to accompany us on the walk back to school, please let the school office know.

Parents and carers of children in **Year 6** and **Foundation** are welcome to come and take part in the service, however please be aware, the children are not 'performing' and this service is being led by the church not the school



## PLAY THERAPY WITH GIN

We have been very lucky to secure the services of Gin, our Forest School Lead, to work with small groups of children once a week to support their emotional and mental health needs. Play therapy is a type of therapy where children can express themselves using art and craft materials outside of the classroom and give them the time and space to think things through. She is currently working on supporting our pupils with resilience and turn taking. Feedback from the children taking part is really positive and something we will build on in the Spring Term.



## CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you for bringing in your pennies for Pudsey to support the Children in Need appeal.

We raised £179.00 in total, which included £60 from biscuits and £119 from loose change.

**WELL DONE TO EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING THIS CAUSE.**

## CHRISTMAS SHOW AT THE LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL

**Don't forget a VERY special date in your diary- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 4.30pm our whole school Christmas show in the WASHINGTON SUITE AT THE LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL, DAWLISH WARREN. The children have been working really hard learning, songs, lines and dance routines to entertain you with their amazing production called, 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw'. Please remember to register your car at reception for free parking.**

## NEW FACES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

We have been delighted over the last few weeks to welcome a couple of new children who have joined our school family, Aatthi in Foundation, Antony in Year 1 and Florence in Year 4, alongside Miss Brown who has taken over the reins in Class 1 until the end of the school year. It is wonderful to see them all settle into new routines and friendships and we hope they will enjoy their Cockwood School experience.

## PFA CHRISTMAS FETE



On the last day of term we will be taking all the children down to the Village Hall to sing carols at 3.15pm. Your child will be released from the door of the hall to an adult at 3.30pm- as usual- this will be done one class at a time.

Could we ask on the last day of term for the children to only bring a drink and snack to school, NO bags or reading books; this will make walking back from the church and releasing from the hall much more manageable.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance so far this year is currently 96.1%, if we break that down into days it equates to 169 lost days of learning missed so far this year! Studies have proven that being in school is crucial to your child's educational outcomes and supports better mental health and wellbeing. Please avoid taking your child out of school during term time, as absences will not be authorised. May we also remind you that the gate closes at 8.55am and if your child is late we will need you to complete a late arrival slip in the office, we aim to have the register done by 9.05am so learning can start promptly. You will receive an attendance letter in the last week of term, please contact the office if you have specific issues you would like to discuss.

## READING

### Cockwood Primary School Reads!

In November 2023, students have read...

**204 Books**

**2,319,288 Words**

**for 29 minutes/day!**  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE  
Accelerated Reader®

This year we are going to have a focus on reading, we will give you the monthly results on each newsletter on how many books children have quizzed and how many words have been read. On the website you can also find a live counter displaying how many books and words have been read cumulatively throughout the year (underneath our Twitter feed).

## TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

A big thank you to everyone who ordered photos from Tempest Photography in October. The school has earned £158.90 commission from the sales and this will go towards much needed classroom resources.

## FINALLY...

*This time of year is always filled with such excitement and expectation as we head into the busy festive period. Please do not put pressure on yourself, we know for some families it is the end of a tricky year financially or emotionally, and we want to extend the wish that it doesn't matter if the Christmas show costume isn't perfect or if you can only afford to buy one raffle ticket or you can't attend every event, we are all dealing with day to day life and trying to do the best we can for our loved ones...and no-one can ask any more. As you prepare for Christmas, try and enjoy the next few weeks, we hope the children will raise your spirits at the Christmas show and make all of you shed a tear and give you a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.*

*Alison Roper*