



Cowbit St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter- Term 6

The end of school year is nearly here, it has been a year which has seen a lot of change but we have finally made it to the end of another year! As the school year draws to a close, I would like to thank everybody for their continued support with their child's learning this year and the children for working exceptionally hard all year. I would also like to thank Friends of Cowbit for all their hard work fundraising this year. Without Friends of Cowbit, trips, discos and certain school events wouldn't be possible. I would also like to thank our school governors who help keep school operational. We hope everybody has a restful and safe summer and we look forward to welcoming most of you back in September. We are extremely proud of how hard all of our children have worked this year and we have seen a significant improvement in our school's results.

Our KS2 results will shortly be published on our website but we would like to celebrate the below figures which are all above the National Average:

- ❖ 75% of our children achieved a 'Good Level of Development' in EYFS
- ❖ 91% of Year 1 children passed the Phonics Screening Check
- ❖ 67% of Year 6 children reached the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths in their KS2 tests



We are aware that we have lots of very talented children in school and we are keen to give children the opportunity to share their talents with their peers. On Wednesday, 17th July, we will be holding our own Cowbit St Mary's Talent Show for all the children to enjoy. It is by no means compulsory for anyone to take part, this is purely on a voluntary basis. If your child would like to showcase a talent to rest of the school, then please do send them in with any props they may need on Wednesday. Children may enter as a pair or small group if they wish and acts should take no more than 5 minutes each. We hope to see as many children as possible share their talents with us!

Year 6



On Friday, we will sadly be saying goodbye to our wonderful year 6 children: the class of 2024. We celebrated the end of their Primary School journey with a visit to Spalding Bowl last week, and we have our leavers assembly with our year 6 children and their families on Friday. During this time of the year, we reflect on all the achievements of the Year 6 pupils throughout their school journey. We wish them all the best as they begin their exciting next chapter at secondary school and look forward to hearing how they have settled in.



Morpurgo Class in Term 6

As we come to another end of a school year, we are sad to say goodbye to our year 6 teammates. They have worked hard this year, and we are so proud of all they have achieved. In the last term, we learnt about capacity and made our carefully measured monster juice. This was related to our English unit, Dracula's Whitby. In topic, we covered Rivers and made our own model about the structure of a river.



Dahl Class in Term 6

Dahl Class have been learning about different influential explorers of the past and have used their stories as inspiration to write our very own adventure narratives. We included some fantastic description and some exciting plot lines! We realised how times have changed and why some people didn't get recognised for their achievements in the past, but who are now being celebrated, like Matthew Henson. We decided that we are glad to be living in today's world and agreed that everyone should be treated fairly. We went on to use these ideas in our R.S.H.E. lessons where we have been looking at the different relationships in our lives and how we can interact in safe, positive and healthy ways. We are excited for art week next week where we are going to get even more creative with our learning!

Donaldson Class in Term 6

During the Summer term, Donaldson Class have been learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We used the castle role play and puppets to help us to retell the story. In maths, Year 1 have been learning to count to 100 and Reception have worked on odd and even numbers and number bonds to 10. In History, we have continued our work on the history of flight, and learnt about Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman. Year 1s have really enjoyed a computing unit in which they have learnt how to log onto the laptops and to use the keyboard and mouse. Reception have enjoyed a collaborative art project in which they have created a fairy tale castle and then have worked on their own moving pictures using the theme of Jack and the Beanstalk as inspiration.

Attendance

A big well done to four pupils, Esme, Fletcher, Samuel and Elise who have achieved 100% attendance for the whole year.



Each week every pupil who has 100% attendance for the week gets a raffle ticket. This term there has been 6 chances to get a ticket, and therefore a possible 6 entries into the draw. The winning tickets will be picked at random on the last day of term. Our winner's last term were Andy and Shay who won a family movie hamper which included a £20 voucher for the South Holland Centre and sweet snacks to take with them. This term's winners will be picked on Friday.

Important Government Changes to attendance

There is new guidance from the Department of Education which takes effect from 19th August. This is statutory guidance that all schools MUST follow. There are some big changes coming Nationally which all school's are expected to follow.

The key changes are:

- School's attendance data is shared directly with the DfE.
- As part of the measures introduced, if a pupil has 10 or more unauthorised absences (this is 10 sessions= 5 days) within 10 school weeks, the pupil's parent(s)/carer(s) may receive a 'Notice to Improve' notification. Each day of absence is recorded as two sessions (morning and afternoon). Unauthorised absences include:
 1. unauthorised absence (where there is no reasonable circumstance for the absence taking place or no reason given by the parent),
 2. arriving late after the register has closed,
 3. or a combination of these with holidays taken during term time

These 10 weeks can span different terms, academic years, and even different educational settings, such as transitions to secondary school or in-year school changes. For instance, if your child misses 3 days of school for a holiday in July (6 sessions) and is late after the register closes on 4 occasions (4 sessions) between September and October, you may be issued a 'Notice to Improve' notification.

