



# Coxhoe Communicator

October 2018



A quick newsletter to mark the end of our first half term of the year. We have had a lovely start to the year with Harvest Festival, some sporting achievements already in the bag, author visits, Castle Challenges and more...

Thank you for attendance at parent's evening – this shows what fantastic family support we have. Keeping in touch and working together allows us to provide the best possible education and wider opportunities for our children. If you have any queries/concerns please take the opportunity to speak to us straight away – leadership staff are available on the yard most mornings and class teachers are on the yard every evening. If you prefer, please telephone or email school to make an appointment to discuss any private matters. We welcome your feedback and can only help if you share any concerns, especially before they become big worries. We reiterate this message to the children regularly and they have many opportunities, including a worry box, in school to share their concerns.

Homework at Coxhoe Primary School is set at an age appropriate level and we encourage a little and often approach. It is set to re-enforce current learning, revise recently covered topics and practice basic skills. Please support school in encouraging your child to regularly complete their homework – it will enable them to work towards reaching their full potential.

Many thanks,

Mrs Bartle

## A big Harvest Thank you

A huge thank you for the overwhelming contribution we had for our Harvest Festival Collection. Durham Foodbank are delighted and many families will receive support as a result of our school family's generosity.

I would also like to say thank you to so many family members for supporting our event at church and special thank you to parent helpers who helped us to walk safely and to Reverend Richardson for welcoming us into St Mary's church.

We were very proud of the children for each of their fantastic songs and poems – reminding us about why we should be thankful. Our new Reception children did especially well after just a few weeks in school.

## Class assemblies:

Class assemblies dates have been booked for the year ahead and we have released these early in response to parent feedback. Doors open at 10.00am and assemblies start at 10.15. Parents and family members are welcome to stay for refreshments with their children after the performance. This is a lovely chance to chat with other parents and school staff informally.

Class 1 & 2: 11<sup>th</sup> July

Class 3: 28<sup>th</sup> March

Class 4: 21<sup>st</sup> March

Class 5: 27<sup>th</sup> June

Class 6: 4<sup>th</sup> July

Class 7: 9<sup>th</sup> May

Class 8: 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Class 9: 10<sup>th</sup> January

Class 10: 13<sup>th</sup> June

Class 11: 20<sup>th</sup> June

## PTA update

Attendance at our recent PTA meeting was fantastic and we are delighted to announce a new PTA committee:

Chairperson: Sarah Heslop

Treasurer: Joanne Walker

Secretary: Sarah Bell

Vice secretary: Helena Brown

They are busy organising the Halloween disco and hope that they will have lots of volunteers to help it run smoothly. Look out for future meetings/updates in our newsletter.

**After School clubs are cancelled 29th October due to the Halloween disco. An extra week will be added on the 10th December.**

### **Reminder to changes to Christmas performances for Reception and KS1:**

**Please note – there will be 2 performances for the Year 2 performance – 1 afternoon and 1 evening.**

Christmas traditions are very important to us in our Coxhoe family and we enjoy sharing celebrations with you. This year, we are looking forward to starting a new tradition – the Year 1 sing-a-long – with lots of audience participation. This event will be held on Christmas jumper day to add to the festivities. In reception, we will continue to hold our traditional Nativity play; in Year 2 we will continue to hold a Christmas themed performance.

December 11<sup>th</sup> Reception Nativity 2pm

December 13<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Christmas performance 2pm & 5pm

December 14<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Christmas sing-a-long 10am

### **Online Safety**

As part of my role as Assistant Headteacher at Coxhoe Primary School, I have taken on the role of online safety lead. I am really looking forward to working with our staff, yourselves and your fantastic children to ensure that we keep up to date with the

ongoing changes related to staying safe online. As we continue to live in a digital world, I feel very passionate that we take full advantage of the amazing things technology allows us to do whilst also ensuring that we stay safe at all times.

This half term, we are starting the year as we mean to go on by dedicating our castle challenge afternoon to online safety. The children are going to work together to design a poster that will be displayed on all ipads, the school website and around school. The winning design will be sent to a graphic designer. We look forward to sharing this with you in the next newsletter.

