



Coxhoe Communicator

February 2019



We are certainly taking 2019 by storm already. Find out what has been going on and what is on the horizon with our monthly newsletter.

The children continue to amaze us every day – with achievements across all aspects of both school and home life. We are always exceptionally proud and this month is no exception. We are one of the nine schools in County Durham to achieve the Gold Sports Mark Award – recognising our significant commitment to both engagement and achievement in all aspects of PE. The plaque was presented to our Head Pupils in assembly and is now proudly displayed on our PE board along with a whole host of other certificates!

January has also seen the first of our class assemblies this year. We were taken back in time to the Stone Age by our historians in Class 9. We are sure that you will agree – they did an amazing job of sharing their vast knowledge of this period in history

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Bartle



Walking to school

A huge thank you to families who have continued to walk to school, despite the chill factor! Walking to school has huge health benefits and also reduces the congestion around school. It is also great to see lots of children riding bikes and scooters to school. Could we remind all families that bikes and scooters should be secured in the shelter with a lock – unfortunately a bike was taken from the yard last year. Helmets should ALWAYS be worn if riding their bike/scooter to school and these can be brought into school for safe keeping.

Considerate Parking

We have received another complaint last week about the parking in the streets around the school. Please consider local residents if you need to bring the car to school and walk whenever it is possible – many thanks for your support.

Cold weather

Brrrrr it is certainly cold outside! Please make sure that children bring a hat and gloves so that they can enjoy some fresh air even when we face sub-zero temperatures!! On the very coldest days, we have shortened our time outside but the chance to enjoy the fresh air and run around is an important part of the school day.

Mr Coils works very hard to ensure that a pathway is gritted on a morning – could you please encourage children to keep to the cleared pathway to avoid any slipping.

Thank you to children, parents and staff for their team effort in our survival of the first heavy snowfall this winter. Staff worked together to clear good pathways and families got wrapped up – with so many walking to school. Children are welcome to bring slippers/indoor shoes when they need to wear their wellies to come to school. We really enjoyed our extended outdoor playtime in the snow in the morning – staff and children made some fabulous snow creations together.

With snow still on the horizon, please ensure that you have the app up to date on your phone. In the unlikely event of a school closure, this will be the most effective way to communicate this kind of information.

Online Safety

Safer Internet Day was fantastic this year. We welcomed Martin Bailey into school on Wednesday 6th February to support online safety. He started off the day with a parent workshop. The feedback has been absolutely fantastic! The KS2 children welcomed everyone by performing some catchy songs with very important messages. Martin also worked with every child and member of staff at some point in the day. We will work together to make the Internet fun but safe

Online Safety Success!

We are so proud of the enthusiastic and mature attitude demonstrated by our children in the recent Online Safety workshops held in school. Martin Bailey, the specialist who delivered the workshops, was very impressed! Thank you to those parents who attended the session—the feedback on the day suggested that you found it really helpful.

Pupil Premium Funding

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

We get additional funding for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- Support for enrichment experiences such as residential visits

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Parent's Evening

The online booking will be available and will go live at the beginning of March. An App will be sent with more information nearer the time. This will be accessible for parents with parental responsibilities as held on our system at 12/2/19 to book appointments. If any families have any queries regarding parental responsibilities details held please contact school.

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

You only need to register once at the school. To register, please request a form from the school office. It is quick and easy to complete – requiring just a few details. This can be done at any time if your family circumstances change.

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year. If you have any questions or specific concerns, do not hesitate to contact myself or Miss Britton, our Pupil Premium Fund Lead Teacher..

HSM update

High School Musical rehearsals are well underway and the children are working hard to remember their lines and choreography. We are always finding children in and around school with scripts in hands. We are so impressed with the dedication so far. Keep it up everyone! Show dates are Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March. Add it to your diary - we can't wait to see you there!

SATs meetings

Thank you for joining us this week at SATs meetings. We endeavor to provide as much information as possible for parents about these key assessment points. If you have any further queries about these key assessment periods, do not hesitate to ask.

Attendance

We are very proud of our strong attendance as a school; we feel that it demonstrates the high level of enjoyment of school life and the culture of a strong work ethic.

Research shows that there are strong links between good attendance and high levels of personal achievement - we are therefore delighted that together we are giving our children the best chance we possibly can. To maintain this, please consider leave of absence during term time very carefully. We do understand that family holidays are much more costly during school holidays and with this in mind, we have tried to plan CPD days into the 2019 – 2020 calendar to allow more flexibility at May half term. Friday 22nd May and Monday 1st June have been allocated as CPD days to create a longer break at this half term.

