



Coxhoe Communicator

May 2019



Welcome to the summer term. With a strange mix of weather it has been difficult to identify change of seasons recently; however, we are always glad to see any sign of some sunshine and enjoy the lighter evenings. The children have been especially pleased to enjoy some playtime on the field and more opportunities to play on the adventure playground.

We have all enjoyed a lovely break with our families over the Easter holidays – especially those lovely sunny days. Many of our Year 6 children joined us for three mornings for open workshops so that we could help them as they prepared for their SATS. The atmosphere in school was fabulous, the enjoyment in learning created such a buzz and we enjoyed some down time together too – with an Easter Egg hunt, an ice cream parlour and a well deserved lunchtime treat.

Mrs Bartle.



SATS week 13 – 17 May

This is an important week for our Year 6 children. They will complete assessments that show how much they have achieved in some aspects of the curriculum throughout their journey at Coxhoe Primary School. We encourage all of the other children in school to be supportive across this week

Mindful Moments

This term we have launched a whole school initiative to spend a Mindful Minute each day where we focus on resting, rejoicing and relaxing. This is part of our commitment to talk about and teach steps pupils can take to protect and support their own and others' health and well being. We are very excited to be taking part in 'The World's Largest Mindful Moment' at 11am on Friday 10th May.

End of Key Stage One Assessments (SATs)

It is a statutory requirement for all Year Two children in England to take two reading tests and a maths reasoning and arithmetic test during the month of May. Unlike the Year 6 tests we can administer these tests on any day and so that children remain as relaxed as possible they will just find out a few minutes before they complete the test. Our previous experience administering these tests is that many of the children like completing the tests and enjoy the extra playtime that comes after completing a test! All of the Year Two children have already completed previous Year Two Sats papers as advised by the Local Education Authority and we hope you agree this hasn't seemed to have phased them. Please could you let the office know if your child has any appointments or holidays booked that would mean they will not be in school.

Many thanks

The Year Two Team

Class assemblies

We are looking forward to Class 7 (9th May 10 am) and Class 8 (23rd May 10 am) assemblies this month. Find out what has been keeping them busy recently – we are sure that they will teach you something new and bring a smile or even a proud tear!

Photos

Year group and team photos will be taken this month. Phototronics will also undertake their annual photo-shoot this term. They take a broad range of un-posed/action photos to try and capture the spirit of our school family. We are sure that you have noticed the stunning range of large prints around school – they show a real love of life and certainly make us smile as we pass them.

Sunshine reminder

Please ensure that suntan lotion is applied before school. We recommend the types of suntan lotion that can last all day as staff cannot apply suntan lotion. If you would like your child to bring suntan lotion and apply it themselves, please send it in but ensure that it is labelled clearly with your child's name. We also encourage children to wear a hat or cap to protect them from the sun and heat. Please ensure that all children have a water bottle – they can fill it up in school with chilled, filtered water.

LifeSavers

Wow – we were very impressed with both our Coxhoe Coins staff and our very first 'savers' at launch day this week. You can pay in every Wednesday morning from 8.30am until 9.00am. If you have not yet signed up – please complete the quick online registration form - <https://ls.incuto.com/mysavings/#>. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Taylor, who very kindly printed our uniquely designed 'cashiers' T shirts – the children were very proud to wear them.

Science Update

On the 17th May, some of our Key Stage 2 children will take part in a very exciting opportunity as they work with Durham University on its launch of their brand new exhibition, Wild. After the success of our last visit to experience the university's Catch Your Breath exhibit, the children from Coxhoe were specifically requested for the launch.

The exhibition focuses on British wildlife and has been created with many additional groups, including Durham Wildlife. Twelve children will be taken to the exhibition and be the very first people to try out the activities and help create online videos and posters to promote it.

EY playground

Exciting news – the next phase of our EY playground development is underway. The piece of climbing equipment has been installed and the playground markings added. The outdoor shelter and other finishing touches are planned for the next two weeks and we hope to have a launch party to celebrate very soon – watch this space!

Plan to develop outdoors – Playground Squad

Our Playground Squad have liaised with their class to review the whole of our outdoor area and how it is used. They have been absolutely amazing in what they have brought forward – the insightful and creative ideas are helping us to create a very exciting long term plan.

The shorter term goals include new rules introduced, shared and displayed appropriately, an area fenced off for additional ball sports, new sheds and re-launch of the current shed as a quiet area, no football areas, outdoor seating to allow children to have lunch outside on nice days. The children have proposed that this is based upon a pass system and used as a reward.

The longer term goals include re-surfacing of the older tarmac areas, playground markings to encourage play and learning, re-siting of tyre park, replace and re-site adventure playground with equipment made to be used all year round.

We have shared an outline of this with the PTA and requested their support. We will formalise the action plan into phases and work with PTA and the local community to raise funds. If you can help or are aware of anyone who can help – please let us know.

After School Clubs

As you are aware, we used a new online booking system to enable parents and carers to book places in after school clubs this term. We hope that you found it easy to use; please let us know if you had any difficulties so that we can improve further moving forward.

The Quality Mark for Schools

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded a Quality Mark for English and Maths. This requires school to meet requirements across ten elements and demonstrate continued developments/improvements in the provision and practice in English and Mathematics with evidence of positive impact on pupil progress. I would like to take this chance to both thank and congratulate staff for their hard work and commitment alongside creativity and a passion for achieving the best for our children. We were also very proud of the children who all shone on the day of the assessment – she talked in detail to lots of children as well as some parents and governors.

Sporting Update

A massive well done to the Netball team who rounded off their season by claiming a bronze medal in the Hi-5 Netball Festival. Again the team showed great teamwork throughout and thoroughly deserved their success.

