

Cockenzie Primary School NEWSLETTER 8 23rd February 2023



Curious
Positive
Successful
Respectful

To report a pupil's absence – call 01875 811327 and press '1' to leave message
admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk
<https://www.edubuzz.org/cockenzie/> <https://twitter.com/CockenziePS>

Curious <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asks questions• Solves problems• Loves to learn 	Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has self-belief• Shows resilience• Is kind and helpful 	Successful <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always tries hard• Wants to improve• Achieves success 	Respectful <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes everyone• Respects others' feelings and property• Polite and shows good manners 
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Message from Ms Banks:

It's great to see everyone back refreshed for another busy few weeks. In school, we are having a focus on Being Kind.

There are so many lovely acts of kindness being demonstrated by our children and it is great being able to promote this and aim to have a school where every single learner shows kindness and no-one is ever unkind.



The Big Question



As part of our school improvement plan, we are focussing on increasing parental engagement with their child's learning. The Parent Council met last term and as part of the school's self-evaluation process discussed how the school shares children's learning with parents/carers.

Very often after school, parents/carers ask their child what they did at school and their child answers, 'nothing'.

In order to generate discussion with your child about their learning, we will be posting 'The Big Question' on all the Google Classrooms every Friday around about 12pm, with the first being posted this Friday (24th February). The Big Question will be related to the learning and teaching in each class for that week.

Questions may be something like ...

'Why do we have day and night?'

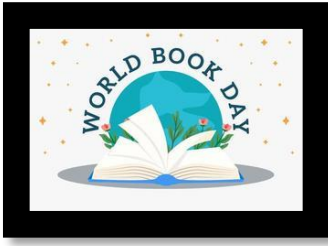
'What do you know about threats to the rainforest?'

'How do you use Fred in your head?'

We would also love to hear about the discussions that take place between you and your children. As a result of this, we will be opening Google Classrooms for "comments only". We would encourage you to discuss the question and leave any feedback you have on the Big Question post as a comment.

The Big Question will appear on the stream of your child's Google Classroom, but should you be unable to see it, click "Classwork" at the top and the first topic you will see is "The Big Question". These will be listed by date as they appear so that you can easily identify which question is for which week.

We hope that you find this a useful way to generate discussion with your children about their learning and we look forward to hearing from you!



World Book Day (Thursday 2nd March)

We have World Book Day next week on Thursday 2nd March and, due to the great success of our Big Book Swap last year, we are holding this fantastic event again. We would like every child in the school and nursery to go home with a 'new' book on World Book Day. In order for this to happen, we ask your child to bring in one book to swap please. The book should be age appropriate to your child and in good condition please.

Children should bring in their books anytime from now until Wednesday 1st March and give it to their class teacher. Thank you ☺



Staffing

We welcome Mrs Archibald to our staff team. Mrs Archibald joins us as an Additional Support Needs Auxiliary.

Scot's Poetry Recitals & Winners

A massive well done to everyone who took part in the Scots poem recitals. We were treated to wonderful assemblies whereby the class winners all recited their poems on stage. The year group winners were:



- P1 – Freya
- P2 – Vivien
- P3 – Erin
- P4 – Rose
- P5 – Harvey
- P6 – Summer
- P7 – Ebony

The overall winner was Ebony in P7. Ebony was presented with the Burns Shield and a trophy to keep.



Safer Internet Day 2023

Learners participated in this event throughout the school.

Please take some time to explore the parents and carers guide which can be found here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



Children's Mental Health Week 2023

This was before the mid-term break and learners were made aware of many different aspects surrounding mental health.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out free resources for families at this link: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

East Lothian Council have further information, support and resources available to access here: <https://sites.google.com/edubuzz.org/mhwb-information-point/>

Further Strike Action (Tuesday 28th February & Wednesday 1 March)

A letter was sent out on Monday from Nicola McDowall, Head of Education, regarding teacher strike days.

'All East Lothian Council Primary and Secondary schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings will be closed to all children and young people for learning on Tuesday 28th February 2023 and Wednesday 1st March 2023'

If there is any change to this, then you will be informed.

