



Cockfield Primary School Newsletter

January 2021

Message from Mrs Costello (Headteacher)

Happy New Year! I'm delighted to be writing my first newsletter as the headteacher of Cockfield Primary School despite the strange times we find ourselves in. I have been so impressed with how well the team have performed and already feel like part of the Cockfield family. It's been lovely to meet some of the children and to talk to parents on the phone and I can't wait to have everyone in. This week has been hard for everyone in so many ways but we've pulled together even though we are apart and I've been so proud of what I've seen.

I wanted to start by saying a huge thank you to the staff who have been amazing and have gone over and above this week in so many ways. I also wanted to thank parents and carers for persevering in getting their children on-line, I know it isn't easy but we're getting there and I've been really impressed with what we've seen this week. We've made a super start and as this is just the beginning I can only see this getting better and better over time. Please remember that we are still here for you and are happy to help in any way so let us know if you are struggling and keep in touch. We'll probably be in touch with anyone who hasn't managed to get online at some point next week to see how we can help.

We desperately miss having the children in school and can't wait to have them all back, but this is a temporary situation and hopefully the school will be buzzing with children soon. Although this isn't the start that I expected, I can already tell what a lovely school this is and can't wait to meet the children in person, but for now I just wanted to say hello and thank you for making me feel so welcome.

Free School Meal Provision

Taylor Shaw are providing food hampers for those children who are entitled to Free school Meals in reception to year 6. These will be dropped off at school once a week for parents to collect, they do need two days' notice to order these, so if you think you qualify and would like one but haven't already let us know then please give us a ring.

Key / Critical Worker Provision

The school is open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers only. If you feel that your job falls into this category then please let us know and we will send you an application form. The critical worker categories are listed on this website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer wrap around care during this period but it will be back up and running as soon as we can. We are constantly reviewing the situation and will let you know of any changes.

Online Learning Support

I know that not everyone has access to the internet or a device and that some children are sharing with siblings. We've tried to set tasks that can be done away from the computer as much as possible so that children don't need a device for the whole day. The idea is that they log on, collect their tasks, they work on them mostly away from the computer and then they log back in and upload them for the teachers to mark. This should mean that there is less demand for the technology. However, if you are struggling we will do our best to help. We have ordered some laptops through the government for disadvantaged children and are hoping that they arrive, although I am aware that every school in the country has done the same so we will wait and see. I'd love to give everyone who is struggling a device to use at home but unfortunately we don't have them but we will do our best to support you with the technology you have.

Some highlights from this week

Stars of the Week will be published on facebook but there have been lots of highlights this week. The key worker children in school have had fantastic fun sledging in the snow at lunchtimes. They have also worked really hard and I've seen some amazing bridges in KS1 and some lovely written work across the school.

Class 1

The little ones have continued their learning on tapestry. Miss Hargraves has been teaching phonics online; they've been reading Goldilocks; doing lots of activities and learning to compare using small, medium and large. We've seen some lovely teddy bear pictures from the children.

Class 2

Miss Gregson and Mrs Lynn have been really impressed with the work that has been happening in Class 2. There have been lots of highlights including some neatly written thank you letters, super strong bridges and some great work in music.

Class 3

Miss Racher is so proud of her class who are our quickly becoming Teams experts as this is their second time online. They have been logging in to collect their tasks and working super hard away from the computer and uploading them at the end of the day for her to mark. She is loving being able to talk to them online and to see how hard they are working at home.

Class 4

Mrs Hancock and Mrs Woods would like to congratulate their class as they have been online every day and have really made a good effort with their work. Some of them have even been online when they have been poorly. Ellie B and Elle H have made a great effort with their work, especially.

Have a lovely weekend and make the most of the snow. We'd love to see pictures of the children having fun in the snow. We really miss them and hope to see them all in school very soon.