



Coxhoe Communicator

April 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a short term but packed full of excitement and learning.

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the basic skills Quality Mark. This celebrates the way basic skills is embedded in a broader, enriching curriculum that is focused on meeting the needs of all of our children.

We have also launched lots of new initiatives across different areas of school life and hope that you have found them beneficial. We welcome feedback and look forward to continuing to further developments. We are very excited about reviewing and developing our curriculum over the summer term.

Please note that we will be piloting the Year 4 Multiplications Tables Check in June. This is a statutory check from 2020 and we feel that it will be useful to try it out. The National expectation is that all children have speedy recall of all multiplication facts—under 6 seconds per question. Times Tables Rockstars is an especially good way for children to become familiar with using their times tables using a keyboard.

Enjoy a lovely family break over the Easter Holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday the 23rd April.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Bartle.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS—

After Easter we will be moving to our online system to book clubs, payment will still be via ParentPay. This will be similar as booking parents evening appointments and using the same website. More information will be sent out with the list of clubs after Easter.



Dinnertime with a Difference

We have been delighted with the new digital pre-ordering system recently introduced. Aside from a few technical hiccups – the launch was very smooth and the children have adapted so quickly. They are absolute professionals now! The children tell us that they like ordering their lunch on a morning – always getting to choose from the full menu. Our only suggestions for improvement have been that real life pictures alongside the label would help the children make their choice. Let us know what your children have to say at home about it.

Uniform and Equipment

Ahead of your summer holiday shopping – we wanted to alert you to some small changes that we are putting in place to support both parents and school. From September, our sole provider for school uniform and bags etc. will be Emblematic. We request that ONLY drawstring bags are to be used for PE kit and that Coxhoe Primary School book bags are used for homework folders and reading books. No other bags should be brought into school. Please also limit the size of pencil case that children bring into school – all stationery that children require is provided by school. We know that this may disappoint some children but feel that the pressure placed upon parents to buy a certain type of bag unhelpful and it is also causing storage challenges within school. We hope that you support this decision but please come and talk to us if you have any concerns.

We are delighted to announce the introduction of a new PE kit for September 2019. It includes a royal blue Coxhoe T-shirt and a matching hoodie; we have changed to black shorts (plain) and added plain black sports leggings as an alternative to jogging bottoms as these have become very popular with children. The PE kit is compulsory and will be on sale from after the Easter holidays if parents wish to purchase it early. We are sure that you will agree that this will be much cheaper than any branded hoodie and that children will look very smart (£10). The changes have taken into account parent feedback about difficulty in keeping the white T-shirts clean and that other schools look smarter at sporting events. This will also be beneficial at the out of school events in identifying our children easily. In order to help parents to support this new initiative, we have made an agreement with the company to discount the full kit by £2 which has been funded by the PTA.

Easter Sports Camp

Simply Sports are delighted to offer their holiday sports camp to the families of Coxhoe Primary School. They are hiring our school grounds to offer this facility and we would welcome any feedback after the event. If it is popular, we will ask for register of interest for a similar offer in May half term before confirming – we will keep you posted.



Punctuality

A punctual start to the school day is beneficial to all children. Arriving late can have a negative impact, both socially and academically. Allowing a window of time for children to arrive is designed to support families on a morning. If children arrive after 8.45 they may miss their register being taken in the class and will receive a late mark from the office staff. Please support us in ensuring that all children have a good start to their day.

PSHE and Relationships Education

We are in the process of organising a Health and Wellness evening on Thursday 4th July 3:15-5pm. This will be an informal evening where parents, carers and children are encouraged to drop in to take part in fun activities and refreshments. There will be representatives from the NHS and organisations who provide wellness support, as well as an opportunity to view the resources that will be used in Relationships Week which is 8th- 12th July. To celebrate and promote this event we are running a voluntary competition to design a wellness poster. The poster can be any size and using any material! Please return any entries to Mrs Jefferson before June 4th.

Sporting update-

Dance off - Class 8 won the school dance festival so had the opportunity to represent Coxhoe at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. What a fantastic experience! The children were absolutely amazing and performed to a very high standard. We were all very proud of them!

A massive well done to the Cross Country runners and Tag Rugby teams. They came 8th and 9th respectively in the County Finals. A tremendous effort with over 250 schools in the County. Elsewhere, the Boccia team continued to excel. They managed an amazing Bronze medal at the School Games!

Both football teams rounded off their season with their best performances. The B team finished in 4th place, while the A team managed to retain the title for a third consecutive year, going through the league unbeaten.

Finally, we had a special visit from the Rugby Champions Cup trophies this week. Children from Coxhoe and West Cornforth Primary took part in Tag Rugby activities as well as having the chance to get a photo with the trophies. Thank you to the SSP for organising the event and providing a great experience.

Looking ahead – we have decided to trial holding KS1 sports day and KS2 sports - on the same day. KS1 will be held in the morning and KS2 in the afternoon. This will be followed almost immediately by the summer fair. We hope that this is helpful to parents who have siblings in a different key stage – taking just one day off work. It will certainly be a busy day for all involved but one filled with teamwork, adventure and fun!

