



## **Cotherstone School Governing Body**

### **Newsletter – December 2017**

**Christmas is just around the corner and, as usual, it's been a busy term at Cotherstone School. Our Reception children have made a great start to their school life and the pupils have settled into their new year groups. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard-working team of staff at Cotherstone School and the Governors would like to extend their sincere thanks for everything they do for our pupils and families.**

#### **Christmas Celebrations**

Our school is an integral part of our community and our celebrations in the run up to Christmas have once again demonstrated this. All pupils were involved in the Cantata at The Methodist Chapel and the Christingle Service in Church. Congratulations to the children who took part in the flute and recorder concert at Teesdale School, they played their instruments with enthusiasm and skill. It was a pleasure to see the confidence and enjoyment they brought to their performance. Our school cook, Barbara, and her assistant, produced a lovely Christmas lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and their families – a big thanks to the kitchen team, Wendy and Mrs Batchelor for making this special lunch a success. The Friends of Cotherstone School treated the pupils to a visit to The Witham for a festive concert of songs, music and stories.

Thanks to Dr Jellis and staff and volunteers for making these events possible.

#### **School Funding**

As you are no doubt aware there has been much press coverage recently about the Government's new Funding Formula and the effect on school budgets, particularly those of smaller schools. The Governing Body would like to reassure parents that we are fully committed to securing the future of our school and that, as a result of close monitoring and careful management by the Finance Committee, our school remains in a financially viable position for the future. The school's rising pupil numbers, an "outstanding" grading by Ofsted and end of Key Stage results either at age-related expectation or exceeding National expectations also contribute towards maintaining a sustainable position.

#### **Thankyous and Welcomes**

Welcome to our new school caretaker, Mr Sparks, who is making a wonderful job of keeping our school environment clean, tidy and safe for all who access them.

The Governors would like to thank FOCS for their continued commitment to raising funds for the pupils of our school. Particular thanks go to Miss Lee for her years of hard work as Chair of the group and welcome to Tracy Williams who has taken over the role.

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Christmas lights switch on and the Carol Singing around the village which have helped to raise funds for the school.

### **Cool Kids**

Next term we will have the following clubs on offer:

Monday Madness

Tuesday - Cooking with Eve

Wednesday - Wii night

Thursday – Invasion Games

Friday - Film Night

### **Our Governing Body**

The current members of our Governing Body are:

Rachel Goldsborough

Alison Lamb

Dr Rebecca Jellis

Richard Batchelor

Alison Sabey

Dr Jane Ayre

Cllr Richard Bell

Sally Baker

Tamsin Coulson

Michelle Ferguson

Alison Butler

Teresa Wilcox

If you'd like to find out more about the work of the Governing Body or are interested in joining us, please speak to any of our members.

**All that remains is for the Governors to wish pupils, staff, families and friends a peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year**

**School re-opens on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

