



# Coxhoe Communicator

June 2019



Welcome back after half term and hooray for the sunshine. Although, as you are reading this, the weather is likely to have changed! We are heading into an exceptionally busy half term and we are looking forward to so many special events. Check out the list as a reminder and keep an eye on the App – we will use this to help keep you all up to date. We are trialling both Sports Days on the same day in response to feedback – we hope that this helps parents with time off work. The Summer fair – following on from Sports Day last year was really successful. It is a little tricky during the transition period from the end of Sports Day to the start of the fair – we are looking at how to do this smoothly! The challenge of a fire engine arriving etc. is no small task but we will do our best and keep you informed.

Hopefully the sunshine will last and therefore can we remind everybody to apply sun tan lotion to their children before school – choosing the kind that lasts all day. Children may bring suntan lotion into school but this must be applied independently. Water bottles and sunhats are also important at this time of year. We do endeavour to make the most of any better weather – learning outdoors offers a broad range of benefits.

Thank you



## Weardale House Adventures

Our children have returned home from a fantastic residential visit to Weardale House. Both Coxhoe staff and the staff from Weardale House were very impressed by all of the children who attended. They spoke highly of their behaviour and their attitude to all activities – especially their bravery and the way that they have supported one another. I would also like to take this chance to thanks all of the staff involved on behalf of school – it is exceptionally hard work and a big responsibility – and they do it all with a smile!

## EYFS – outdoors

What a fantastic launch for our brand new outdoor area in Early Years. It has been a wonderful team effort; local companies Breedon, Tarmac, Thompsons of Prudhoe, Lumsdon & Carroll, Keep Moat Homes, Coxhoe Timber and Coxhoe Paving Factory have contributed to the fundraising of materials for the project. Students and teachers at East Durham College have carried out some of the work and our Local County Councillors and PTA have also contributed to the fundraising. We are very grateful for their support and delighted that some were able to join us to see the joy in our children's faces as they learned outdoors on the Opening Day.

## Shopping for September

Uniform orders must be placed before the 16<sup>th</sup> of June to be delivered free to schools. After that, deliveries would be in September or select paid delivery to the home. Please check the uniform guide on our school website before you buy new uniform. We hugely appreciate your support in ensuring that our children look smart for school – we are delighted that they are so proud to be part of our school family.

We really appreciate your support in following our new guidelines with regards to bags – we hope that your purse strings feel the benefit as well as our cloakroom areas!

## After School Activities

A reminder after school clubs finish week ending Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

After school club booster sessions run until week ending 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Jam club is cancelled 12<sup>th</sup> June. Also due to sports day and summer fair JAM club will be cancelled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Contact Details

Please ensure that school is updated of any changes immediately. The check we completed at parent's evening showed a number of changes that had not been notified. Please remember – phone numbers, addresses and any medical details must be up to date at all times.

## Green Fingers

Gardening Eco Club are having a new shed installed on 21st June by Horns Garden Centre. We also have vegetables growing through as well as strawberries beginning to show. Lots more to plant with herb planters, pumpkins and more to come. All the children are really enjoying both the gardening and eco side of our club with some fantastic ideas. If there are any parents/grandparents who could spare some time to help we would appreciate it.

## **Sporting Update**

A busy month has seen many more sporting successes. The Girls' Football team completed their league games and did themselves proud to finish 4th. Again they improved with every game and showed great determination throughout.

A huge well done to the Athletics team. Out of 24 teams, the team came in a stunning 1st place and a number of individuals have qualified for the County Finals for their performances. Points were scored for each place in each event, meaning every member of the team contributed to the success.

Cricket - Y6 fielded two teams at a Kwik Cricket festival at Mainsforth Cricket Club. Both teams played with great spirit and contributed to some thrilling final ball deciders, obviously inspired by the Cricket World Cup!

Children have already begun their practice in anticipation of this year's Sports Day. This year, both KS1 and KS2 Sports Days will take place on Wednesday 3rd July ahead of the Summer Fair. KS1 Sports day will begin at 9:30 and KS2 will begin at 1:15. The school gates will open 15 minutes before each event start time.

The day will see the children participate in a range of activities from relay running to howler throwing. Once again there will be a big focus on personal challenge and achieving their best.

It will be great to see lots of parents/carers at the event to support the children. Fingers crossed the weather will be on our side.

Upcoming events:

Sedgefield DASH - 11th June (Y3-6)

Tennis Festival - 18th June (Y3)

Primary Olympics and Quad Kids - 25th June (Y3-6)

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## **Next Steps**

Transition from one year to the next can be a tricky time for children if not supported effectively. As a school, we have begun to review the transition process and support provided for all children as they take their next steps, whether it be their first on their Coxhoe journey, those into secondary school, or simply moving from class to class within our school family.

This year we will begin with a whole school assembly where our Year 6 children will entertain everybody with a fun quiz all about our staff. This will be a great way for children to find out more about staff that they are less familiar with. The children will also spend a day and half in their new class, covering a broader range of activities. This will be supported with several additional shorter sessions for story time/circle time activities.

Children who may need more support in this will have a more detailed plan. If you are concerned about how your child finds change/new things – please have a chat with their class teacher.

We are working closely with staff currently to organise classes ready for September. This is a careful process, considering the needs of all children and class teachers use their knowledge to support this. This information will be shared with yourselves by letter.

## **Art Attack**

This term many children took part in the the Staedler World Colouring Competition. This year's theme was 'Change the World'. The children were asked to think about an occupation they would like which could change the world. We had some fantastic entries which have now been sent off. We look forward to hearing if we have any winners from our school. The best part of the project is that for every entry received, €1 will be donated to help Plan International advance a number of school development projects in Rwanda. We are already supporting in changing the world just by entering the competition!

