



Executive Headteacher: Mrs C A Matthewman  
Chair of Governors: Mr P Nicholls  
Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs A Butler



## Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Covid

Please continue to wear a face mask when dropping off and collecting your children, for everyone's safety. Thank you.

### Ronnie the Robot

Here is a picture of the EYFS children with 'Ronnie the Robot' who they made themselves. Ronnie will recycle any unwanted paper, card or recyclable materials. Well done!



### Mental Health Awareness week

The theme for 'Mental Health Awareness week' this year was 'Nature.' Class 1 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a mixture of different activities all relating to our feelings and embracing nature. Some of the activities involved the children using their senses outdoors, sketching their favourite picture of 'nature' in our outdoor grounds, bark rubbings, looking at different trees in our grounds, making pictures using natural materials and much more!



We also had a little visit in our classroom from a baby duckling! The baby duckling was found in our reading area and caused much excitement and fun. We searched the school grounds but we could not find the duckling's mother. Another little duckling had also been spotted on the playground but it then disappeared. Miss Lee managed to re-home the baby duckling via a friend who already had many other baby ducklings of a similar age. The duckling has settled happily into its new home.



Class 1 would like to say a very big 'THANK YOU' to the Friends of the school for purchasing us some caterpillars. EYFS children have been working from the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' over the past couple of weeks and have now moved on to lifecycles. KS1 children have also been learning about animal habitats so the caterpillars have enhanced all our learning. We can't wait until they turn into butterflies!



### **Geography in Class 2- By Class 2**

This week in Class 2 we built our own River Nile models. We had a variety of materials to use: sand, soil, Lego, green rice, blue rice, fake trees, jewels, stones and brown sugar cubes.

The materials represented the physical and human features of the River Nile and the surrounding areas.

The sand represented the Red Land in Egypt, the desert.

The soil represented the Black Land in Egypt which is the soil around the River Nile where the Ancient Egyptians grew and harvested their crops.

We built the Lego to represent the human features, the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Some of us used brown Sugar cubes to create the Pyramids.

With the blue rice we made the River Nile.

The jewels represented the mines where the Egyptians went to find precious and semi-precious treasure.

The stones were used to represent the quarries where the Egyptians got their stones to build.

### **Kindness Quilt by Indi, Ashton & Josie**

Last Friday, Class 3 took part in a Zoom meeting with local artist, Claire, and The Manor Care Home in Barnard Castle. Together, we all made a kindness quilt and we'll explain what that is:

A Kindness Quilt is like a quilt but it has kindness symbols on it. We designed and made a square in pairs. Then the residents of the care home made their squares and they will all be sewn together with squares from other schools and care homes to make one big Kindness Quilt that will be displayed in The Bowes Museum.

To make a kindness quilt you will need:

- Bondaweb
- Square cloth
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Pins
- An iron
- Patterned material
- Kindness symbols such as hearts, joined hands, rainbows etc

First, get your coloured/printed material backed with Bondaweb. Draw some shapes on the Bondaweb and then cut them out. Place them on your square of material using pins. Iron on the shape and then sew them all together.

We really enjoyed taking part in this project with the care home residents and can't wait to see the finished article in The Bowes Museum!

### **Taiwanese Taster**

On Monday, KS2 had a taster session learning all about Taiwan with Chin, a student from Durham University. Chin is Taiwanese and she taught us all about life in Taiwan, including showing us some famous landmarks and landscapes from the country. We then learnt a song in Taiwanese about a train in a tunnel. We learnt that 'dui' means water and played a game where our finger had to escape from our partner every time we heard 'dui'. Then, we learnt how to say 'have you eaten?', which is used as a greeting in Taiwanese! Finally, Chin answered any questions we had about the country and the language. A great afternoon learning all about a different culture! 😊



## Mental Health Awareness Week

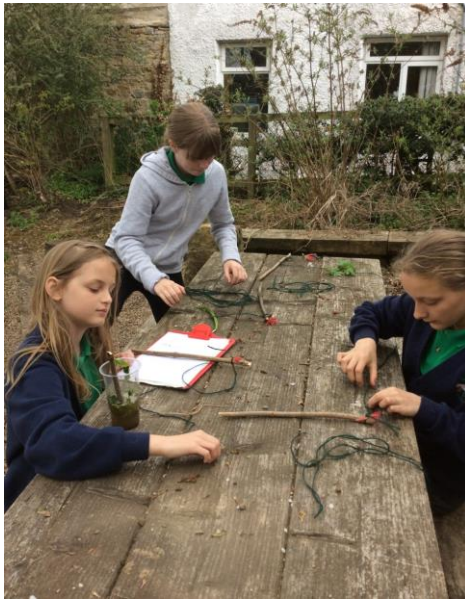
This week in class 3 we have been investigating nature by getting outdoors and taking part in activities that help us feel good physically and emotionally. We took part in 4 activities: Detecting Wildlife by making an animal tracker, Sensing the World which included making a smelly cocktail, Bioblitz and making Journey Sticks.

### Animal tracker by Isabelle

For this activity we got four trays and filled them with sand. We used a ruler to smooth and flatten down the sand and then placed bowls in the centre with cat food in. We placed them out on the school field in different locations and left them overnight to see if there would be any visitors during the night and hopefully leave some animal prints left in the sand. The next day we identified some hedgehog, cat, duck, fox and bird footprints.

### Journey sticks by Kitty

Journey sticks have been around for a long time. They were used by Aboriginal people in Australia and Native Americans to remember their journeys, a bit like a map and also are great for storytelling. On your walk you pick up items like, feathers, pinecones, petals and tie them on to your stick with twine you can do this in the order you find them creating a visual map of your journey.



### Smelly Cocktails by Chloe

First you need a cup. Then you walk around searching for things to add like grass, herbs, petals, leaves. We included lemon balm, thyme, rosemary, and mint from our sensory garden. Some people added some twigs and stones to give it some texture. Finally, we added some water and sniffed the scent (some were nicer than others!!)



## Sensing the World by Belle FB

For this activity we had to use four of our senses: sight, hearing, feeling and smell. I spent time laying down on the grass and looking at the clouds in the sky and watching a robin on the willow trees. I could smell the country air and felt the grass tickling my hands. There were so many different bird sounds to hear. I enjoyed listening to the songs of a nearby bird.



## Homework

### Class 1

**EYFS** - Reading books, Tricky words & Nature activity

**Year 1** - Spellings & Fractions

**Year 2** – Spellings & Length

**Class 2** – Spellings- Please see your homework book for instructions. Maths Mat and Reading Comprehension.

**Class 3** – Numeracy: Maths Mat. Literacy: Modal verb activities. Spellings

## Request

Donations of old newspapers for arts and crafts activities in school welcome. Please send them to school in a bag so that we can quarantine them and use them when required.

***Thank you for all your support.***

***Chris Matthewman and the Cotherstone Team***

### ***Dates for your diary:***

*17<sup>th</sup> May – Week 2 of the winter menu*

*24<sup>th</sup> May – Week 1 of the winter menu*

*28<sup>th</sup> May – School closes for half term break*

*8<sup>th</sup> June – School re-opens*

*8<sup>th</sup> June – Week 1 of new lunch menu*

*14<sup>th</sup> June – Week 2 of new lunch menu*

*21<sup>st</sup> June – Week 3 of new lunch menu*