At parents evening, you should have been given the most up-to-date magazine focused on online safety. I would really appreciate you spending the time to read through this magazine and share any relevant parts with your children. Thank you for your on-going support. Miss Marsden

### **Macmillan Coffee Event**

We are so proud of the fundraising success achieved at our recent Macmillan event. Well done to everyone who baked, bought, ate and drank together!! It was lovely to see everyone pulling together for such a good cause and even nicer to have the chance for parents to get together for a coffee and catch up – this is something that we hope to offer more opportunities to enjoy.

### **Sporting Update**

The Cross Country League concluded and both boys and girls teams did superbly to finish in 1st place! This was good practise for the Cross Country Festival, where they were joined by two Year 3 and 4 teams. A massive team effort meant that they managed 3rd place overall. A number of children have also qualified for the County Finals in March.

There was more success in the Football League. The A team finished in 3rd place and the B team in 5th. Depending on their finishing position, they will be placed into new leagues in March.

Classes 5-12 enjoyed a visit from Skipping Schools. Relishing the chance to get active, they learned lots of new tricks through the day and some showed them off in assembly - including the pretzel!

Upcoming events:

16th October - Tag Rugby (Year 5/6)

17th October - Gymnastics (Y1/2)

1st November - Football Cup (Y5/6)

6th November - Indoor Athletics (Y5/6)

8th November - Netball League Starts

### **Attendance**

We have made a great start to the year with attendance in September at: 97.17%.

As a school we value strong attendance and can see the positive impact it has on all aspects of learning for children. As a statutory requirement, we monitor attendance and offer support if it begins to fall/is below 90%. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your child's attendance/attitude towards coming to school. Leave of absence during term time cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. Please ensure that a LOA request form is completed for all requests and provide as much information/evidence to explain the circumstances. Working together - we can offer our children the best possible opportunities and support.

Are you or someone you know interested in teacher training? As some of you may know, Coxhoe is the lead school for Durham Schools Together (teacher training programme accredited with Sunderland University). We are very excited and proud to announce that applications for this fantastic post graduate course opened this month! For more information, visit 'Get into Teaching' on our website or visit:

<https://find-postgraduate-teacher-training.education.gov.uk/course/2DP/2ZKM>

This year, Coxhoe Primary School have embarked upon an exciting Mathematical adventure; they have joined the Archimedes Maths Hub. This means that staff from the school will work with other academic organisations and possibly even teachers from different countries to promote a mastery approach in Maths. These groups will use the latest scientific research from across the world to improve teaching and learning for the children in their schools. We hope that this will improve our already high standards even further!

Coming soon...

29/10/18– Return to school

29/10/18– Halloween Disco

KS1:3.15pm-4.30pm KS2: 5.00pm-6.15pm

01/11/18– Christmas Shopping night 6.00pm

02/11/18– Y6 Safer Futures trip

02/11/18– Anti Bullying production in school

29/11/18– NHS Flu immunisations for R-Y5

27/11/18– Prospective parents look around 7.00pm

30/11/18– Art Day 2

03/12/18– School Nurse Drop in session

11/12/18– Reception Nativity

13/12/18– Year 2 Christmas Performance

14/12/18– Christmas Jumper and Lunch Day

14/12/18- Y1 Sing Along 10.00am

18/12/18– Reception Christmas Party pm

19/12/18– Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party pm

20/12/18– Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party am

### **Bikeability**

Some of our children from Year 5 enjoyed Bikeability this half term. On our yard, they learnt how to complete safety checks on their bicycles (the 'M' check), how to travel safely keeping their distance and how to indicate with their hands. They also went out into Coxhoe and learnt how to be safe on our roads.

### **Cloud Singh**

This half term we have had the pleasure of working with Cloud Singh across our school. He has been working with our children and teaching them about what life is like as a Sikh. The children asked lots of interesting questions to further their knowledge about his religion whilst he worked in our classrooms and he spoke to the whole school during an assembly.

20/12/18– Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party pm

21/12/18– Carols around the tree 2.00pm

23/12/18– Christingle and St Marys Church 3.30pm

24/12/18-4/01/19– Christmas Holidays Return to school Monday 7th January