

Coteford Junior School

Newsletter 29

01st May 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: Patric for very quick maths reasoning

3TH: Eva for being kind, helpful and hardworking

4LF: Joey for amazing English

4IW: Felicity for being kind and helpful

5DJ: Aleks for listening and improving

5EP: Evan for continued good behaviour

5RC: Amelia-Rose for fantastic writing

6KB: Halle for hard work and focus

6SP: Hugo for fantastic independent work

6UQ: Ali for focus and enthusiasm

Mrs. Eckley: Lillie 4LF for resilience

Miss Martin: Lucas for amazing progress

A huge well done to them!



Be Ready
Be Respectful
Be Responsible

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

Year Group	Percent
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	89.9%
Year 5	95.5%
Year 6	89.8%
Whole school	93.1%



After the Fall – Learning Resilience in Assembly this week

This week, pupils explored *After the Fall*, a beautifully written book that imagines what happened to Humpty Dumpty **after** his famous fall. Instead of ending with the nursery rhyme, the story follows Humpty as he faces fear, frustration and self-doubt—and slowly learns to rebuild his confidence.

We share this text because it gives children a powerful, age-appropriate way to understand **resilience**. Humpty doesn't recover instantly. He worries, he avoids the wall that once scared him, and he wants to give up. But step by step, he practises, adapts and keeps trying. Eventually, he discovers something new about himself—something he would never have found if he had stopped at the first setback. This message sits at the heart of our curriculum and our values at Coteford Junior School. We want pupils to know that:

- **Mistakes are part of learning**, not something to fear.
- **Courage grows through small steps**, taken consistently.
- **Challenges help us develop new strengths**, even when they feel uncomfortable.
- **Trying again, asking for help and persevering** are signs of strength.

This theme has been especially relevant for our **Year 6 pupils**, who have shown exceptional resilience in their preparation for SATs. Last week, they completed a full run-through of the tests and managed magnificently. Their focus, determination and positive attitude were clear to see. **Well done, Year 6—we are incredibly proud of you.**

By sharing stories like *After the Fall*, we help all children see that resilience isn't about being perfect—it's about being brave enough to keep going. It supports their wellbeing, builds confidence and prepares them to tackle challenges both in and out of the classroom.



Online Safety – Key Messages for Families

- National guidance continues to emphasise **regular, open conversations** at home about children's online lives.
- Children are encouraged to **talk to a trusted adult** if they see anything worrying, confusing or upsetting online.
- Current advice highlights the importance of **managing harmful or distressing content**, including not resharing and knowing how to report.
- Government updates focus on risks linked to **addictive design features** (infinite scrolling, autoplay, constant notifications) and how these can affect wellbeing.
- NSPCC insight shows children are increasingly exposed to **misinformation, bullying, violent content and AI-generated material**, making critical thinking essential.
- Families are encouraged to support children in **balancing screen time**, taking breaks and recognising when online activity affects mood.
- These messages reinforce our work in school to build pupils' **digital resilience**, promote safe choices and ensure they know how to seek help whenever something online doesn't feel right.



5EP Make a Splash as They Begin Their Swimming Lessons

5EP have just started their swimming lessons for this term — an important part of the **PE National Curriculum** and a truly valuable **skill for life**. The children have made a fantastic start, showing enthusiasm, positivity and a brilliant attitude as they begin building their water confidence.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will be working towards the National Curriculum expectations for swimming, which include:

- **Swimming at least 25 metres** confidently and competently
- Using a **range of strokes effectively**, such as front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke
- Learning how to **perform safe self-rescue** in different water-based situations

These sessions give children essential life skills, helping them stay safe in and around water while developing strength, coordination and resilience.

Thank you to all parents and carers for collecting the children a little later on swimming days. This small adjustment allows them to enjoy a **longer, more meaningful lesson**, and we really appreciate your support.

We're excited to see 5EP continue their swimming journey this term — they've made a brilliant start, and we can't wait to see their confidence grow.



Upcoming Assessments for Years 3–5

Just before the end of term, pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 will be taking part in our termly assessments for **reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and**

spelling (GPS). These checks help us understand how children are progressing and where they may need further support. Writing is **not** assessed through a single test; instead, teachers use a wide range of classwork to build a clear picture of each child's writing skills across the term.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Year 4 pupils will also complete the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) just after half-term**. This is a short, online assessment that checks how confidently children can recall their times tables up to 12×12 . It lasts only a few minutes and focuses purely on **quick, accurate recall**.

To help them feel confident, Year 4 will have plenty of opportunities to **practise in the same format as the test**, so the experience feels familiar and calm. Continuing with **Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)** at home and in school is also a brilliant way to build fluency.

