



Coxhoe Communicator

November 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have continued with their fantastic start to the year and this is clear with their 'Dojo Points'. As a school, we have been reviewing the school behaviour policy and the new document is available on the school website. Many aspects of the policy have remained the same – the card system, the school rules and the positive ethos that underpins all of the systems in place. However, in response to the children's feedback, we have changed some of the ways we reward children for positive behaviour. We have introduced an online system where children collect points both for themselves as individuals and towards a class goal too. Rewards are more frequent and build towards the chance to win larger rewards at the end of the year. At fifty individual points, children will receive a teacher treat and at 2000 class points, children will enjoy a class reward such as a film, PJ party, a sporting challenge, a walk to the park.... In Assembly every Friday – we will share class point totals in order to further motivate children. At the end of each term, the top three point scorers will also enjoy a special reward together. We launched the new system just after half term and have been delighted with the positive response from the children. The system will be reviewed at the end of each term and adjustments made to ensure it is fair and consistent as well as having a positive impact. Please feel free to share any feedback yourselves as the new system is embedded. We believe that rewarding positive behaviour is a key part of ensuring that standards remain high across all aspects of school life. Visitors often comment on the high standards of behaviour and the beautiful manners of our children and this makes us very proud – we are sure you do too.

We are looking forward to a lovely Coxhoe Family Christmas and preparations are already underway. It is always a busy time so keep an eye on the App for reminders to help keep you up to date.

I hope that you will join me in giving Mr Coils, our new school caretaker, a lovely welcome. He started last week and is finding his way around.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Bartle



Weather

It most certainly has turned colder in recent weeks and we have had a few icy mornings. Please ensure you keep to the gritted walkway when accessing the school site. Also please ensure that children are prepared for playtimes in the cold weather, with hats/scarves/gloves and that they are all named; they often constitute a large section of the lost property in the winter months. We are certainly hoping that we do not get anything like the 'Beast from the East' this year but we must be prepared for inclement weather. Whilst we will always endeavour to keep school open, the health and safety of everyone is paramount. Please ensure that you have the school App working on your phone so that we can keep you informed.

¡Ay, Caramba!

On Thursday 22nd November, the students of Year 6 will welcome a selection of adults (including parents and carers) to the school hall, which will be transformed into 'Coxhoe Mexicano', a Mexican-themed restaurant. The children will make and serve a three-course meal as well as perform a range of Mexican songs and traditions, such as trying to hit the piñata. In advance of the evening, the pupils have written to various food retailers for donations to help with their preparations. We also hope to receive monetary donations from their 'customers' with all proceeds helping to boost the school's funds.



Uniform & PE Kits Reminder

We are very proud of how smart our children are in school and when representing us the community too. Please ensure that all children are wearing school uniform at all times. This does include black school shoes. Hoodies must not be worn at school to replace their cardigan or jumper.

Could we also take this opportunity to remind parents that we do have a uniform for PE and would appreciate your support. We understand that new items cannot always be purchased immediately but would like to ensure that all children have the correct PE kit in school after Christmas.

Please come and talk to us if this is difficult as we have ways of offering support for families who may be experiencing financial hardship.

Vacancy for Parent Governor – exciting opportunity

The Governing Body of Coxhoe Primary School has a vacancy for a parent Governor. This is an exciting opportunity for parents to become involved in shaping the future of our school: Please contact Mrs Bartle to find out more about the role and collect a nomination form.

There will be a vacancy for a Parent Governor with immediate effect.

All parents other than those employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year or who are elected members of the Local Authority (LA) are eligible to stand for election. This includes:

> parents of children attending nursery either full-time or part-time

> any person who is not the natural parent but has parental responsibility for or who has care of a pupil registered at the school (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

If you are interested in becoming a Governor please contact school for a nomination form.

Nominees must be proposed by a parent of a pupil registered at the school.

A parent may nominate his/her partner.

The completed and duly signed nomination form should be returned to school by Monday 26th November.

Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary. Any remaining vacancies will be appointed by our Governing Body.

Should a ballot be required each parent will be sent a voting form.

When the process has been finalised school will inform the parent body via our school app. School and Governor Support Service will write formally to all nominees confirming the outcome of the ballot.

