

Coteford Junior School

Newsletter 19

30th January 2026

Welcome to our weekly newsletter, here we will keep you up to date with important information and upcoming events. Please also keep an eye on your year group newsletters and our school website: <https://www.cotefordjunior.org.uk/>

Merit book:

The following children are in the merit book this week:

- 3EB: Anabia** for hard work in Maths
- 3TH: Arlo** for his handwriting
- 4LF: Salma** for working hard
- 4IW: George** for participation
- 5DJ: Adam** for consistent high quality work
- 5EP: Leen** for fantastic metaphors and similes
- 5RC: Jiya** for being a fab mathematician
- 6KB: Alyssa** for working hard and representing the 3Rs
- 6SP: Evie** for amazing progress in arithmetic
- 6UQ: Melissa** for a conscientious approach to SATs

Mrs. Eckley: Salma for an excellent week

Miss Martin: Zaidee for great improvement

A huge well done to them!



Be Ready
Be Respectful
Be Responsible

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

Year Group	Percent
Year 3	94.3%
Year 4	89.6%
Year 5	94.7%
Year 6	90.4%
Whole school	92.4%

Reminder: please check parentmail for any outstanding payments. (Y4 Hampton Court Palace)

Match Report:

Wednesday was a very active and successful sporting day for Coteford. During the school day, our Year 3/4 girls participated in a football tournament. After school, we also took part in a boys' friendly football tournament, which provided another valuable opportunity to represent the school.

The girls' tournament was football at its purest and an inspiring experience for everyone involved. For every one of our girls, this was their first time playing in a competitive football match and they embraced the challenge with courage, determination and enthusiasm. They did themselves and the school incredibly proud. Across six games, drawing two and losing four, the results only tell a small part of the story. What truly stood out was the effort, resilience and heart the girls showed in every single match. They supported each other, kept pushing when games were tough. They showed real bravery stepping onto the pitch to compete for the first time. The girls gave absolutely everything, showed amazing character and demonstrated what it means to represent Coteford with pride. This experience will be an important step in their football journey and they should feel extremely proud of what they achieved.

The boys played three games, winning one and drawing two, and showed excellent composure and maturity throughout. They approached each match with focus, discipline and a strong competitive mind-set. The team communicated well, stayed organised and showed great perseverance when under pressure. They encouraged one another, stayed positive in key moments and represented the school with the three R's (respect, responsible and ready). Their performances highlighted their growing confidence, game understanding and commitment to improving as a team, which is something they should take great pride in.

A big well done to: Sia, Alba, Thais, Evie, Skye-Rose and Sanaa

Boys: Veer, Aleks, Yasin, Frankie, Dylan, Kouji, Joseph, Wyatt, Amiin and samy.



Chinese New Year Story: The Little Dragon's Light

This week, pupils enjoyed The Lantern of the Little Dragon, a story about Lian—a young dragon who believes her tiny flame isn't strong enough to matter. When a storm threatens the village's New Year celebrations, it's Lian's small but steady light that guides everyone to safety.

The children reflected on the story's message: even small acts of courage and kindness can make a big difference. It was a lovely way to celebrate Chinese New Year and remind ourselves that every child has a light worth sharing. We are a little early with our story but we have a lot of events in the next two weeks.

Big Garden Birdwatch 2026

Our school is taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026, and pupils will be out and about bird-spotting around the school grounds this week. Led by Mrs Whitewick, children will be learning how to identify common garden birds and contribute to this national wildlife survey. Ask your children which birds we are looking out for!

Looking Ahead: Children's Mental Health Week & Safer Internet Day week beginning 9.2.26

We are looking forward to a very important week in our school calendar as we prepare to mark Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day. Both events give us valuable opportunities to support pupils' wellbeing, strengthen their digital awareness, and work in partnership with families.

Alongside the activities taking place in school, we are pleased to offer two parent events that week:

RSE Consultation Evening

Tuesday 10th February at 6pm

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us to learn more about the upcoming changes to our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. This session will explain what the updates mean for Coteford Junior School and provide an opportunity to view the resources we plan to use.

Live AI Lesson for Safer Internet Week

We are also delighted to welcome families to a live lesson on AI, exploring how children can use technology safely, responsibly, and confidently. This interactive session will support our work around Safer Internet Day and help families understand the fast-changing digital world our pupils are growing up in.

Please see the specific letters sent home for full details of both events.

We look forward to a week of learning, reflection, and partnership as we continue to support our pupils' wellbeing—both on and offline.

Headlice

There has been a number of cases of head lice in school and we would like to work together with our families to prevent reinfestation. It is important that hair is tied back fully, in a ponytail or plait (not half up, half down); parents/carers check children's hair daily and treat if there are headlice.

In school, we are following strict hygiene measures, similar to those during COVID.

Thank you for your support with this.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Date:	Information:
19/01/26	Y6 Planetarium
22/01/26	Y6 Junior Citizens event
30/01/26	Neon Disco
06/02/26	Y5 Incident at station Road
09/02/26	Children's Mental Health week
10/02/26	PSHE / RSE / Sex Education Consultation for Families at 6pm with Mrs Eckley.
11/02/26	Wear your SCARF Day
16/02/26-20/02/26	Half Term
23/02/26	Woodland workshop
26/02/26	RNLI Assembly
19/03/26	World book day – treasure Island
27/03/26	Term ends 12 noon
13/04/26	Children return
23/04/26	Y4 Hampton Court Palace
22/05/26	Inset day (school closed to children)
25/05/26-29/05/26	Half-term
21/07/26	Term ends 12 noon