



# Coxhoe Communicator

February 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Half term break!

It's lovely to see signs of spring bursting out all around the school grounds at the moment – keep an eye out in the pond for frog and newt spawn over the next month and the daffodils and crocuses planted by previous generations of pupils as they begin to flower.

Class 4 & 5 are helping the mini (and larger) beasts which inhabit our school grounds prepare for the spring by creating a fantastic bug hotel and nesting boxes. See if you can spot them over the next few weeks?

Parent's/Carers evenings which mark the mid-year point for pupils will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March. You will receive a slip to confirm your appointments next week.

Unless a change has been requested since the autumn term we will offer the same day and time slot for the spring.

If the date offered is not convenient we will try to offer an alternative, but due to other staff, school and personal commitments only a small number of alternatives will be possible.

Regards,  
Mr Jones

## Sporting Achievements

The school football league has re-commenced for Team A & B after the winter break. We look forward to hearing how the teams get on.

Cross-country training has also re-commenced in preparation for their new season.

Several classes are also receiving specialist training in non-contact rugby and multi-skills this term. They will then have opportunity to attend area festivals to compete against other schools.

## School Attendance

Our school attendance for 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Spring term was as follows:

Class 1: 96.4%  
Class 2: 95.1%  
Class 3: 98.1%  
Class 4: 96.1%  
Class 5: 93.0%  
Class 6: 95.5%  
Class 7: 96.9%  
Class 8: 94.2%  
Class 9: 91.9%  
Class 10: 96.8%  
Class 11: 97.2%

**Well done to Class 3** for their excellent attendance. This was a ½ term when as you can see our attendance was affected by several 'winter' bugs – let's hope we are all fitter during the rest of the spring term!

If a child is suffering from a sickness or stomach bug please remember they need to have been clear for 48 hours before returning to school. This ensures they are no longer contagious.

Thank you everyone for supporting our pupils in developing excellent attendance and recognising that – **'every day is a learning day.'**

**Reminder – leave of absences for pupils** during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. These include a family wedding, attending a funeral, graduation ceremony. Requests to withdraw a child for a holiday will not be authorized unless a parent can prove by an employer's letter that they have been allocated holidays in term time and could not have taken these during the school holidays. Unauthorised absences may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

## **Bad Weather alert!**

We have received a cold weather alert for the beginning of next week (wb 26<sup>th</sup> February). There is a high possibility of snow.

In case of snow please can children wear appropriate footwear for outdoors. They can change into shoes or slippers for inside school. In the unlikely event of the school closing, this information will be shared via our APP, website and the DCC school closure pages.

### **Class Assemblies during the Spring term**

Class 8 got us off to a fantastic class assembly – full of blood and gore – this term. Well done!

Our series of Family Assemblies are presented for parents/carers by each class. These take place either in the Spring or Summer terms. The remaining dates for the Spring term are as follows, all at 10:15 am: (due to last minute rehearsals doors will not open until 10:00am)

Class 3 assembly: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Class 4 assembly: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Class 5 assembly: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

All other classes will present their assemblies during the summer term.

### **School Nurse Drop in Sessions**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm.

Lyndsey Atkinson (School Nurse) says that sessions last approximately 15-20 minutes and if she feels that further support is helpful she will arrange a follow up home visit.

### **‘Stray Aid’ our charity of the Term**

On the last day of the spring term (Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March) we will have a non-uniform day in aid of Stray Aid.

Representatives of Stray Aid will lead assemblies of Reception/KS1 & KS2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **School Photo Day**

This takes place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Any families wishing to include a pre-school aged child can come along from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

All other family groups and individual pupil photos will be taken during the day.

### **Interviews for a new Head Teacher**

School Governors have invited 4 candidates from an impressive field for interview on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for the position of Head Teacher. They have planned a rigorous selection day to ensure the next Head Teacher is the best person to lead the staff team and join with parents and the Governing Body in leading the school forward from Easter 2018 when Mr Jones will be taking up his new position with Gateshead LEA.

We will inform parents and friends of the school about the outcome of the interview process once the interview day and any subsequent checks have been completed.

### **Whole School Head Teacher’s challenge**

Our school castle teams all completed the HT’s challenge recently which was won by Durham castle.

Each castle had to make treasure using a roll of tin foil, a collapsed plastic shoe box and other odds and ends they could find. The resulting treasure was amazing and every team were superbly creative. Mr Jones had a very difficult job in choosing a winning castle.

Check out their amazing work on our school website!

### **World Book Day**

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day. Pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

We will also be having our very popular after school bedtime story evening from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Pupils (in EYFS, KS1&2) can return to school in their PJ’s and dressing gowns to hear a lovely story.

Parents/Carers are welcome to stay in the hall and refreshments will be available during the event.

### **Other important dates this term:**

Year 4 Level 1 Bikeability training – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Class 1 & 2 Multiskills Festival at Whitworth Park school – 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Classes 6-8 Climate Change Workshops with OASES – 9<sup>th</sup> March

Parent’s/Carers meetings with Teachers: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March (the same time slots as Autumn term will be offered unless notified otherwise)