School Council Update:

A massive thank you to everyone who made donations on our Children in Need Day. It was a great success and we managed to raise over £550 for such a worthwhile cause! Thank you again for your continued support. Photographs to follow on the website.

Our School Council have now finished their consultation with their classes about the charities we, as a school, would like to support during the Spring and Summer Terms. After lots of discussion they decided on The Junior Diabetes Foundation and The Make a Wish Foundation. Watch this space next year for upcoming fundraising events to support these great causes.

Our next School Council meeting at the beginning of December will focus on how to move forward with the school's approach to healthy packed lunches and snacks. The initial research for this was carried out by our last School Council in Summer and we look forward to continuing to work on this with the children.

Online Safety

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, children in years 1-6 have been thinking about how to stay safe online and they have been developing their awareness of cyber bullying. In their classes, children have looked at, discussed and agreed to a set of rules to follow in order to ensure that we are all safe internet users at Coxhoe Primary School.

Next year, Safer Internet Day is Tuesday 5th February. To support this in school, we have booked our online safety sessions for parents, children and staff. They will all take place on Wednesday 6th February. This will be a fantastic opportunity to ensure that we continue to consistently be safe internet users. Specific times to be confirmed.

Remembrance Events in Coxhoe

We were very proud of the contribution made by our pupils to the wonderful remembrance events in our Village. In school all classes spent some time exploring different aspects of WW1 and 2 and produced some wonderful creative work to mark this event. We held our own remembrance service in school on Friday where the children were able to share what they had learned with one another as well as holding a two minutes silence to remember those who have given their lives for us.



We were also invited by the Parish Council to join with the Village Remembrance events. Children laid the poppy wreath at the memorial and helped with laying a cross to represent each fallen soldier of WW1. They also supported at the special event on the evening to commemorate the 100 years since the end of WW1. Children presented a beautiful memorial poppy to Pam Royle who attended the events after they had been involved in reading the names of the soldiers and lighting the Beacons which was a national event.

The Parish Council spoke very highly of all children involved and all those who also attended with their families. Thank you.

Anti-Bullying Week

Classes 5-12 thoroughly enjoyed Firehorse Theatre's performance of 'The B Word' on Wednesday 7th November. The play showed the devastating effect bullying had on a girl and then asked the audience to help her stop the bullying.

Well done to everyone who wore odd socks on Monday 12th November to show their support for Anti-Bullying Week. All children have taken part in activities to help prevent bullying. Look out for some of the wonderful posters that were produced around school. If you have any concerns about bullying within our school, please make sure you speak to a member of staff. Our school anti-bullying motto is: Tell it, Share it, Stop it.

Healthy Teeth

We are looking forward to a visit from the school nursing team at the end of the November. They will be working with all classes throughout the day to focus on looking after our teeth.



Children Get a Taste of Army Life!

During our Remembrance Day activities, we invited a former-soldier and current cadet leader, Steve McLenaghan, into Class 11 and 12. The children got the opportunity to listen to some of his experiences from his time in the army and also asked many pertinent questions. Most exciting of all, children were able to try on some of the army kit, which he brought along, and others had the opportunity to taste some of the contents of an army ration kit, with varying levels of satisfaction!

Sporting Update

The Football A Team carried on their league form at the Football Cup. They eventually finished runners-up after a seven-goal thriller against King Street. Great effort!

A team of Year 5 and 6 children took part in Sportshall Athletics. They did a fantastic job to earn a team Bronze medal and have been rewarded with a place in the Area final later this month.

The Netball team have made a superb start to the season. After winning three straight games, they have managed to top the table. The team will be full of confidence going into the playoffs this week against other league winners.

Finally, well done to Class 10 for winning our Gymnastic Festival last week. The whole school showed amazing skill and technique in their performances and this certainly demonstrates the breadth of sporting talent at Coxhoe Primary.

Upcoming events

- 22nd November - End of the Netball League
- 23rd November - Multi Skills (Class 5)
- 28th November - Judo Festival (Class 7)
- 30th November - Sportshall Athletics Final
- 4th December - Gymnastics Festival (Class 10)

French Sing Off

The sing off between the two upper KS2 classes (11 & 12) has underlined the passion and dedication of all the children who learnt the song "On écrit sur les murs" - the children were fantastic! We are all very proud of them.

Singing is a fantastic way to contribute to learning a new language and the children are also busy learning new songs for our Christmas events.



