



Coxhoe Communicator

July 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well—we are nearly at the end of another fantastic year. I am sure that you will agree that it has flown by!

We have a few more events coming up in the last week and we are looking forward to spending our last afternoon altogether.

Please remember to complete your parent surveys. We really appreciate your feedback—it is always nice for staff to hear about what you feel we do well and it is also useful to hear suggestions for ways to further develop our school.

Mrs Bartle.



Summer Fair

What a fantastic event! From crafts to games, the stocks to cakes – there was a lot of fun had by all! We are keen to find out which events were most liked and would love some new ideas for next year. Please share your feedback to make our event even better. We would like to take the chance to say thank you to everybody who helped – without them we could not put such lovely family events on and raise money for school.

Sports Report

It's been a busy month of sporting events. Up first was the Y3 tennis team who claimed a bronze medal. Then we took 46 children to the Primary Olympics to compete in six different sports ranging from Football to Quidditch! The children displayed a great attitude throughout the day and showed a real pride in representing the school. A special mention to the Boccia team who won another Gold medal!

There were some outstanding individual performances at the Primary County Athletics. After qualifying last month, five children moved on to represent Sedgefield SSP making us the most represented school from the area. Max took 2nd place in the 100m and Millie became county champion in the 60m.

Class 10 took part in a Cricket Festival. Thankfully the sun shone and the children thoroughly enjoyed the day. The class also designed a fantastic banner to represent all ten nations taking part in the Cricket World Cup.

Upcoming events:

Sedgefield DASH (Y3-6)- Wednesday 10th July

Go Run for Fun (Class 11) - Friday 12th July

Sports Day

A huge thank you to so many parents and family members for joining us. The atmosphere was lovely and your support certainly made it more special for the children. The children have told us that they thoroughly enjoyed the broad range of events and loved taking part in their castle teams. The water event was certainly the most popular! A big thank you to staff too, especially Mr Ord for his military planning of the event!

Leavers' Performance

Wowzers! They were just amazing! The talent shown in that performance was unbelievable at such a young age – from song to humour, dance to acting – it was all there. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them for their contribution. Well done Year 6!

Year 6 children must wear the full school uniform for this assembly but are welcome to bring non uniform clothes to change into afterwards. We will organise an opportunity for parents to take some photos of their own child at this event.

Leavers' Assembly

We look forward to families joining us on the last day of term to say farewell to our year 6 students. They have demonstrated in their achievements this year, how ready they are for this next step but they will be a huge miss in our school family.

School lunches

The initiative to provide free school meals for all children in Key Stage 1 continues this year. If your child is moving from Year 2 to 3, school meals will need to be paid for via ParentPay. School meals should be paid in advance and the kitchen require 2 weeks notice to change between school meals and packed lunches. If your child wants to change between school meals and packed lunches for September – please inform the office before the end of term. The price of a school lunch will be £2.05 per day.

Mrs Fahey has recently completed the Level 1 Global Teacher Award, working with Class 11 to debate a current global issue. We looked at the way humans use water and explored the building of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the tension it was causing in Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt.

Medication in school

All medication, including inhalers will be sent home on the last day of term. Please return all necessary items on the first day back to school. Please return to the school office so that they can check necessary paperwork. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that all medication held in school is in date so it may be helpful for you to make a note of the date for yourself if it needs to be replaced during the year.

Last day of term

The last day of term will be non-uniform. However – this is to reward the children for their high standards of behavior throughout the year. There will not be any fund-raising for school or charities on this occasion as we feel that parents have been very generous in recent weeks.

Children are allowed to bring in a toy from home to play with in the morning. Please help them to choose carefully as we cannot be responsible if any items are lost/broken. No electronic items are allowed.

The Year 5 & 6 children will be involved in the Leavers' Assembly in the morning. We will also have a whole school assembly in the afternoon to celebrate attendance and sing together. This event is for Year 6 families by ticket only.

At the end of the day, the children will bring home all of their belongings. Anything left in school will be put into rag bag/charity/spare uniform.

Art up-cycling

We were very excited to have a visit from Christine from The Art Room to deliver a recycled paper making workshop with our KS2 children. The children had a great time learning about the importance of recycling and how old papers can be used to make something new and interesting. Most of all, the children enjoyed getting messy gathering up all of the pulp mixture. Some fantastic rainforest design creations were made.

