



Cotherstone Primary School

Autumn Term
Number 1
9th Sept '16

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Welcome!

We give a warm welcome to our new families.

Reception children are issued with a set of forms today that we would like you to complete as soon as possible please. There is one form in particular, the EV4, which we will need completed and returned for Monday afternoon's activities. Please contact Alison in the office if you have any difficulty with the forms.

Mrs Fairless

It was with great sorrow that over the summer holiday we heard that Mrs Fairless had sadly died. Mrs Fairless had, for many years, been a great supporter of the school; playing the piano for our assemblies and productions until ill health forced her to stop. She would be seen walking through the village with her music bag whatever the weather, on her way to school. Her cheerful personality and warm smile will be missed by many.

Sports Centre

Starting from this Monday, all the children will be attending the sports centre in the afternoon. Children in Classes 2 and 3 will be swimming and children in Class 1 will use the dry side facilities. Children leave school at 12:30pm, arriving back at approximately 2:30pm.

Lunch Money

If you would like to pay for the entire half term, please send in a

cheque made payable to 'Durham County Council' for £68 per child.

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As a 'Healthy School' we are sending out packed lunch guidelines for those children who have a packed lunch. We really like to see children tucking into a nutritious lunch and don't encourage chocolate bars and crisps. Healthy packed lunch ideas can be found at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>

Friday Snack

Last year the School Council requested that children are offered a healthy snack on Fridays at morning break. Healthy snacks are priced at 25p each. If you would like your child to have a healthy snack this term please send in £3.50 in an envelope marked with your child's name and 'Healthy Snack'. Thank you.

Text Messaging Service

We will continue to use the text messaging service for reminders etc. For this reason, it is vital that we have your up to date contact details.

School Website

Please note that lots of information about school (including copies of the newsletter) can be found on our website at:

www.cotherstone.durham.sch.uk

Drop-Off Time

Please ensure your child does not arrive at school before 8:40am as

Dates for your diary

Dates in bold are new additions from the last Newsletter

13th Sep - Class 3 'Bikeability' training

20th Sep - Class 3 'Bikeability' training

20th Sept - Class 3 Parents' meeting

21st Sept - Class 2 Parents' meeting

22nd Sept - Class 1 Parents' meeting (Yr 1 and 2 only)

27th Sep - Class 3 'Bikeability' training

30th Sep - Celebration Assembly 2:45pm

4th Oct - Class 3 'Bikeability' training

12th Oct - Parents' Evening

14th Oct - Celebration Assembly 2:45pm

21st Oct - School closes for half term

the playground is unsupervised until this time.

Taxis

If, for whatever reason, your child is not to go home on the taxi could you please let the school know as well as the taxi. There was the odd occasion last year when there was confusion as to whether a child should be on the taxi or not.

Car Park

During dropping off and collection times please do not walk or drive through the school car park. This is for safety reasons linked to the children who travel by taxi.

Clothing Labels

To help us deal with lost property, please ensure that your child's clothes are clearly labelled. Please check occasionally that their name can be easily read and that it has not washed off. Please remove any out of date labels.

Celebration Assembly

On alternate Friday afternoons, we will be holding our Celebration Assembly where we share some of the work that has been happening in class and present children with certificates. Friends and family are welcome to attend. Assembly starts at 2:45pm until the end of the school day. Due to a very busy first few weeks, our first assembly of this half term will be Friday 30th September.

Parent Information meetings

At the beginning of this new school year we will once again be holding our class general meetings, outlining class routines and work expectations. Class 1's meeting relates to children in Years 1 and 2. The meetings begin at 3:30pm and usually last about half an hour. Dates for these are on the Dates for your diary section.

Teaching Staff

As some of our teaching staff work part time the following information gives the time when generally, they are expected to be in school should you need to speak to them: Ms Blackburn is in on Monday and Tuesday mornings and

all day on Wednesday and Friday. Mrs Hogg is in all day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Dr Jellis is teaching in Class 1 on Monday and Tuesday, and KS2 on Thursday morning.

If possible, it is usually better to meet teachers at the end of the day rather than the start, as in the morning they are busy getting everything ready for the day.

KS2 Music Lessons

Having taught whole class music lessons last year the music service are now offering small group tuition on the violin and cello. Your child will bring home an expression of interest letter with the details of this scheme. Having thoroughly enjoyed teaching in Cotherstone last year, the music teacher is very hopeful some children will be keen to learn an orchestral instrument.

Staff Offsite

Fri 16th - Ms Blackburn / Mrs Robinson

Homework

No homework

News from The Friends of Cotherstone School

Miss Lee and Mary Hepburn were very busy baking many cakes for the Friends of Cotherstone school stall which was held at Grand National Sheep Racing at The Moorcock, Eggleston in August.



We raised £50 from selling our cakes and this has gone into our much needed pot to spend on the children and resources for the school. We would like to say a very big thank you to Sally Williams who gave up her whole afternoon to help us both on the stall. Thanks also Mary for your fantastic cakes and thanks to everyone who bought them.