



Headteacher: Mr Andrew Swainson

www.cockingtonprimary.org.uk

Email: admin@cockingtonprimary.org.uk

Phone: 01803 214100

Old Mill Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ2 6AP

Welcome back to school year 2026-27!

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all and a warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us this week. We look forward to working with you during your time at Cockington Primary School. Children seem to be adjusting well to being back in school and getting to know new staff and classmates.

Please read the information below and note your invitation to the annual 'Meet the Teachers' sessions next week.

'Meet the Teachers' Sessions for Yrs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 – Wednesday 9th September (Year 3 will be at 3.20pm on Friday 11th September).

On Wednesday next week (Friday for Y3), the teaching team for your child's new academic year would like to invite you in after school to meet them. This will involve the opportunity to visit your child's classroom, meet the staff, receive some information about the curriculum they will be taught this year and ask any questions. This is optional but it would be great to see many of you there. Staff will deliver the session twice if you want to visit one classroom first before moving on to another. There will be lots of staff around to help you find your way.

On Wednesday 9th September: Meet the Teacher sessions for Years 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 at 3.20pm and then the same session will be repeated at 3.40pm (to accommodate those with more children).

For those who cannot attend, there will be a 'welcome letter' sent home by every year group before the end of next week which will contain some of the key information shared in Wednesday's/Friday's sessions.

School Uniform

It was lovely to see so many children arrive yesterday in smart, school uniform. I will send out uniform expectations alongside this letter, but footwear is always the most contentious issue. **Like most schools, the rule is simple: all footwear must be 100% black. (Children should wear low-heeled, black shoes or smart black trainers that are entirely black - without logos and stripes).** My intention is to buy a bank of black plimsolls and those children wearing non-compliant footwear will be asked to change into the plimsolls during the school day to ensure high standards of uniform. I would also like to remind you that make-up or nail varnish (or false nails!) are not allowed in school. Thank you for your support in giving your children that pride in their appearance and pride in being part of our school family.

'Believe, Achieve, Succeed'



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Lost Property

All unnamed and unclaimed lost property from the last school year will be placed outside on tables near the Avenue Road gates at the end of the day today. Please come to claim anything you might be missing before the items are handed over to the school PTA or to our local charity shop to benefit other families. Please also name all of your children's belongings to help reduce the new lost property piles this year. Thank you.

New Names and Faces

There are some new faces joining the team this term. We welcome Mrs Slemmings who joins us in EYFS, Miss Shore in Year 1 and both Mrs Bryer and Miss Bailey in Year 2.

Crossing Patrol News

Torbay Council have apparently succeeded in recruiting someone to support children and families crossing Avenue Road to get to and from school. Hopefully, the new recruit will start soon.

Term Dates

Although they are always available on the school website, the term dates for this school year are attached with this letter for your convenience and to support good attendance which is something schools and families across the country are tasked with improving. Although some of the attendance procedures can seem quite stringent, we are simply following our legal guidelines and doing all we can to get all children into school and learning every day. Please inform us in the morning if your child is going to be absent from school to avoid us having to chase around or knock on doors. Thank you.

Clubs for the Autumn Term

The club list for the term is currently being drafted and will be shared with you when ready. Our intention is to start in the week beginning Monday 21st or 28th September.

Healthy Snacks, Drinks and Being Nut-free

As a school, we do our best to encourage children to lead a healthy lifestyle. With this in mind, we ask that you send in healthy snacks and drinks for your children. (Children in Foundation, Y1 and Y2 receive free fruit each break time at school). In terms of drinks, water is clearly the best and preferred option to ensure healthy bodies, and especially teeth. In addition, due to the allergies of some children and some adults on our school site, we try our best to be a nut-free school. Obviously, it is not possible to go through every child's lunch or snack to check (although we will intervene where we have to) so we are putting our faith in you to protect the whole school community by saving any nutty foods for home consumption only please. Thank you.

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Medication in School

Please can I remind you that any medication in school needs to be handed over to an adult and the appropriate form filled in at the school office. It is important that we are aware of all medication on site in order to keep all children safe.

Free School Meal Changes

There have been changes introduced to the Free School Meal claiming process and many of you should have received an email from Torbay Council over the summer. The new process essentially bypasses the school and enables the Council to get information from the Government (HMRC and the Department for Work and Pensions). If you have children in Years 3-6, you might need to reapply to avoid having to pay for school dinners. Please call into the school office if you have any questions over this as we all work together to understand the new governmental changes. Thanks.

School Timings

Gates open at 8.40am with learning starting at 8.45am and gates being closed at 8.50am. The end of the school day is 3.15pm. Thanks to those who ensure their children are in class ready to go at 8.45am each morning.

Finally, I would like to apologise if you are feeling a little bombarded with communication from school during the first few days as we try to share information about the term and year ahead. Thank you in advance for your support of our school once again this year and I assure you that the staff team here will do their absolute best to ensure your children have a positive year ahead.

With best wishes,

Mr Swainson

Headteacher

Cockington Primary School

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