



Cotherstone School Governing Body

Newsletter – October 2018

A very warm welcome to the pupils and families who have joined our school this September. The Reception pupils have settled into school wonderfully and have approached their first half term with enthusiasm, energy and enjoyment. As usual, Autumn Term at Cotherstone School is packed with a range of engaging learning experiences, high quality teaching, and opportunities to get active, creative, and imaginative, to engage with the wider community and develop positive relationships.

School Improvement Plan 2018/2019

All schools produce an annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) which identifies the main objectives, targets and aims for the academic year ahead. The plan is produced by the headteacher, staff and governors and is a working document which informs action, provides focus and key information.

The School Improvement Plan is under-pinned by Cotherstone School's Mission Statement as follows;

At Cotherstone Primary School we will provide high quality teaching and learning that challenges pupils to raise their expectations and standards. We will do this in a safe environment through a creative, experimental and experiential curriculum for the development of the whole child in a secure, happy and nurturing school community.

At Cotherstone, the Governing Body and the Headteacher work closely on:

- the development and implementation of policy
- financial accountability
- development of quality in all aspects of school life

Members of the Governing Body each have one or more "Specific Interest" area or subject and make visits to the school to meet with relevant staff, talk to children, ask questions and improve their working knowledge of their particular area. These visits focus on objectives identified in the SIP.

Governors with a link to English, Mathematics, Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Health and Safety make termly visits to school, as these are areas of priority identified in the SIP.

Governors linked to other subjects or areas of interest carry out an initial planned annual visit and follow up visits take place as necessary. These visits are spread evenly over the academic year.

If you would like any more information about the role of The Governing Body in developing the School Improvement Plan, or are interested in joining our Governing Body, please speak to any Governor.

Basic Skills Quality Mark Accreditation:

We are delighted to report that earlier this half-term the school's Basic Skills Quality Mark Accreditation was renewed. The Basic Skills Quality Mark is an award that celebrates and supports continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy. The accreditation is awarded to schools in recognition of their provision, practice and performance in literacy and numeracy. The Award is valid for a period of three years before a further re-assessment during which a school must demonstrate a whole school approach to improving literacy and numeracy standards with clear evidence showing the impact of its approaches.

Cool Kids Cotherstone

After a busy half term in club Claire is now planning the next half term's activities:

Monday – Film Club

Tuesday – Coding Workshop

Wednesday – Baking Club

Thursday – All things Crafty

Friday – Games night

Please book your child's place with Claire or Alison.

Friends of Cotherstone School

Thanks to Deborah and those who attended the 'FOCS at The Fox' meeting earlier this week to share fundraising ideas. The support from the Friends makes a real difference to all pupils in our school, helping to: fund trips, visits, experiences and buy additional resources and equipment. Any offer of help, large or small, would be appreciated. We look forward to enjoying the FOCS activities planned for next half term and the festive season.

