

Dear Parents/Carers,

As January comes to an end, 2018 is well and truly established!

The British weather never fails to amaze us with temperatures in one week ranging from -3° C to 11°C. (Remember to send pupils with suitable footwear for 'snow' days please).

It was lovely to be able to come away from our normal timetable for an hour on the 1 day we did have significant snowfall. The pupils (and staff) had great fun playing in the snow and making snow people, caterpillars and snails! This was the first time many of our pupils could remember being able to play and move in deep snow. Whilst the experience was enjoyable it also supported both our Geography work about the weather and Science work about how habitats can be affected by seasonal change.

This term in our assemblies we are focusing upon British values. In the first half term we are thinking about Democracy and Respect for all. It is amazing to once again see how our pupils excel in understanding both of these important areas. Ask your child(ren) about these themes and I'm sure you too will be amazed by what wonderful citizens our young people are becoming.

Regards,
Mr Jones

Sporting Achievements in January

Year 5/6 Basketball Festival – Well-done to our teams taking part in this festival – another 1st place finish for Coxhoe together with excellent behaviour and respect shown to others. They now move on to the County final on the 8th February.

Class 3 took part in a Multi-skills Festival at Sedgfield Community college in January. They impressed everyone with their skills and behaviour.

School Attendance

Our school attendance for Autumn term was as follows:

Class 1: 95.3%
Class 2: 97.4%
Class 3: 97.8%
Class 4: 97.3%
Class 5: 97.9%
Class 6: 96.1%
Class 7: 96.2%
Class 8: 97.4%
Class 9: 97.6%
Class 10: 97.7%
Class 11: 98.2%

Well done to Class 11 for their excellent attendance.

Thank you everyone for supporting our pupils in developing excellent attendance and recognising that – **'every day is a learning day.'**

Reminder – holidays during time can only be Authorised in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

Liz Million – Author and Illustrator

It was lovely to have Liz Million in school working with pupils in all year groups. She is a very talented illustrator and writer of children's books. Liz gave pupils masterclass lessons in drawing characters which they all found fascinating. They also had opportunity to put her tips into practice – the resulting work is amazing. Take a look when you visit for Parents evenings or on World Book Day. Many thanks to Mrs Caygill for arranging the visit.

Whole School Visit to the Pantomime

For the second year in a row the whole school (over 2 days) visited East Durham College to watch a performance of the pantomime Aladdin by their Performing Art's Students.

This was a fantastic experience and the school was buzzing with excitement both before and after the visit as pupils talked about the trip. A brilliant link to our English topics about Traditional Tales.

We are very grateful to the Friends of Coxhoe Primary school for arranging this visit – at no cost to either the school or parents.

Class Assemblies during the Spring term

Once again we will begin our series of Family Assemblies presented for parents/carers by each class. These take place either in the Spring or Summer terms. The dates for the Spring term are as follows, all at 10:15 am:

Class 8 assembly: Thursday 22nd February
Class 3 assembly: Thursday 8th March
Class 4 assembly: Thursday 15th March
Class 5 assembly: Thursday 29th March

School Nurse Drop in Sessions

Wednesday 31st January 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm.
Lyndsey Atkinson (School Nurse) says that sessions last approximately 15-20 minutes and if she feels that further support is helpful she will arrange a follow up home visit.

NSPCC visit to school

As part of our Personal Safety and Relationships education curriculum we were visited by speakers from the NSPCC earlier in the term. They led 2 assemblies, one for Reception, Y1 & Y2 pupils and the other for pupils in Y3-6. Each assembly stressed the importance of children talking only to adults they trusted. They were also told about the 'PANTS' rule – check out this rule to help keep your child safe:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>
The assemblies were followed up by workshops for our Y5 and Y6 pupils.

Art Day

Last week we held our latest Art day with a theme of British Wildlife and Fauna. Pupils have produced some fantastic art work from which each teacher has the difficult job of choosing 6 items. These are being entered in a competition by Keep-Moat homes (soon to build new homes in Coxhoe) for large frontage boards which will help disguise the building site adjacent to the main road. The judges will have a very difficult decision to identify individual winners!

Other important dates this term:

Class 6 & 7: Sports Skills Festival (at Alan Armstrong centre) – 20th & 21st February respectively
Whole school 'Safer Internet' assemblies for Parents/Carers: 20th February
Interviews for new Head Teacher – Friday 23rd February
School Photo Day – Monday 26th February (family groups with pre-school age pupils 8:00 – 9:00 am)
Year 4 Level 1 Bikeability training – Tuesday 27th February
World Book Day & Bedtime stories Night – 1st March (Children to dress as Book character)
Class 1 & 2 Multiskills Festival at Whitworth Park school – 2nd March
Classes 6-8 Climate Change Workshops with OASES – 9th March
Parent's/Carers meetings with Teachers: Monday 12th & Wednesday 14th March (the same time slots as Autumn term will be offered unless notified otherwise)

SEAL week

During our first week back after Christmas all pupils considered 'Changes' as part of our PSHCE curriculum.

Each class prepared short items and information they felt were important to share with the whole school during an assembly.

Young Carers at Coxhoe

We have an active group of pupils in KS2 who are either Young Carers or wish to support other children who may be Young Carers.

At a special Award ceremony held at Hardwick Hall on Friday 26th January, Mrs Jefferson was presented with an award for our Young Carers, as well as a certificate of our new 'Young Carers Neighbourhood Charter'. A copy of this charter will be placed on the school website – please take a look at the ways our Young People are seeking to support each other and their own families.

In addition, one of our Young People (in Mrs Elliot's class – class 3) received a special award for his understanding of how to keep his family safe, as well as the amazing support he gives at home.

Well done to all our Young Carers.

'Stray Aid' our charity of the Term

On the last day of the spring term (Thursday 29th March) we will have a non-uniform day in aid of Stray Aid.

Representatives of Stray Aid will lead assemblies of Reception/KS1 & KS2 on the 27th & 28th February.

Magical Maths assembly

This week we will have a special 'Magical Maths' assembly to inspire our pupils with their Maths work.

The deliverers of the assembly will then offer some after-school Maths clubs to interested pupils – watch out for further information.