Parent Council Meeting (Wednesday 15th March)

The next parent Council Meeting is Wednesday 15th March, 7pm - 8pm at the school. Please join us if you can.



Red Nose Day (17th March 2023)

Approaching fast is Red Nose day. We will be participating in this event and further information will be sent out soon.

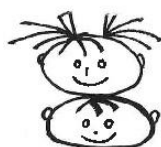
P1-P7 Parent/Carer Consultation Dates (Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd March)

Parent/Carer consultations will take place on **Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd March**. Your appointment time will remain the same as your previous time in October. A reminder of your date and time will be sent out shortly. (If your child joined our school after October, then you will be issued a date/time).



Parents who live apart are advised to communicate with the main carer of the child/ren so that both parents are present at the same appointment time.

If you received a phone call in October, you will receive the date/time of your telephone consultation by email soon.



Nursery Update

Following on from making bird feeders, we set up a hide in the nursery office so that we could use our binoculars to look for different species of birds. We had individual sheets to record our findings and then collated the information to find out which type of bird was most common in our garden.



In response to requests by several children we currently have a very busy hair salon in the nursery. We are practicing our mark making by answering the phone and writing down appointments. We have talked about which colours we can mix together to make different colours for hair and we have been exploring coins and what money is used for.

Our stay and play sessions are underway and it has been lovely to have had so many Blue and Purple group parents in to experience nursery with us. We look forward to seeing the other groups over the next couple of weeks.

NYCOS Singing Groups

East Lothian Council Arts Service is offering FREE after school singing sessions to all pupils attending an ELC school in years P3 to P7. These sessions are funded by the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) and are delivered by the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS). Sessions are due to start from Monday 27th February and will run in six venues across East Lothian on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday after school. There will be 10 weeks of sessions, one week of dress rehearsal and a concert (optional) available to every singer.

Leaflets have been sent home via pupil post and a copy can be found here: [Leaflet link is found here.](#)

Details on how to register can be found here: [Click here to register.](#)

NYCoS is also looking for adult helpers for each of the six groups. No qualifications are necessary and the post is paid. Parents are welcome to apply. Contact anna.ghazal@nycos.co.uk.



Sports Day – save the date(s) . . .

P1-P7 Sports Day: Tuesday 13th June (back up day Tuesday 20th June, in case of bad weather)

Nursery Sports Day: Thursday 15th June (back up day Thursday 22nd June)

Diary Date(s)

Teacher Strike Days	Tuesday 28 th February & Wednesday 1 st March
World Book Day:	Thursday 2 nd March 2023
Parent Council Meeting:	Wednesday 15 th March 2023
Red Nose Day:	Friday 17 th March 2023
Parent/Carer Consultations:	Tuesday 21 st & Thursday 23 rd March 2023
Easter Holidays:	Last day of term Friday 31 st March /return Monday 17 th April 2023
May Day Holiday:	Monday 1 st May 2023
Additional Public Holiday:	Monday 8 th May 2023 (to mark the King's coronation)
Staff In-service Day 5:	Monday 22 nd May 2023 (school and nursery closed to all pupils)
Sports Day (P1-P7):	Tuesday 13 th June (back up day Tuesday 20 th June)
Sports Day (Nursery):	Thursday 15 th June (back up day Thursday 22 nd June)



Reporting Absence

Please contact the school office by 9am if your child is absent from school/nursery. You can do this by email admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk, calling the school absence number – **01875 811327** (Option 1) or texting **07860 049051**.

You must state your child's full name, their class and the reason for absence.

If we do not receive any notification about your child's absence then this will be marked on the register as an 'Unauthorised Absence'. Thank you for your co-operation.



Contacting Us

A reminder, like always, that if you would like to contact us, please email admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk and your email will be passed on to the appropriate member of staff.

Please ensure that you inform us by telephone or email if your child has any appointments and requires to be collected from school during the school day or is coming in late due to an appointment. Thank you

Lynda Banks

Ms L Banks
Head Teacher