## **Our library needs you!**

After tidying all those wardrobes, we urge you to tidy those bookshelves too. We are currently tidying our library in KS1 and our Accelerated reader shelves in KS2 – unfortunately some books are so loved that they have to be disposed of. Please send in any books that your child may have grown out of – we can share that love of reading with other children! Thank you.

### Attendance Matters

We would like to thank our families for their excellent attitude towards attendance. We know that good attendance is closely linked to strong attainment and we maintain a very high attendance rate as a school. We do feel that this is reflective of strong parental support and the high levels of enjoyment and engagement in our school.

We are very conscious of the cost of family holidays during the school holiday periods and also realise that employers cannot always give time off to parents in the school holidays. However, we cannot authorise Leave of Absence unless in exceptional circumstances – this is a government led initiative. We have trialled adding a CPD day at either side of the May half term in 2020 to extend this break in the hope that this may provide a good alternative time for family holidays. We are interested in your feedback about this across the year.

### Staff training this term has included:

Autism support  
Autism Rocks  
Stories for social situations  
Hypermobility  
Subject network meetings  
First Aid  
Phonics screening  
Coaching and mentoring  
Getting the most from SEND intervention and provision  
Supporting children with SEND  
High achieving boys project

### Reminder - class and group photos

Phototronics will be in school to take class photos, year group photos and team photos. I will remind Mr Ord, Mr Pattison and Mr Hopson to wash their hair!

### PTA update

Our PTA continue to provide fantastic support to our school in so many ways. Their friendly welcome with a cuppa at assemblies and other events, organising the Big Run to raise much needed funds to help us develop our indoor and outdoor areas, film nights, bake sales - to name but a few.

We are absolutely delighted with the distance ran by our Coxhoe family! All the way to the North Pole - WOW! Everybody should be very proud of their beautiful medals. The sponsor money is on its way now and they will report back on the grand total soon.

The new audio visual system in the hall made its debut at Class 8's assembly. They really showed it off to its full potential with a gorgeous slide show set to music that welcomed our visitors as well as high quality music and a presentation/video used throughout. The children have since enjoyed some super assembly presentations, fantastic dance videos in PE and are really looking forward to film night with the new large screens! This is all down to the generosity of parents and hard work from the PTA and we would like to say a huge thank you.

RAG BAG – we must certainly have tidier wardrobes in Coxhoe. We collected 260 bags and we are awaiting a final figure for the funds raised.

The committee have begun to prepare for the next big events of sports day and summer fair. We need a huge amount of support for these events – prior to, during the day and at the fair itself. If you can offer any support (even just an hour!) – please either contact Mrs Sarah Heslop, Mrs Sarah Bell or the school office to add your name to the list. Donations – could we ask that you begin to send in donations for the fair. We would appreciate any tombola items (toiletries, jewellery, hair accessories, gifts, bottles & unwanted toys that are still in good condition) and soft toys (for the adopt a bear). We will be hosting a non-uniform day nearer the time in exchange for a donation of sweets/chocolate/toiletries. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of this event last year – hence widening the option for contributions. We will also be shouting out for those budding bake off stars too – the cake stall is also exceptionally popular and sells out quickly.

### Website

Our new look website is almost ready and we hope that it will become 'live' next week. The website provider has worked closely with us to create a more up to date look and we have had the support from a parent governor who has expertise in this field to re-organise the content to make it more parent/child friendly. We welcome any feedback once the new site is live.

### Health and Wellbeing Drop in Session-

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 3.15-5pm- We are very excited to be running our first ever Health and wellbeing drop in session. There will be refreshments and activities as well as organisations that offer support for Health and Wellbeing. Some of our Year 3 pupils will be there to talk about and answer questions about our Zippy Friend's programme that we run in Year Two. Mrs Jefferson will be there with the texts we will be using in Relationship week. (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July) and also have copies of the new framework for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in England, so please come and have a look we would love your ideas about how we can update our curriculum and make it work for your child.

## Coxhoe Curriculum

As a school, we have begun to review the curriculum that we offer our children. The national curriculum is what schools have a statutory duty to offer. However, we feel that in order to achieve our school aim, we need to create a bespoke Coxhoe curriculum that offers so much more.

We are currently working on the early stages of this plan, consultation has begun with staff and children and we will be reaching out to include parents in this. This will include extra layers of knowledge and skills to be developed as well as a broad range of experiences such as eating in a restaurant together, visiting an art gallery, travelling on the train, high levels of online safety awareness, tying our shoe laces...

## Class Assemblies

Class 7 took us on a fascinating tour around the world - we were extremely impressed by their independent study skills and their knowledge of places far and wide.

Debating our new fantastic equipment, Class 8 put on a fabulous performance. They stole our hearts with their song using sign language. The children in other classes have been so inspired that they have asked to learn the song too and we will be singing it during the Big Play.

## Marvellous Music

Class 11 have been lucky enough to be selected for the Durham Cathedral Outreach Project. They have worked with a member of Durham Choristers and are looking forward to performing on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> June in the glorious setting.

- Y6 Enterprise week– 10th June
- Group photo day– 11th June
- Class 10 Assembly– 13th June 10.15am
- Y6 Ice Cream Van Treat– 17th June
- Class 11 Assembly– 20th June
- Class 5 Bake Sale– 21st June **(Please note this has been changed from 14th June)**
- Class 11 Music Trip to Durham Cathedral– 26th June
- Class 5 Assembly– 27th June 10.15am
- Class 4 Bake Sale– 28th June 3.15pm
- Class 10,11 & 12 trip to Newcastle– 28th June
- 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
- Class 5&6 School trip- 5th July
- Health and Wellbeing Drop in Session- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 3.15-5pm
- 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 9.15am
- Last day of term– 19th July
- Children Return to school 4th September

