



Cockfield CEVCP School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Trudie Harkin

We share, care and learn together

Dear Parish Council,

A busy final year for myself as Head teacher of Cockfield. After ten years it is time to step away and the new Head Mr Marc Gilbert will be joining the school in September. At the same time, it is hoped the school will be part of the All Saints MAT.

This past year we have seen the return of Mrs Bray from maternity leave as the Lime Class teacher and I job share with her during part of the week. Miss Perkins teaches year 1 and 2. Miss Leaman years 3 and 4, and Mrs Tindall years 5 and 6.

This past year I have been thrilled to offer Forest Schools throughout the school, but with a particular focus in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Forest Schools helps learners develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. It creates a safe, non-judgemental nurturing environment for learners to try stuff out and take risks. Forest School inspires a deep and meaningful connection to the world and an understanding of how a learner fits within it. I have seen children grow in confidence as they use a variety of tools, make food on the fire and play in the mud kitchen and shelter building area. It has been a privilege to bring Forest Schools to Cockfield.

Numbers on roll do fluctuate in small numbers and we will say farewell to nine Year 6's this summer and welcome ten new children in Reception. At present we have 66 children on roll. Breakfast and after school clubs continue to be popular and this service can attract new children and working parents to the school. We are very grateful to the Village Hall Committee for their support in allowing us to have additional use of the Village Hall.

In the office we have Mrs Nikki Limmer working four days and Miss Trudy Mann working Friday's. We are looking for someone to fill a mid-day supervisor role one day a week and as the school joins the MAT it is hoped that the vacancy for a new Sendco will be filled. The school has benefited from Sendco support from All Saints Lawshall over the last few months.

The children have had the opportunity to go out on trips this past year, including the Farm Fair in Ipswich, the Anglo Saxon village at West Stow, the panto of course at Christmas and the youngest children are looking forward to a trip to Daws Hall in June. Visitors to the school include Bella the Pony, PC Darren Marshall and his riot van, and we had a recent music workshop provided an opportunity for all children to make musical instruments out of recycled materials and perform to parents. We do of course offer guitar lessons and the

Music Service will be back with us in September providing musical tuition and loan of a percussion instrument for each child in Years 3 and 4.

We celebrated the King's Coronation of course with a red, white and blue day and tea party, dressed up for World Book Day and a Break Rules Day. Our Spirituality Day, and focus on embedding our school values of compassion, friendship, creativity, respect and truthfulness, has led to a culture of kindness and desire to make a difference in the world. We talk about the Big Questions in life and courageous advocacy. Our children are passionate about planting trees, looking after the wildlife and making their world greener. The children are planning an Enterprise Week later this summer when they will raise money for their chosen charity. In addition, I believe our focus on mental health and wellbeing is a strength of the school. We have had the expertise of a Senior Mental Health Lead who can offer a range of support programmes for our children.

An Olympic GB Gymnast has visited and inspired our children and we are looking at taking part in several sporting events this summer, including a cricket match with Elmswell, a Sports Festival at Thurston, a skateboarding workshop, and an activity day involving an assault course with two inflatables.

In recent weeks you may have heard some disquiet about the Year 6 SATs tests. The reading paper, in particular, has come under a lot of criticism in the press and industry. Our children found it challenging - however, they did not experience any of the reactions that we have seen in the press. They said they felt well prepared and the early breakfast of bacon rolls and croissants may have taken their minds off things!

The roof work is nearing completion after a long year and slow progress! However, the roof does look marvellous and the school will be warmer! We have made internal improvements too, decorating and laying new carpets.

FOCSA fundraising continues to make a significant contribution to the school, for example our recent music workshop was paid for by FOCSA contributions. They make trips possible and the Cockfield Community Council has also supported the school making a significant contribution to the school and activities we can offer.

In conclusion can I say thank you to Open the Book for your inspiring assemblies, Rev. Stainer, Rev. Helen, Rev. Canon Sharon for your spiritual support, our volunteers including Mrs Levett, who comes weekly to read with the children, our amazing governors, especially Dr Norman Kelly who gives so much time and support to the school.

I have enjoyed working with an amazing team of people at Cockfield, and must mention Sharon Creasy and Amy Perkins who are always there and willing to go the extra mile for the children and school. Thank you to all the staff at Cockfield for your support over the last ten years.

Kind regards,

Mrs Trudie Harkin
Head teacher