Transition

As a staff, we felt that more time needed to be invested in the transition process for our children moving between years. As you are aware, we are trialing a new process this year, extending the time spent with new teachers. We hope that this will alleviate any worries children may have – making them feel more settled about their new classes as they leave for the summer holidays. We will monitor how the children respond to this but please let us know how you think this has benefitted your child.

The Sage

We are very proud that we were chosen to represent the Durham area in the North East Music Hub Gala Concert at the sage, Gateshead. Mrs Knott from Durham Music service chose our school because of the growing passion for all aspects of music from staff and children. Class 8, our woodwind instrumentalists and a small group from choir enjoyed the opportunity to perform on a stunning stage.

I would like to thank the children for their enthusiasm and talent, families for their support and staff for the hard work and the huge amount of extra time! We had a

Parent Feedback

Feedback from children and parents can really help us to develop and move forward as a school. Please complete the survey that will accompany your child's report and return it to school. The survey is not anonymous on the advice of Educational specialists. It was feedback to us that any concerns raised on the surveys cannot be addressed without knowing who to support. We have extremely supportive families in our school community and know that we can work together to strive for the very best for our children.

End of Year reports & Optional Parent's Evening

These will be sent home with the children this week. An App message will be sent on the day to ensure that you are aware. Please return the parent comments slip to confirm that you have received the report promptly. Optional parents' evening is on Monday 15th July and appointments can be made by contacting the school office. Your child's end of year report provides a lot of information about all aspects of school life, including academic progress and attainment. This evening provides parents with the opportunity to come in and discuss any concerns or worries they may have. However, please remember that you are always welcome to speak with teachers or senior management about any concerns at any time. You can speak informally to a member of the Leadership team any morning and teachers any evening as they are out on the yard. For anything more in depth or that you wish to discuss - please make an appointment.

Classes

As a growing community, the school has been extended by the Local Authority a number of times in recent years. The PAN (Pupil Admittance Number) has been raised by the local authority and is currently larger in our Classes R – 2. This will move up the school year on year. We do have to have mixed year classes in KS2 as you will have seen on the class structure in your recent letter. As stated, classes are chosen for children taking into consideration of a wide range of factors ensuring that we take into account the whole child. Our aim is to place children in a class where they will be able to achieve their very best. Each child is unique and their school journey will be different. Please avoid using phrases such as 'kept back a year' or high/lower classes. This is not the language we use in school and we feel language like this has a negative impact on

Staffing

It has been wonderful to have Mrs O Sullivan back this summer term and she has been working hard on develop our school practice for SEND as well as teaching in classes to support or cover teacher PPA. In the autumn term she will be responsible for launching a new initiative focusing on pupils, families and staff well-being alongside her SEND role. We are very excited about what is to come!

Classes 10, 11 and 12 thoroughly enjoyed our recent educational visit to Newcastle. On our way there we stopped off at The Angel of the North as we are investigating buildings and structures in our Art and Design and Technology topic this term. We couldn't believe how tall it was! In Newcastle, we went to the Great North Museum where we visited the Planetarium, Dippy the Dinosaur and looked around the many exhibits. The next part of our tour was walking through the city looking at the different building structures and all of the bridges along the way. We ended our visit at The Baltic Centre where we were able to look over Newcastle from extremely high up. What a fantastic day!

Health and Wellbeing Drop in Session Thursday 4th July

We were delighted to have the following organisations present at Thursday evening's event: Arch Recovery College Durham and Recovery College Online, If U Care Share, Relax Kids Durham, Little Treasures, CAMHs/ Crisis Intervention, County Durham Young Offending Health Service and Wellbeing Worker. We also had six fantastic Zippy Ambassadors who talked to visitors about our PSHE and Relationships lessons.

Pupils and their families took part in various activities and completed some Mindful Colouring. Many of our members of staff also took part. There were lots of free goodies given such as pens, wrist bands and book-marks. Thank you to all who attended and for the great suggestions of how we can improve our PSHE and Relationships Education.

Class 5 and 6 Trip to Gibside

Class 5 and 6 had a wonderful time visiting Gibside Chapel and Woods in lovely sunshine and not a spot of rain on Friday 5th July. The children made amazing paintings using natural materials - sticks became paint brushes and mud our main paint! We made beautiful palettes of colour with petals from the beautiful grounds and spectacular Orangery. We then went into the woods and used fallen branches, tree stumps and leaves to create our very own Sculptures. We also had a look inside the beautiful Chapel and enjoyed playing at Strawberry Castle Play Area. Unbelievably, most children came home reasonably dry and clean!