Curriculum Enrichment

This is a key part of our current school development and we are delighted that we have now received our new set of equipment: Now>Press>Play. This is a set of headphones where the children can have different experiences or listen to different types of podcasts, audio books, radio, music or anything that the teacher has recorded. There have already been lots of classes using the headphones and making their learning even more fun, exciting and active. What a way to bring our curriculum to life!

As you are aware, we asked all parents and carers to complete a survey with this focus at parent's evening last month. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and helps to shape the way we move forward. This feedback will help us further develop opportunities for broader development and we look forward to sharing further plans with you next term.

Staff Training this term has included:

- Safeguarding
- Online Safety
- Lexia
- Active 30
- Writing
- Asthma and other medication
- SMSC

Parent's Evening Booking System

We hope that you found the new booking system for appointments helpful. It should allow you more choice/flexibility, which is valuable in our busy family lives. If you have any feedback – please let us know.



PTA update

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for helping us to offer the fabulous Easter Craft afternoons. They have been a huge success – it has been lovely to see families enjoying time together. The PTA have kindly donated a huge amount of craft resources and worked really hard to set up for the hub of activity. All members of the families who attended have been very enthusiastic about the events and we will definitely be booking them again!

Film club: Again – the PTA will be working their magic – offering fun events for our children. They are booked in for The Greatest Showman in our first week back after the holidays – have you booked your space?

They have almost reached our most recent goal – to purchase a new audio visual system for the school hall. This will be fantastic for our Y6 Leavers' production, Christmas shows, class assemblies, parent workshops ... as well as to support better PE, active learning and assemblies. We are so lucky to have such a hardworking team and such supportive families – together we achieve great things for our children.

Staff Update

We look forward to welcoming Mrs O Sullivan back from maternity leave after the Easter holidays. She will be supporting children across school and teaching in a variety of classes throughout the summer term.

We are also delighted to share our Coxhoe family good news – Mrs Elliott is expecting a baby in October – she has shared her news with her class and they are very excited about the idea of a new arrival.

The Sun has got his Hat on! (Well – hopefully he will have soon!)

Summer is just around the corner and we look forward to some warmer weather. Please ensure that children bring sun hat and a water bottle to school everyday; suntan lotion should be applied at home and we recommend the long lasting type so that it does not need reapplying during the school day. Children may bring suntan lotion to school but must apply it independently.



Assessments - SATs

We are very proud of our Year 6 children who are currently preparing for their end of Primary School Statutory assessments. They are demonstrating a very mature attitude and working extremely hard. Many of the children are joining us for a few days in the Easter holidays to keep their brains active – what commitment!

We also know that children throughout the school will be very grown up and support the Year 6 children in their school family.

Year 2 children will also complete statutory assessments during the month of May. It is important that children are not taken out of school particularly at this time. However, it is important that this is not a focus for children at such a young age and we do not make the children especially aware of this. All of the children in school work hard and regularly complete assessments – they are treated in a similar way.



University Links

Over the past few weeks, class 8 have had an Earth Science Student - Mr Hammer. He has been coming into school on a Wednesday. This has been a wonderful opportunity to further our understanding of how electricity is generated, renewable and non-renewable energy and the rock cycle. Mr Hammer has been able to bring in some samples for us to look at - we have particularly focused on coal and looked at this in relation to our local area.

We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Brems and Miss Nichols, our School Direct teaching students. They will continue to work mainly in classes 6 and 8 but may also support in other areas of the school.

Upcoming dates...

- Easter Holidays– Return to school 23rd April
- Rewards Assembly– 25th April

- Film Night ran by the PTA–

KS1 24th April 3.15pm-5.30pm

KS2 25th April 3.30pm-5.30pm

- 25th April- Year 5/6 parents Mathematics Workshop 3.30pm/5.00pm
- 26th April- Class 8 Bake Sale
- 2nd May- Residential meeting for parents of Year 6 children (Weardale House)– 3.30pm
- Monday 6th May Bank Holiday– Return to school 7th May
- 9th May– Class 7 Assembly
- 10th May– Class 7 Bake Sale
- 13th May- KS2 SATS week
- 13th May– School Nurse Drop ins 2.30pm
- 21st May– Happy Shoe Day (Children can wear choice of shoes to school)
- 23rd May– Art Day 5
- 23rd May- Class 8 Assembly
- 24th May– Class 6 Bake Sale
- 3rd June– PD Day
- 5-7th June Y6– Residential Trip
- 7th June– New starters Teddy Bears Picnic
- 11th June– Phototronics– Photo company in school to take group pictures
- 11th June– Sedgfield DASH
- 13th June– Class 10 Assembly
- 20th June– Class 11 Assembly
- 27th June– Class 5 Assembly
- 4th July– Class 6 Assembly
- 4th July– Year 6 Leaver production 2.00 & 6.00pm
- 5th July– Art Day 6
- 9th July– Move Up Day
- 11th July– Class 1 & 2 Assembly
- 15th July– Optional Parents Evening
- 19th July– Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 20th June– Class 11 Assembly

