

Coteford Junior School

Newsletter 24

13th March 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: Eira For great debate skills

3TH: Theo for brilliant work

4LF: All of 4LF for Ancient Greek day

4IW: All of 4IW for Ancient Greek day

5DJ: Ali for improved focus in class

5EP: Veer for fantastic questions

5RC: Sadie for amazing effort

6KB: Dina for working hard

6SP: Kian for excellent writing

6UQ: Ali for continued effort in Maths

Mrs. Eckley: Thea for being an amazing friend

Miss Martin: Frankie for always being positive

A huge well done to them!



Be Ready
Be Respectful
Be Responsible

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

Year Group	Percent
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	93.4%
Year 5	96.1%
Year 6	89.2%
Whole school	93.2%

Reminder: please check parentmail for any outstanding payments.

Girls' Match Report

On Wednesday our girls football team played in a cluster friendly tournament - the tournament consisted of Three matches. We managed to win our first through a brilliant goal from Suraiya, lose our second and narrowly losing our third game after a heroic goalkeeping display by Alice. Throughout the games, they delivered a continuous exhibition of hard work and determination, showing how consistency on the pitch truly pays off.

Every player contributed with great effort and teamwork and the girls were amazing to watch. As the matches progressed, their growing familiarity with one another and with the competition helped remove the burden of uncertainty, allowing them to play with greater confidence and composure.

I could not be more proud of the team and the commitment they showed throughout the games. Their attitude, resilience and support for one another were outstanding and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed in future matches.

A big well done to: Alice, Rose, Dina, Suraiya, Olivia O, Isla, Sophia, Ella, Jasmine and Veera.

Assembly this week:

This week we revisited Pantasaurus—our friendly dinosaur who helps children learn the PANTS rules. The song is fun, the message is simple, and the impact is powerful. <https://youtu.be/-lL07JOGU5o>

You can take a look at the song here...

We use Pantasaurus because it teaches children that their body belongs to them, that private means private, and that they can always talk to a trusted adult. These messages sit at the heart of our safeguarding work and link directly to our RSE curriculum.

Key details of the PANTS rules include:

- **P**rivates are private: Underwear covers private parts, and no one should ask to see or touch them.
- **A**lways remember your body belongs to you: Children have the right to feel comfortable and safe with their own body.
- **N**o means no: Children have the right to say "no" to unwanted touch or actions, even to family members.
- **T**alk about secrets that upset you: Children should distinguish between "good" secrets (like surprises) and "bad" secrets that make them feel sad or scared.
- **S**peak up, someone can help: Children should be encouraged to tell a trusted adult if they are worried or upset

World Book Day – *Treasure Island* Performance

We are delighted to share a reminder for **World Book Day**, which we will be celebrating in school on **Thursday 19th March**. This year, we are bringing the magic of storytelling to life with a special whole-school performance of ***Treasure Island***, delivered by **M&M Theatrical Productions**.

Children will enjoy an exciting, action-packed performance of the story, followed by a **behind-the-scenes workshop** where they will discover how theatre is created. Pupils will explore **backdrops, sound, special effects, costumes, lighting**, and the creative processes that bring a production from page to stage. The workshop is new for this year.

To add to the fun, children are welcome to come dressed as a **pirate, a parrot, or a sea creature**. Costumes are completely optional, and there is no expectation to buy anything new—simple, homemade, or repurposed outfits are perfect. **School uniform is also fine**. We would also love each child to make something creative at home to share on the day, inspired by *Treasure Island*. Children can bring their creations in **from Monday of that week**. Please name all creations.

We are also very pleased to invite parents and carers into school to see the children's **creative challenges**, take part in some themed activities and a quiz, and enjoy a slice of cake in class.

- **Year 3 & Year 4:** 11:00am
- **Year 5 & Year 6:** 12:00 noon

We are very much looking forward to a joyful day celebrating books, creativity, and the power of stories. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

In the middle of March, our school will be celebrating **Neurodiversity Week** — a special time when we learn about and appreciate all the different ways our amazing brains work. We need some volunteers.

What Is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity means that people's brains don't all work in the same way — and that's a good thing. Some people might find reading easier, some might be brilliant at solving puzzles, some might notice tiny details, and others might have incredible imaginations.

It also includes pupils who are autistic, dyslexic, dyspraxic, or have ADHD, as well as many other ways of thinking and learning. These differences are completely normal and part of what makes our school community so interesting and creative.

Why Are We Celebrating It?

During Neurodiversity Week, we want to:

- Celebrate the strengths that come from different types of brains
- Help everyone understand each other better
- Make sure every pupil feels valued, included, and proud of who they are
- Show that there is no "right" or "wrong" way to think — just different ways

Our assembly will be a chance to share stories, facts, and positive messages about what makes each of us unique.

How You Can Get Involved

We're putting together a special assembly, and we'd love pupils to help make it brilliant. You could:

- Read a short message or poem
- Share a fact about neurodiversity

- Talk about a strength you're proud of
- Work with a friend to present something together

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We can't wait to celebrate all the brilliant brains in our school and make this assembly something truly special.

★ Thank You for Joining Our Online Parents' Evening

Thank you so much for attending our online Parents' Evening. It was lovely to connect with you virtually, and we really appreciate you making the time to meet with us. Thank you again for your patience and understanding after last week's postponement — we hope you left feeling fully updated, reassured, and ready to support your child's learning.

Some pupils were selected for our 21-day Reading Challenge, with 21 fun tasks designed to build reading confidence and enjoyment at home. We hope you have lots of fun completing the challenges together. Please return to Mrs Eckley when you have completed it.

A heartfelt thank you as well to our dedicated staff team, who stayed late to talk with families and share the brilliant progress children are making. Please do make contact if you missed your appointment. Our teachers can rearrange with you.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Date:	Information:
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
05/03/26	Parents eve (Not 6UQ)
10/03/26	Parents eve (not 6UQ)
06/03/26	Y4 Greek day
19/03/26	World book day – treasure Island
25/03/26	Y4 production
26/03/26	Y4 Production
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