Strong multiplication knowledge is **super important** for all pupils — it underpins so much of the maths they will meet in **Year 5 and Year 6**, especially fractions, decimals and percentages. The more secure they are now, the more confident they will feel later. TTRS is a key homework focus in Year 3 and Year 4.

A Calm, Supportive Approach

We want all children to feel **comfortable with testing**, so we keep the environment as relaxed as possible. Pupils who need additional support may have **movement breaks, a quieter space or other reasonable adjustments** to help them do their best.

Our aim is always the same: to ensure assessments feel like a natural, supportive part of school life, helping every child move forward in their learning.

□ Hedgehog Awareness Week – Coming Up Next Week

Next week we will be marking **Hedgehog Awareness Week**, a national campaign that encourages everyone to help protect one of Britain's most endangered garden visitors. Hedgehog numbers have declined in recent years, and this is a great opportunity for children to learn how small actions can support local wildlife.

Inspired by a brilliant idea from **Aidan in Year 4**, the whole of Year 4 will be enjoying a **cross-curricular Hedgehog Awareness Project**. Through **English**, they will be creating information texts and through **Science**, they will be learning about habitats, food chains and how to care for wildlife safely. Aidan will also be leading a **special assembly** to launch the week.

To raise money for hedgehog charities, Year 4 are holding a **cake sale on Wednesday at break time**. If your child would like to buy a cake, please send them in with a little cash.

✿ How families can support hedgehogs at home

- Create a small **hedgehog highway** (a 13cm gap in a fence).
- **Check long grass** and leaf piles before mowing or strimming.
- Leave out a shallow dish of **fresh water**.
- Avoid using **slug pellets** and harmful chemicals.
- Keep a quiet corner with logs or leaves for shelter.

Thank you for supporting our wildlife-friendly work and helping us champion the protection of these wonderful creatures.

✿ Pupil-Led Clubs and Activities

We are delighted to see so many **pupil-led activities** thriving across the school this term. Our **Year 6 pupils** continue to run a fantastic **Crochet Club**, supporting other pupils and sharing their skills with real patience and creativity. A new **Fidget Spinner Club**, led by enthusiastic **Year 5 pupils**, has also launched and is already proving very popular. Alongside this, our **Play Leaders** are doing a brilliant job organising games and activities at lunchtime, helping to keep the playground active, friendly and fun. Our teacher-led clubs continue too: **Art Club** runs every **Monday for Year 3 and Year 4**, and pupils are welcome to drop-in at any time. **Chess** remains a favourite across the school, with children of all ages enjoying the challenge and strategy it brings.

We love seeing our pupils develop confidence, teamwork and leadership through these opportunities.

Save the Date

Our Sports Day is on **Wednesday 17th June** during the morning. Exact timings will be confirmed but our usual start is 9:15 and it lasts around two hours. We ask our pupils to wear a T-Shirt in their house colours and just their usual shorts / joggers and trainers. This helps you to find them easily on a busy playground.

Our Houses

All Coteford pupils are members of our four Houses.

These are:

- **Lewis Hamilton House – green**
- **Andy Lapthorne House – red**
- **Malala Yousafzai House – blue**
- **Anne Frank House – yellow**



The horse riding children recently took part in a **Creative Writing Competition**, this is a national competition with over 500 entries throughout the UK and I am delighted to share their fantastic achievements.

Thomas was awarded 1st place overall for his imaginative and very funny comic strip. He received a fabulous rosette along with a **£50 book token** in recognition of his excellent work.

Amelia-Rose also did brilliantly, achieving 4th place overall for her thoughtful letter to Mabel, she received a certificate along with a fabulous rosette.

I am equally proud of all the other children who took part, each of whom received a lovely rosette and a letter to celebrate their efforts and creativity. Hattie, Ellena, Frankie, Aryana, Jenson, Emillia, Lily-Grace and Rahimah also attend horse riding and had a chance to take part.

Well done to everyone involved – I am so proud of all your hard work, enthusiasm, and wonderful writing talents!

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Date:	Information:
23/04/26	Y4 Hampton Court Palace
27/04/26	5EP Swimming starts
28/04/26	Class photos
04/05/26	May Bank Holiday – School closed
11/05/26	5RC Swimming starts
22/05/26	Inset day (school closed to children)
25/05/26-29/05/26	Half-term
04/06/26	Y4 Synagogue
17/06/26	Sports day
26/06/26 – 29/06/26	Y6 PGL Trip
21/07/26	Term ends 12 noon