



From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is remarkable to think that we have reached the end of the Spring Term and are looking forward to the Easter holidays. Much of course has been achieved within our schools since their formal return from lockdown on 8th March.

It was marvellous to see all the children returning, some after a gap of 109 days from their schooling during which the teaching and support staff had been involved in a considerable amount of daily remote learning whilst parents/carers had home schooled. Of course it should not be forgotten that vulnerable children and children of key workers had continued their education within the school buildings throughout lockdown and the staff should all be commended for their industry, commitment and professionalism during these challenging times.

Both schools contributed fully to Comic Relief Red Nose Day and the costumes for the children's favourite characters for World Book day were well represented in the Teesdale Mercury. Well done to all.

I have been greatly enthused by the Insect Art topic that the children at Cotherstone School have carried out, the pictures looked super scary (in a nice way). Both schools entered fully into Mars activities inspired by the Mars Rover Perseverance. The Space buggies from Bowes looked really superb and clearly lots of skill had gone into their production.

The Governing Body of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation has undergone considerable change and further to my last update on 25th February, the school websites are being updated with pen pictures of the composition of the Governing Body and all of your teaching and support staff. Please take the time to consult this information which will help you to recognise and understand the roles of these appointments until such time as we can meet without virtual meetings and social distancing.

I know that some of you have kindly taken the trouble to write to Ofsted concerning your positive experiences of home schooling and remote learning and the Ofsted Regional Director, North East, Yorkshire and Humber has written to me in response encouraging more to add feedback about our schools to the Ofsted Parent View website:

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Both schools are looking forward to the excitement of egg rolling and decoration this week prior to the Easter holidays. Of course Eastertime is often associated with eggs which signify new life. Easter eggs are often used by Christians as a symbol for the

Resurrection of Jesus. Of course today they are more often made of chocolate and covered in foil and your children might well enjoy an Easter egg hunt over the Easter festival. If you do please enjoy yourselves and spare a thought for the school staff enjoying their well earned break in readiness for the forthcoming Summer Term.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation Governing Body, to wish you and your families well over the Easter period.

We look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays.

Stay safe.

Peter Nicholls

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