



Cotherstone School Governing Body

Newsletter – December 2016

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 parents.

Christmas Celebrations

Our school is an integral part of our community and our celebrations in the run up to Christmas have demonstrated this with all pupils being involved in the Cantata at The Methodist Chapel and the Christingle Service in Church. Classes 1 and 2 gave us an amazing production of "Hansel and Gretel" and it was a pleasure to see the confidence and enjoyment they brought to their performance. Thanks to Dr Jellis and staff for making these events possible.

Small Schools

Our school, because of its size, is able to offer many more opportunities to our pupils, the children benefit from small class sizes, a sense of belonging, community and are supportive and tolerant of each other. The Governing Body are committed to securing the future of our school, and in a time of uncertainty about the viability of small schools, decided to seek reassurance from the Local Authority on their vision for rural schools in the area. A meeting was held with Caroline O'Neill, Head of Education for Durham County Council at County Hall. Governors were told Cotherstone School is in a strong position because of the growing number of pupils on roll, the outstanding levels of teaching and learning delivered by staff and its distance from the nearest primary school. This is great news for our school, the families it serves and the community to which it belongs.

Thank yous and Welcomes

The Governing Body would like to extend its thanks, on behalf of the pupils and parents of Cotherstone School, to Dr Jane Ayre for her years as Chair of Governors. Jane has given a huge amount of time and energy to the role, much of which goes unseen and unrecognised and for this we are truly grateful. Jane remains on the Governing Body and the role of Chair has been taken on by Rachel Goldsborough. Many thanks to Rachel for volunteering for this role.

Welcome to our new school cook, Barbara, the children are already giving positive feedback about their school meals which offer a balanced hot meal at value for money.

The Governors would like to thank FOCS for their continued commitment to raising funds for the pupils of our school. The trip to see Snow White which was subsidised by the Friends was a real festive treat and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

All that remains is for the Governors to wish pupils, staff, families and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas. We hope you have a wonderful festive period and look forward to 2017.



Merry Christmas