

## **Cotherstone Primary School Governing Body Newsletter - October 2017**

Welcome to the first Governors' newsletter of the new school year. We hope that everyone had a good summer and has now settled back into school life after the 6 week break. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families and to Miss Thomas.

### **Staffing update**

This half term we have said goodbye to our caretaker, Mr Oxford. We would like to thank him for his hard work over the years and wish him well for the future. Thanks also go to Angela Watson, Sally Williams and Dr Jellis who have been covering his duties over the last year and to the other members of school staff who have stepped in when needed to ensure the continuous smooth running of the school. We are delighted to welcome our new caretaker, Mr Sparkes, who will start after half term.

### **Governing Body**

There have been some changes on the Governing Body recently too. Peter Webb and Karen Lind have stepped down and we have been joined by Tamsin Coulson who was co-opted last term and Alison Butler who is our new parent governor. Many thanks to incoming and outgoing governors for the support they give to the school.

### **Friends of Cotherstone School**

This term has also seen changes in the structure of FOCS as, due to teaching commitments, Miss Lee has stepped down as Chair. I'm sure parents will join with the governors in thanking Miss Lee for her dedication to fundraising for school. Tracy Williams has volunteered to take over from Miss Lee and is currently familiarising herself with the role. Ideas for fundraising are always welcome, as are helpers, so please get in touch with Tracy if you have any suggestions or time to give.

### **Governor visits in school**

- Jane Ayre met with Dr Jellis to discuss English, with a focus on writing, and safeguarding.

### **School Attendance Target**

In order to encourage and monitor pupils' attendance all schools have an annual government attendance target for their pupils. The Local Authority, Governors and Staff appreciate and expect that most children will be absent from school at some point due to illness, medical reasons or **exceptional** circumstances but these targets aim to monitor and ensure regular attendance.



Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life and regular attendance at school is vitally important. Poor school attendance damages educational achievement and the future progress of young people. Promoting and supporting good attendance at school is essential to learning and attainment.

Cotherstone School's attendance target for 2016/2017 was set at 96.8% but overall attendance was below this at 96.25%. Over half of our pupils had an attendance between 90 – 97% and a number of pupils had below 90%.

To help our school reach the attendance target and to inform parents of their child's individual attendance rate, a very brief termly report will be sent home with your child. The report will also include teacher assessment to show how your child is progressing against age related expectations. The attendance rate for the school as a whole will be added to the school newsletter on a monthly basis.

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.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term break!

If you have any issue that you would like to raise with the Governing Body, please contact Rachel at [rachelgoldsborough@gmail.com](mailto:rachelgoldsborough@gmail.com) or 650041.

