

Cotherstone School Governing Body

Newsletter – February 2018

Welcome to the first Governors' newsletter of the New Year. Christmas feels like a long time ago but we hope that you all had an enjoyable festive season. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ben who has recently joined Class 2.

Staffing update

After a rigorous application and interview process, we are delighted to announce that Mr Batchelor has been appointed as Deputy Head. He will continue in his roles as Class 3 teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. Congratulations to Mr Batchelor who we wish well in his new role.

Governing Body

There have been some changes to the Governing Body recently. We have been joined by Teresa Wilcox who was co-opted last term and Alison Lamb was co-opted at the last governors meeting after serving as a parent governor for the last few years. This leaves us with a vacancy for a parent governor which will be advertised in the school newsletter after half term. Anyone with an interest in joining the governing body is encouraged to speak to Dr Jellis to find out more about what the role entails. Many thanks to the current and incoming governors for the support they give to the school.

Friends of Cotherstone School

The children have enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon flipping pancakes today – many thanks to FOCS for running this activity. The need to replace and upgrade the existing interactive whiteboards has set an ambitious fundraising target for the year and we look forward to seeing the events that they have planned. The fundraising efforts of FOCS are vital to the experience our children receive in school and we appreciate the support given to them by the school and wider community. If you have any ideas for fundraising or time and skills to support planned events then please contact the Chair of FOCS, Tracy Williams on tracywilliams007@outlook.com

Facebook

Over the last few months, Mr Batchelor has been working hard to develop a school Facebook page as an additional method of communication. School staff will use the page to, among other things, share what children have been doing and celebrate successes. Look out for a letter after half term fully explaining how the page will operate.

Governor visits in school

Alison Lamb, new governor for SEN, met with Mr Batchelor to discuss her new role. The visit focused on familiarisation with current terminology relating to Special Educational Needs and establishing what provision and support pupils currently receive.





County Durham Local Offer

Every local authority must publish a Local Offer. The Local Offer tells you what support the local authority expects to be available for children and young people (aged 0-25) with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities. It includes information about education, health and care provision. It also tells you about training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Find out more at the Durham Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support website address: www.durhamsendiass.info/

School Attendance Target

Overall, the attendance for the Autumn Term was 95.38% (our target for the year is 97%).

If you require more information regarding school attendance, Durham County Council's website contains practical guidance and advice for parents;

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2339/School-attendance>

Dr Jellis, Staff and Governors are always happy to discuss any concerns or questions you may have regarding your child's attendance.

Cool Kids

Activities at Cool Kids after the half term break will be as follows:

Monday – Upcycled Art

Tuesday – Baking/Crazy Science

Wednesday – Wii Night

Thursday – Sports

Friday – Film Club

Baking will continue after half term for two more sessions on the 20th and 27th February, then for the rest of the term we have Crazy Science. Come and make eggshell geodes, lemon volcanos and bottle lava lamps to name a few.

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With Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day both falling next week we wish you all an enjoyable half term break.

School re-opens on Monday 19th February 2018

If you have any issue that you would like to raise with the Governing Body, please contact Rachel at rachelgoldsborough@gmail.com or on 650041.