Science Update:

This week, some of our Key Stage 2 children will take part in a very exciting opportunity as they work with Durham University as part of the Kids in Museums Takeover Day. It's going to be a fantastic event at the Palace Green Library as it launches their brand new exhibition, *Catch Your Breath*.

The exhibition is part of a five year research project taking place at the university which explores all aspects of breath and breathlessness and the important role these play in our lives. The group will make bubble paintings and breath measuring devices and then get a sneak preview of the exhibition to see what they can learn about their breath from doctors, artists, philosophers, singers and athletes. They'll be asking the group to make short videos talking about their favourite parts of the exhibition which will be used online as part of a family friendly exhibition guide.

PTA update:

The new committee of the Friends of Coxhoe Primary School have been very busy - as have lots of wonderful helpers - running great events AND raising lots of money for the school. We've raised nearly £1200 for the school already this term and purchases of sweets at the book fair, Christmas cards, calendars, refreshments and raffle tickets at the upcoming Christmas events will boost our fundraising efforts. We have purchased a new portable PA system for the school which should have its debut at the Restaurant Project this week and make it a lot easier for us all to hear what's going on at Sports Day! **The pantomime trip for the whole school is now booked for January and we're planning our first Film Night for January too, which should be fun for the children as well as making more money for us to put back into school projects!** Every little helps whether it's simply ordering a pack of cards or giving up a couple of hours to sell raffle tickets or serve refreshments at a Christmas party. If you want to join the whatsapp group for helpers, drop your number in at the office and we'll add you in; or grab one of your lovely new committee (Sarah Heslop, Sarah Bell, Helenna Brown and Mrs Walker) for a quick chat. Specifically at the minute, we're looking for reps from each class to coordinate an after school bake sale. The first class to get a turn will be Class 1 on Friday 30th November. Helen Hedley will be coordinating that event, so Class 1 please get baking! We're going to be running a competition to see which class can raise most money so we're hoping you can get us off to a really good start. We have a fabulous school and every penny we can raise makes a difference so many thanks to you all for your support.

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas....

Preparations are underway for events to celebrate Christmas within our School family. We look forward to you joining our celebrations at the following events:

Reception Class Nativity- 11th December 10am & 2pm

Year 1 Christmas Sing-a-Long- 14th December 10am & 2.30pm
(Don't forget your Christmas jumpers)

Year 2 Christmas Performance- 13th December 2pm & 5pm

Ticket request letters will be sent shortly for Christmas school performances.

We have also liaised with the Village Hall to plan for a Christmas Celebration for Key Stage 2 (Classes 7-12). This has been booked for Monday 10th December at 2.15pm to allow all children to take part. We would really like you to join us for the event and to stay for coffee and mince pies afterwards. All classes will take part as well as a guest appearance from the choir and JAM club. We will also be joined by Reverend Richardson to support us in the service. We have decided to have a collection for the Children's Society at the event – giving us the chance to consider all children at Christmas.

The Village Christingle has also been planned for Sunday 23rd December. All of the children in the village will be welcomed to this family service and some of our children will be singing too.

Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day– Friday
14th December (letter to follow)



Christmas Parties Dates

Reception-	18.12.18	Year 3-	19.12.18
Year 1-	20.12.18	Year 4-	19.12.18
Year 2-	20.12.18	Year 5-	20.12.18
		Year 6-	20.12.18

Letters to follow with more information

Parent Survey:

Thank you to all parents who completed the parent survey at the end of last school year. We had a good response and appreciate your feedback and comments on what you value and like about our school and also on what you think we can do to improve. The response to questions was extremely positive with 100% of parents strongly agreeing or agreeing with a third of the questions. These included: my child feels safe and well cared for in school, I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem and I feel the school has high expectations for my child to work hard and do their best. In reply to how we could further enhance the quality of education we provide, the senior leadership team have added responses to these including actions which we will take. For further information, the results and answers to question 19 and 20 can be found on our school website.

Enriching our Curriculum

Classes 7, 8 & 9 have been enjoying their History topic: The Stone Age - Iron Age. They have used everything that they have learnt so far to write a fantastic non chronological report. We also have very exciting news; we have some special visitors coming in on Thursday 22nd November to do a Stone Age workshop. We are very excited and can't wait to share the pictures with you.