



Coxhoe Communicator

September/October 2018



We are all delighted with how well the children have settled into the new school year and they are certainly raring to go. Staff have commented on how much progress the children have made in a short time and what fantastic role models they are for our new children.

The Early Years team are so proud of the way our Reception children have started their school journey – just watch how grown up they are next week when they begin to join us all first thing on a morning.

Look out for all of the events coming soon – the website calendar (also available on the app) has been populated with events and an autumn term list has been provided below. We endeavor to set dates in advance as we know that family lives are so busy; we also send out lots of information on the App – including reminders.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Bartle

Head Teacher

PTA meeting – your support is needed!

We will hold our Annual General Meeting for the PTA on Tuesday October 16th at 3.30pm. We had a fantastic support at the summer term meeting and a wonderful team effort for sports days and the summer fair followed this. We raised over £2000 – what a fantastic achievement! Please attend if possible, as we are excited about what we can achieve for our children with such an increase in the PTA team. The roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer will be appointed and we would like to plan the year ahead – lots of new ideas from the summer meeting and even more have been mentioned since then. Come and find out what we have planned ahead as a school – how can the PTA help us continue to improve the opportunities on offer for our children. Staff will be on hand to look after children and refreshments will be provided to keep us going!

Caretaker post

After saying goodbye to Mrs Templeton-Bugg in the summer holidays we are seeking to employ an enthusiastic and motivated caretaker to take a pride in our wonderful school. If you are interested in this post or know someone who is, please see the Durham County Council website for the details and application packs or contact us at school for more information.

Working as a team

Thank you very much for joining us for Meet the Teacher – we hope that you found the informal sessions useful to find out all about life in your child's new class. If you were not able to attend – we hope that you found the termly class newsletter informative and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Our first Parents' Evening comes quite early in the year so that you can see how your child has settled into their new class and is working towards their new challenges. Attendance at these important meetings is always fantastic and we really appreciate your commitment in working together for your child. Arranging these appointment times has always been a manual task and we realise times provided were not always convenient. We have therefore offered to pilot an online book system hosted by our website provider this term. The system is in its final stages of development and we will be part of the early trials – we will share details as soon as they are available. We hope that this will allow you to go online and select/book an appointment time that is convenient for you. We will then be seeking parent feedback on the system.

Coxhoe Pupils Fill the Ballot Boxes!

To begin the year, the children of Year 6 were tasked with forming political parties in an attempt to elect their candidates for Head Pupil. The winning pupils would have to receive the most votes from almost 300 students! After a gruelling election campaign involving posters, leaflets, badges and even party political broadcasts, Jamie Soler and Chloe Davison emerged victorious to take up their new roles as Head Pupils. Well done and good luck in your new roles!

Road Safety

Parking around the school continues to be difficult this year. The location of our beautiful, but very old building – was not designed for the current level of traffic. Walking to school has many benefits and is something that we promote in school – the Walk to School badge project has been re-launched this term. We do realise that it is not always feasible to walk to school, some parents must carry straight on to work and some families live much further away. However – children can still collect points towards the badges with 'Park and Stride' – this is the option of bringing the car but parking safely and considerately in a location near school, for example the Active Life Centre.

If it is absolutely necessary to bring the car to school, we do ask that you drive and park safely and considerately as we are having an increasing number of complaints from both parents and residents about this issue.

In order to promote this we are entering a countywide competition for children to design a sign encouraging everyone in our community to drive and park safely. We look forward to their creativity and are very hopeful about potential winning designs.

Christmas Shopping Night

Get festive and enjoy a night of shopping. This event has become very popular and we have even more stalls this year – including crafts, gifts, sweets, cakes, jewellery, smellies Come along - get that Christmas shopping started and enjoy a coffee and mince pie.

Sporting Update!

Cross Country - A huge well done to all the children who participated in the Cross Country trials. The interest shown has been incredible. Unfortunately there is a limit on teams and wish we were able to take more to the festival.

Both Year 5/6 cross-country teams made a near perfect start and top the leagues after Week 1. Unbelievably in the boys race, Coxhoe managed to finish 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th! The league concludes next week at Ferryhill after Wednesday's fixture at Sedgefield was postponed due to storm Ali.