Following Government guidelines, leave of absence during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. If this is due to restrictions imposed by an employer, a letter must be provided with the application. Other cases can be considered on an individual basis but cannot be authorised regularly in order to meet the government requirements.

We thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

On Monday children with 99-100% attendance for autumn term (September—December 2018) were awarded certificates in assembly. They will enjoy an extra playtime to celebrate their success. Well done!

Class 1- 95.51%

Class 2– 96.54%

Class 3– 96.02%

Class 4—95.88%

Class 5– 96.10%

Class 6– 96%

Class 7– 96.98%

Class 8– 96.11%

Class 9– 97.87%

Class 10– 97.35%

Class 11– 97.17%

Class 12– 98.38%

Well done to Class 12 for their great attendance in the Autumn term!

Allergies and Medical Information

Please let us know immediately if your child is diagnosed with an allergy or medical condition. You will need to complete an appropriate form and staff should be made aware. If your child has an allergy to plasters and you have an alternative type of dressing/plaster – please send into school in a named envelope.

If your child is prescribed an inhaler, please ask for an additional inhaler so that one can be kept in school. If your child is diagnosed with asthma – a new form needs to be completed.

All medication should be handed in at the school office to ensure that it is stored appropriately and safely and the correct forms are completed. Thank you

Smart Watches

For safeguarding reasons, Apple watches and other devices that can link to a mobile phone/other device or take photographs are not allowed in school. Please check with Miss Marsden if you are unsure.

Panto Fun

We had an amazing time at the pantomime. We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for their hard work and determination to raise enough money for our whole school family to enjoy this experience. We would also like to add our thanks to Mrs Walker who has worked tirelessly over the last couple of weeks – it was planned like a military operation and ran very smoothly. As always, the children were an absolute credit to us all – they were a fabulous audience and their enjoyment made all the hard work worthwhile. Well done to East Durham College for their wonderful performance of Sleeping Beauty.

Walking to school

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School Development

As a school we are always striving to improve and develop in all aspects of school life. Each year, we put together an action plan to focus on particular areas for development. This is informed by analysis of achievement data and government initiatives/research as well as feedback from children, parents, staff and governors. This academic year the themes include:

- To ensure the significant new staffing structure has a positive impact on school development and standards
- To promote health and wellbeing for all pupils and staff
- Continuing to strive for outstanding in all aspects of teaching and learning across all year groups
- To further develop opportunities for children to broaden their experiences and understanding of the world around them as well as focus on specific support for different groups of children to achieve their full potential

We are also currently reviewing our Accessibility Plan and Equality objectives. We have completed an in-school audit and reflected upon past questionnaires (pupil and parent) but would love to hear from you if you have any particular suggestions for areas of improvement with regards to these issues.

Data about your child

To comply with GDPR regulations, we are carrying out an annual check of your information. We will be asking parents to check these at parent's evening in March and change any details where necessary. Please make sure that you have all the information that you may need – contact details, medical details etc.

Sporting Update

Class 3 did the school proud with their efforts at a Multi Skills event. The focus was on 'Personal Challenge'. The group showed great skill and determination to complete the tasks and smash their previous best scores.

A huge well done to all who took part in the Basketball event. The teams managed to finish 2nd and 3rd in their respective leagues.

We also had time to welcome Paul Donaghy from the Sedgfield Schools' Partnership, who came to present a GOLD plaque in assembly. This is a mark of our overall achievement in sport across the academic year. We hope to repeat the feat in 2019!

Growing Success!

We are very excited to announce that the school has been awarded the School Edible Growing Grant! We will be given funding to help us create our very own edible garden! This will run alongside our gardening club. We are very excited to create plans for our garden. We have already spoken to the children about things that they would like to include such as, a poly tunnel to create an outdoor learning environment that the whole school can use. We will keep you all updated with the plans as they begin to flourish!

Upcoming dates-

18th-22nd February– Half Term

1st March– Class 11 Bake Sale

7th March– World Book Day &

Bedtime Story Night 5.30pm

11th March– School Nurse Drop In Sessions 2.30pm

15th March– Class 10 Bake sale

18th & 20th March—Parents Evening

28th March– Class 3 Assembly

29th March– Class 9 Bake Sale

2nd April– Art Day 4

4th April– Year 1 Phonics Meetings

8th-22nd April– Easter Holidays

Return to school 23rd April