Penalty Notices:

The penalty amount is increasing to £160 from September (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days for the first offence). If a parent receives a second penalty notice within a rolling three-year period, the fine is £160 and there is no option to pay the fine at a reduced rate.

Parents with parental responsibility, and adults residing with the child, including for example, stepparents who have day-to-day responsibility for the child, may be fined, and this applies to each child who is absent. For example, if two adults take two children out of school, the total fines would be £640 (reduced to £320 for a first offence paid within 21days).

If a Penalty Notice is not paid within the time limits set out in the letter to the parent, the Local Authority may proceed the case to court.

We recognise that these Penalty Notices may be unpopular with families, but it is important to inform you of these changes promptly.

Nationally, Headteachers are:

- not permitted to approve term-time holidays except in genuinely exceptional circumstances, and are to consider each application for a leave of absence individually before making our decision.
- The law clearly expects Headteachers to enforce these penalties strictly.
- The new policy also states that all schools must consider issuing Penalty Notices if the criteria is met. This is a national statutory process and will be followed by all English state funded schools.

If you would like further information, the new guidance can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf)

We will continue to work with our families to improve school attendance and we have appointed a new attendance lead to work with us next year. Alison Ward will be working with us for 1/2 a day a week. Mrs Leonard will oversee the overall attendance.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is now run by Mrs Ross and the children are enjoying all the new activities she has been doing with them. Breakfast Club is open at 7.30, from Monday to Friday during term time, the price is £3.50, and breakfast and entertainment is included. There is no need to book so you can just turn up on the day. In September, we are offering a sibling discount so if you have more than one child attend, we will reduce the cost to £2.50 a place if more than one child from the same family attends. If your child attends all week, we will be offering a reduced rate of £15 for the completed week.

After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs on this week. Next years will be announced in September.

Uniform

We are currently in the process of moving our uniform shop online. We have a lot of uniform in stock in school. A lot of the sizes are still available but once there is no stock in school it will need to be ordered online. You are only able to order online once that size is out of stock in school. With a new school year coming, we realise that this is the time people will be thinking of purchasing new uniform. If you let us know what you would like we can advise you whether you need to order online, or we can fulfil your order within school and then payment can be made once it has been determined where you need to order from. You can also check sizes if you wish to see if they fit.

Once all stocks are used, it will be a very easy straight forward process to order uniform. Please bear in mind that if you need to order online it will take longer for delivery. The online service will deliver directly to your door within 3 weeks but please note there is a charge for postage. The website for ordering online is www.brigade.uk.com.

Friends of Cowbit

This year's School Fete was on 6th July. They raised over £900 so thank you for your support with this.

There is also a Disco taking place on 19th July at The Village Hall from 5.30-7pm. If you would like your child to attend you can still buy a ticket for £2.50 at Reception.

Staff Changes

We will be welcoming Mrs Goren as Reception Class Teacher in September, we shall also be welcoming Mrs Kennedy as a 1:1 SEND Teaching Assistant in Year 3/4.

Mrs Leonard joined us as 'Interim Headteacher' in April 2023 from Keystone Academy Trust and following a successful interview process, has now been appointed as the substantive Headteacher at Cowbit St Mary's from September.

Mrs Matthews had been with us on a temporary basis to cover absence, she has now been appointed as our permanent administrator.

Mrs Smith has successfully completed her PhD in Theology. We would like to wish her a huge congratulations on being awarded her Doctorate. She has assured us she doesn't want us to call her Dr Smith.

Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Hall on Thursday. Mrs Hall has worked at Cowbit St Mary's for many years now in a variety of different roles and I know she has taught every child at some point. Mrs Hall is retiring and is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her many years of service and wish her all the best with her retirement.

Classes

In September the classes will be:

Ash Class - Reception with Mrs Goren and Mrs Cornwell.

Elm Class - Year 1 and Year 2 with Mrs Smith and Mrs Ham.

Maple Class - Year 3 and Year 4 with Miss Dean, Mrs Ross, Mrs Hare and Mrs Kennedy.

Oak Class - Year 5 and Year 6 with Mrs Links, Mrs Braccialle and Mrs Ross.

Mrs Dillie will also be back in September as a Cover Supervisor and will be leading Music across the school, and covering PPA with Elite sports.

Some reminders for the rest of this week:

- Wednesday- Please return any Library and phonics books today.
- Thursday - Please send in a named carrier bag, as all exercise books will be sent home today.
- Friday - Will be our Year 6 Leaver's Assembly. Year 6 parents are invited to join us in Church at 1.15pm. We can only offer two places per family as we will also have our award winners joining us.

• Please remember to collect any medication from the office between now and the end of term, and any inhalers from class on the last day of term

Don't forget to order your school lunches for September!

Diary dates for Term 6

- 16th July - Identity workshop for Year 6.
- 17th July - Cowbit's Got Talent.
- 19th July - School Disco - 5.30pm-7pm.
- 19th July - End of term - break up for Summer.

We hope you have a fun and restful break and we will see you all on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Leonard