Award - Last year's sporting achievements saw us receive a **Gold Award!** This encompasses anything that helps to raise interest and participation in sport. We hope to keep on developing new interests and talents in 2018/19.

Upcoming events:

- Y5/6 Cross Country League (26th Sept)
- Y5/6 Football League Commences (27th Sept)
- Y3-6 Cross Country Festival (3rd Oct)
- Y2-6 Skipping Schools Visit (9th Oct)

Harvest Festival 5th October

Coming soon – we are looking forward to celebrating Harvest festival at St Mary's Church. We very much enjoyed the smaller group services last year so have booked Key Stage 1 (Classes 1-6) for 9.45- 10.30 and Key Stage 2 (Classes 7-12) for 11.00 – 11.45. Each class will share an important message about Harvest with songs, rhymes, raps and more ... We hope that you can join us. We will also need volunteers to help walk the children to and from church. If you are able to help please give your name to Miss Dunkley so that we can share volunteers across the classes.

We would like to support the local food bank again this year and ask that children bring in dried/tinned goods, such as rice & pasta or tinned meat/fish, custard, rice pudding, spaghetti, beans, potatoes. Please send donations in **on the day** as we have very limited storage. We will bring a small selection to show in the church but your generosity makes it difficult to carry it all! Therefore – the food will all be collected from school on the Monday.

Thank you.

Change of Parent Circumstances

Please inform school in writing of any changes in parental circumstances. Unless we have an official document, both parents are entitled to all information relating to their child. It is important that we have up to date addresses and contact details for parents.

Halloween Disco Monday 29th October 2018

The annual Halloween disco is always a popular event and also provides vital fundraising for school. Based on parent feedback the timings of the disco have changed:

KS1 (Classes 1-6) 3.15 – 4.30pm

KS2 (Classes 7-12) 5.00 – 6.15pm

Children in KS1 will get changed at school like they do for the Christmas Party and there will be face painting available as one of the stalls. Other stalls available will include: tuckshop, biscuit decorating, nail painting, tattoos and much more. Children in KS1 should bring their spending money in a named purse so that we can look after them during the day. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare for and help at the disco – please let us know if you would like to help.

Tickets are £2 and include a drink and a hotdog. Tickets go on sale from Monday 15th October and must be purchased prior to the event – please send the money in a named envelope or purchase them directly from the school office.

Reading Reminder

In KS2, parents will now have a password to access information about their child's reading; this includes the books your child has read and the quiz results they have achieved in these books. In school, teachers will also be setting individual targets for your child including their daily time engaged in reading, percentages achieved in quizzes and points collected from the books they read. Each teacher will closely monitor these targets. It is school policy to ask children who have not spent a sufficient amount of time engaged in reading to stay in to read at play time. In KS1, your child will continue to bring home their reading book and reading diary. The expectation is that each child reads at least three times a week and this should be recorded in their reading diary. We thank you for your continued support in this area, as regularly reading aloud to an adult remains a vital part of children's learning.

Get into Teaching

We are very excited and proud to be partnered with Sunderland University and be the lead school for Durham Schools Together (teacher training programme) for the second year running. With this, we welcome our two School Direct students who will be based in our school for the majority of this year: Mrs Brems and Miss Nichols. Both trainee teachers will be working across school before working in a base class; we hope that you join us in making them very welcome. If you or anyone you know are interested in getting in to teaching, please get in contact with Mrs Bartle or Miss Marsden. Applications for the next academic year will open on 9th October.

Coming soon...

26/09/18- Art Day

28/09/218– MacMillan Coffee Morning

5/10/18– Harvest Festival

-9.45am-10.30am KS1

-11.00am-11.45am KS2

15/09/18-17/09/18– Parents evening

16/09/18– PTA AGM meeting

17/09/18– Castle Challenge

22/09/18-26/09/18– Half term

29/10/18– Halloween Disco

1/10/18– Christmas Shopping night

12/11/18– Anti Bullying week

27/11/18– Prospective parents look around

30/11/2018– Art Day 2

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

17/12/18– Village Hall Christmas concert

18/12/18– Reception Christmas Party

19/12/18– Y3+Y4 Christmas Party

20/12/18– Y1+Y2 Christmas Party

20/12/18– Y5+Y6 Christmas party

21/12/18– Carols around the tree

23/09/18– Christingle at St Marys Church