

Cotherstone Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Spring Term (2) 2016

We've reached the end of the Spring Term and the pupils and staff at Cotherstone School have had a busy and productive time over the last few weeks.

Our pupils are provided with a wide range of activities and opportunities to learn new skills, discover new interests, access new opportunities and visit interesting and exciting places. The Governing Body would like to thank the staff for their ongoing commitment to providing our pupils with such a stimulating and engaging learning environment.

So you know who we are, all Governors have their names and photographs clearly displayed in the school reception area. If you have any issue that you would like to raise with the Governing Body, or a comment on this newsletter, please contact Jane Ayre (Chair) at ayretj@aol.com.

Governor Visits Into School:

This half-term the following Governor visits have taken place:

- Angela Whiting, PE Governor, met with the Mr Batchelor to discuss the school's current provision for PE and how pupil progress is assessed and recorded. Our pupils have been recognised by the County for their excellent attainment in swimming and Mr Batchelor is working towards a level 5 PE specialist course which he will complete at the end of this year.
- Dave Wilson has visited the school to discuss, observe and monitor the way Science is planned and delivered in school (details to follow).
- Rachel Goldsborough, Governor for Art & DT met with Ms Blackburn and observed how Art & DT are taught, linked to other topic work in school. Cooking and Nutrition are now a significant strand of the DT curriculum. The school broadly follows the Durham Curriculum Map but has adapted it to incorporate teaching strengths and the strengths of the local environment. The local Richard III link led to a topic on the Plantagenets culminating with a medieval feast in conjunction with the Love Food project. The children prepared 7 different dishes using 14th century recipes. Local produce was used where possible and included school field nettle and Cotherstone cheese spanakopita. Visiting artists come into school to work with and develop the children's skills and interests. Recent visitors include children's illustrator Liz Million,

local stonemason and sculptor Euan Allinson and River Lab artist Sarah Cox.

- Sandra Moorhouse met with Mrs. Hogg who has responsibility for the RE across the school and discussed the new two year rolling programme developed by Mrs Hogg. When planning and delivering the RE curriculum staff share best practice and expertise, make use of artefacts from Durham Learning Resources and encourage pupils to engage in discussion. The staff have raised the idea of moving towards a whole day of RE at the end of each half term rather than a small weekly slot. It is agreed that this will be piloted for Key Stage 2.

Governor Training

Members of the Governing Body attended a training session delivered by Durham County Council to update their knowledge of the new Ofsted inspection framework. The session was extremely useful, providing information on the structure of an inspection, the evidence and data required by the inspectors and the responsibilities of the Governing Body. It was an opportunity to ask questions and clarify the changes which have been made to the way Ofsted carry out school inspections. Thanks to Lucy Wallace, our School Improvement Partner for delivering the training.

School Cook

Our School Cook, Harriet Sams is leaving us, the Governors would like to thank her for her hard work and enthusiasm and extend their good wishes for the future. Harriet's food has been enjoyed by pupils and parents alike and she will be missed.

School Cook – Cotherstone Primary School £6.88 per hour, 22.5 hours per week, Term Time Only

Taylor Shaw is a contract caterer dedicated to providing the best quality fresh food in education. We work with schools and colleges of all shapes and sizes across the UK to create healthy meals which taste great, in environments which appeal to children and young people.

We are looking for an experienced School Cook based Cotherstone Primary School.

You will be required to produce hot and cold food in accordance with menu requirements, company fresh food ethos, presentation principles and food safety and hygiene standards. Must have great craft skills and the ability to bring innovation and new ideas in order to increase meal numbers and develop the onsite service and team.

Must be 706/1 and 706/2 qualified or NVQ equivalent.

The successful School Cook will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check paid for by the company and will require 2 references.

For further information or to register interest call 0191 3787860.

CKC Update:

Thank you to the activity club providers this half term. The Bowes Museum have been getting crafty ready for Easter and Harriet Sams for her look into archaeology and finding treasures beneath the earth.

Next half term Mr Batchelor is going to be offering a computer programming session on a Monday night. After quite a long break we are welcoming back the drama sessions on a Tuesday night delivered by the wonderfully creative Kando Arts. Please remember to sign up for the sessions with Mrs Sabey at the school office.

CKC activity programme Apr-May 2016

Monday Afternoon - Computer Programming with Mr Batchelor

Tuesday Afternoon - Drama with Kando Arts

Thursday Afternoon - Athletics Club

The club sessions run from after school until 4:30pm, children are offered a small snack before the session starts to keep them going until home time.

CKC runs from 3:15pm to 5:15pm every day after school, Claire Robinson, club manager provides a warm welcome to all and the children are provided with a safe and fun environment to play and relax after school.

We hope you have an enjoyable Easter break!

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