Well done to everyone who took part in the girls' football trials last week. The team begin their league fixtures this week and will be looking to build on last year's success.

Online Safety

We are very proud to announce that after all of our hard work, we have now been recognised as a National Online Safety Certified School Community. This demonstrates how everyone within the Coxhoe Primary School family - from pupils to parents and from staff to governors - work together to stay safe online.

Our Digital leaders have been working together to create a worry box to place in our ICT suite. This will be available for all children to access and write in any worries they have about using the internet. Our awesome digital leaders will do an assembly on this in the near future to introduce this to the children.

Health & Safety

Please remind children that no one is allowed to ride their bike or scooter once through the school gates. They should get off and push the bike/scooter to the shelter. They should only ride again once outside the school gates. Children always wear a helmet when riding their bike and scooter – if they ride to school without one – we will hold the bike/scooter and telephone parents to collect them. The children on the school council and the Playground Squad have also recently raised their concern about children using the equipment in school at home time. Please ensure that your child does not use the conservation area, the adventure trail or the gym equipment. They are only designed to be used with supervision.

Many thanks for your support.

Rockstar Legends

Children have really been setting a high standard recently – speedy recall of times tables has improved dramatically. There are lots of different ways to practice recall of multiplication tables – including many that can be active or outdoors – and these are used across classes in school. In addition to this, Times Tables Rockstars is a really great way to practice; some children's time has more than halved! WOW!

PTA update:

A huge thank you to everybody involved in the PTA for their recent work. The Easter craft afternoons were a huge success; the atmosphere in the hall was lovely and the feedback from those who attended was wonderful. It is lovely to take some time out to spend quality time together and members of the PTA worked really hard to provide some lovely craft activities.

The bake sales are a roaring success. They are a lovely Friday treat and have raised money to pay for things like 'sparkly dip' treats and Dojo parties. They are also able to help us to buy some delicious fruit for a treat after SATs – they are looking forward to strawberries, blueberries....Yum!

You may have noticed that we have trialled something different this year with the date/time of sports day. This is a trial in order to make things easier for parents in terms of commitments/work. We have allocated both events in one day with the Summer fair following on. We are keen to have feedback from parents about this for future planning. The PTA reviewed last year's fair at their meeting this week and planning is already underway. However – it was noted that we needed much more support throughout the daytime – both for refreshments for sports day and setting up the fair. If you can help in any way – even just an hour – please either let Mrs Heslop know if you are already in their WhatsApp group – or contact the school office.

We are very excited to announce that we are very close to reaching our target to purchase the new Audio visual equipment for the hall. We have already had quotes and are liaising with the company to discuss moving ahead

Our next big project will be supporting the development of the outdoors – see what the Playground Squad have planned.

Name that story

As part of the book week assembly theme - we had a quiz in assembly - 'Name that Story'. It was fabulous to see how engaged the children were and what a thorough knowledge they had of traditional tales. We have set a 'Name that Story' competition - children can write 1-2 sentences about their favourite story so that we can guess what it is. They need to write their name and the name of the story on the back of the slip. Closing date is Tuesday 7/5/19 and all children who enter will receive 2 Dojos. There are also 5 winners who will receive a little prize and 10 Dojos. Why not help at home by talking about your favourite children's story?

New PE kit

The new PE kit is compulsory. There are many benefits to this

it is very reasonably priced

the children look smart when representing school at events

it is easier for staff and children to identify one another when out of school (they will be worn on school trips as well as PE events)

it reduces peer pressure for certain expensive brands of hoodie etc.

As part of the launch, this year the PTA have agreed to support this by contributing £2 per kit. Emblematic will sell the kit at the reduced price and the difference will be paid by the PTA. After feedback from some parents, we have agreed that if children already have navy shorts that still fit – they can wear them for this first year only. It must be black only after that. However, please note that the discount of £2 is only off the whole kit.

Maths on tour!

This June, some of our children will be lucky enough to be selected to attend 'The Nrich Maths Roadshow' at the Durham Learning Centre in Spennymoor. At this event, children of all ages will be given real-life examples of maths problems to solve with guidance from Maths experts from around the country. It's sure to be an enriching experience.

After School Clubs

As you are aware, we used a new online booking system to enable parents and carers to book places in after school clubs this term. We hope that you found it easy to use; please let us know if you had any difficulties so that we can improve further moving forward.

- Bikeability Level 1– Year 4 children 8th May & 9th May
- Class 7 Assembly– 9th May 10.15am
- Class 7 Bake Sale– 10th May 3.30pm
- SATS week- 13th May
- School Nurse drop in sessions– 2.30pm (no appointment necessary)
- Happy Shoesday! Children walk to school in their favourite shoes

to encouraging walking to school! - 21st May

- Art Day 5- 23rd May
- Class 8 Assembly– 23rd May 10.15am
- Class 6 Bake Sale– 24th May 3.15pm
- Half term 27th-31st May, PD day 3rd June, Children return to school 4th June.
- Y6 Residential– 5th– 7th June
- Teddy Bears Picnic for new starters– 7th June
- Group photo day– 11th June
- Class 5 Bake Sale– 14th June
- Class 5 Assembly– 27th June 10.15am
- Class 4 Bake Sale– 28th June 3.15pm
- Sports day KS1 & KS2 and Summer Fair– 3rd July
- Class 6 Assembly– 4th July
- Y6 Leaver performance 2pm & 6pm– 4th July
- Art Day 6– 5th July



- Move up Day– 9th July
- Class 1 & 2 Assembly– 11th July
- Class 3 Bake Sale– 12th July
- Optional Parents Evening 2.30pm– 15th July
- Awards Assembly- 18th July 9.00am
- Y6 Leavers Assembly – 19th July
- Last day of term– 19th July
Return to school 4th September