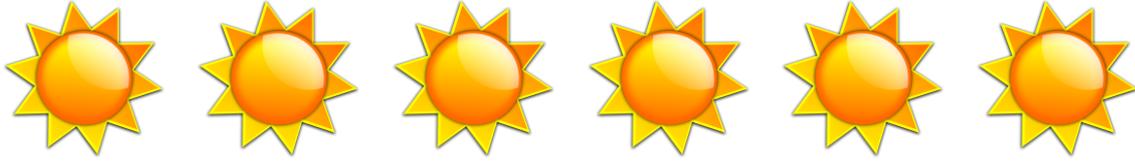


# Cotherstone Primary School

## Governors' Newsletter Summer Term(2) 2016



It's hard to believe we've reached the end of the Summer Term already and a new academic year is just around the corner. As always it's been a packed few weeks full of learning, visits, visitors, SATs, sporting and social events. Our school football team deserves special recognition for their fantastic achievements - if only our national team were as skilled and passionate about the game! ☺

### Our Leavers

The Governors would like to wish our wonderful Year 6 pupils all the very best as they leave Cotherstone and move on to their new school in September. They have been a credit to our school and to themselves and they should be very proud of their achievements.

### Our Staff

Our school staff, teaching and non-teaching, strive to ensure that our pupils are safe, happy, stimulated and challenged in our school. Our staff go "above and beyond" in order to provide our children with the best possible education and experiences and the Governing Body would like to thank them for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment.

In a time of political uncertainty and seemingly never ending changes to education policy, the Governors are grateful to Dr Jellis for her strong and positive leadership of our school.

### Our school community

We are extremely fortunate at Cotherstone School to have a network of volunteers who share their skills, expertise, enthusiasm and time for the benefit of our pupils. From fundraising to film making, art to archaeology, gardening to governing we'd like to wish everyone who helps our school a wonderful summer and thank them for their amazing support.

### Miss Robbins

Huge congratulations to Miss Robbins who has been awarded HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) status. To receive this status involves a huge amount of work and Miss Robbins thoroughly deserves this recognition.

### Keeping our Children safe on-line

In response to the questionnaire which went out to parents, regarding online safety, a date has been arranged to provide training and information for parents. The session will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup>, further details to follow nearer the time.

### Governor Visit

Peter Webb, link governor for special needs, has been visiting the school at least once every term to monitor the ways in which the school ensures that pupils with special educational needs (SEN) continue to make the same progress as other pupils. This is his report:

1. Since September 2014 the school has been required to publish and keep under review information about services which are available to children with special education needs or disability (SEND). The details of how the school implements its policy for children with SEND is published on the school website.

2. The school provides SEN support by planning lessons which are appropriate for all pupils and providing teacher assistant support so that pupils have the opportunity for individual and small group work. The school has invested in learning resources that are specially adapted to help pupils to work on their own and make the small steps needed in their learning. The Busy Ants Maths programme which children have started to use this year was written specifically for the new national curriculum and is helping children to master skills and make progress.

3. The school's Basic Skills Quality Mark Accreditation was reviewed at the beginning of the summer term. During the renewal assessment visit it was noted that "the analysis of the assessment of pupil performance in basic skills is excellent". Pupil progress is reviewed weekly and concerns with children's work is discussed and interventions are put in place if necessary. The pupil's Short Support Plan (SSP) provides a written record of the progress a pupil is making and the success of interventions. Interventions are monitored by the teaching assistants as they work with pupils.

4. To make good progress and achieve academic targets pupils need good fine motor skills (dexterity). During this year the school has identified this as a priority. To support the development of these skills teaching assistants record their observations of pupils' motor skills whilst working with them.

5. Progress made by SEND pupils is continuously monitored by observation and assessment. What is expected of pupils is recorded as targets in their SSP and achievement is judged by both work and behaviour.

6. The school received a £9240 pupil premium this year based on the number of pupils eligible for free school meals. This allows the school to fund an additional 5 hours of teaching assistant time for specific learning support and contributes towards teacher salary to maintain three small classes in the morning.

### **CKC Update:**

This half term the children have enjoyed some wonderful nature themed creative sessions with Anna Harding. Russell Whiting has worked with the children to create, write, film and direct short movies including creating an advert and making an animated film. The children have enjoyed hitting the target with archery in the Thursday sports session that was delivered by Durham County Council. Big thanks to all of the activity providers for delivering really fun and enjoyable sessions for the children this half term.

Children have been able to come along and participate in a choice of 17 half-termly activity series throughout the year. Over the year, the children have been able to learn new skills and take part in activities including samba drumming, archaeology and sketching. Sports fans have been able to try sports such as: tag rugby, gymnastics and hockey. There have been wonderful craft sessions from Bowes Museum, Anna Harding and drama workshops with Kando Arts. It really has been action packed and it is wonderful to be able to offer the children the chance to take part in all these sessions right here at school. A massive thank you to all the session leaders for working so hard to make the activities so much fun for everyone.

It has been another great year for CKC and I would like to add a very special thanks to Claire Robinson, CKC Club Manager, for running the club with great energy and enthusiasm.

We wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back at CKC in September. Should you have any suggestions for after school activities to run during the sessions, please get in touch with either Claire Robinson or Angela Whiting with your ideas.

## **Race for Life**

A final update on the Race for Life event at Teesdale School. You helped us raise a massive £626.30. This is a tremendous achievement for a school of our size. Well done and thank you to everyone who supported the event.

**We hope you have an enjoyable Summer break!**

If you have any issue that you would like to raise with the Governing Body please contact Jane at [ayretj@aol.com](mailto:ayretj@aol.com) or 650699.