



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



Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter 21st May 2021

Covid

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

School Visits

Now that Covid restrictions have eased we can welcome prospective parents into school for visits, after the school day has finished. If you or anyone you know is considering Cotherstone Primary for their children please get in touch.

Summer term attendance expectations for schools from DfE

School attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils and the usual rules on school attendance apply. This includes parents' duty to ensure their child regularly attends school, and schools' and local authorities' ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, for poor attendance.

The DfE expect schools and local authorities to continue to communicate clear expectations around attendance to families. As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday.

Class 1 Wormery

EYFS have been learning about minibeasts this half term. Today they made a wormery and really enjoyed creating it!

We are keeping the wormery in our class for a few days to observe the layers disappear as the sand and soil mix together and channels appear where the worms have burrowed. The children are excited to see how the food will be dragged from the top downwards. The children said "We made this wormery. It's got worms, soil and compost in. It's got soil in. We found worms and put them in. They are wriggly worms."



The children have enjoyed watching the caterpillars grow much bigger and fatter this week!

Donation of Reading Books

We would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to Claudette and Monty's family for donating all of these wonderful reading books to Class 1. They will certainly be used and well loved. Thank you!



Thank you to The Stephen Mitchell Memorial Shoot



Class 1 would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to the Stephen Mitchell Memorial Shoot who have very kindly paid for 6 Julia Donaldson story sacks, the CDs to go with the stories and the CD player! The children were so excited to receive the parcels this week. We have put 'Room on the Broom' to good use straight away in our reading area. Thank you once again.

Class 2 Ancient Egypt Myth-Busting Virtual Visit by Brandon and Henry

On Friday the 14th May we went on a virtual trip to the British Museum. First, we had to pass a quiz to be hired as new job recruits for the Museum. We did this on the iPads on Kahoot. We all passed!

We then did three activities, the first one was where we had to compare real artefacts in the Museum to items we have now! Next, we looked at a timeline and some artefacts that were found during the Egyptian Civilization. For the final activity we went inside a tomb and explored some of the artefacts which were found in there!

Blue Peter Green Badge by Isabella (Class 3)

Green badges are very cool. They are awarded to people who are environmentally friendly. To get your hands on one, follow these steps:

1. Go to the Blue Peter website. Here there will be the instructions on how to complete the activities to finish the badge. You can find Blue Peter at bbc.co.uk/cbbc. Go to the search bar and type Blue Peter. It should come up with the site for badges. Press 'Green Badge' and read the instructions.
2. Do the pledges for 2 weeks.
3. Go to the website again and go on the green badge. Go to the apply section and tap the pink sentence.
4. Fill in everything in the uploader and press send.

It may take a few months for you to get your badge so be patient. It will arrive. I had to wait four weeks for mine.

Rules:

- You must be age 6-15 to apply.
- Read everything on the page and don't miss anything out.

Once you have got your badge, bring it into school and persuade the children to get them too. The badge is made of recycled yogurt pots so it doesn't hurt the environment.

I hope to see your badges soon!

Mayan Masks by Chloe and Aliccia

In Class 3, we have been making Mayan masks. The Maya used masks for different purposes for example: ceremonies, war and death!

We made them by inflating a balloon. Then, we made a water/glue solution. After that, we layered the balloon with newspaper using the glue to make a hard, shell-like structure. Then, when it was dry, we placed another layer (this time using white paper). When that had dried, we cut up some coloured pieces of paper and stuck them in a mosaic pattern. We then let it dry and cut the back off to leave a full-face mask to terrify our enemies!



A Message From The School Council

Hello everyone! During our School Council meeting this week we were discussing a request from the suggestion box about installing a butterfly box in the school garden. We felt that as we made a bee hotel it is only fair to have a place for the butterflies. We have seen one that we would like to purchase and have come up with a fundraising idea to help us raise the funds: **a non-school uniform day!**

This will be held next Friday (28th May) and the children can come to school not in school uniform! We would be very grateful for a suggested donation of £1 to help towards the butterfly house.

Thank you from Jon, Kitty, Thomas, Summer, Isabella, April and Scarlett.



Butterfly house pictures by Isabella and Scarlett

School Garden update

The children have been really busy volunteering to help revamp our school vegetable garden during their playtimes. This week we have been making our very own wetland nature reserve out of a large plastic tub which has been submerged into the ground with the help from Toby and Thomas's great digging skills. Some of Class 1 helped to prepare the gravel by washing it before placing it into the tub and making an escape ladder out of large stones for any wildlife that might wander in. They also selected and placed some perching sticks for resting dragonflies.



We would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to Kelly and Richard Green for the amazing chairs that they very kindly and skilfully made for the children to relax in during breaktimes in our school garden. We all agree with April when she said "Wow, they are awesome!"



Golden Ticket Lunchtime Awards

Golden tickets this week were awarded to:

Josie - for her kindness towards her younger school friends during lunch.

Jon - for always being helpful to the lunchtime staff.

Lydia - for her lovely manners at lunchtime.

Scarlett - for always eating up her dinners and being polite to lunchtime staff.

Homework

Class 1:

EYFS - 'Learning to count' game online <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/teddy-numbers>

Play 'Teddy Numbers' Numbers up to 15

Please practise 'Red Tricky words' daily for on sight recognition and try to read for 5 minutes each day.

Year 1 - 'Hit the button' maths game online <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Make 10, Addition within 10 and Missing Number (+ and -)

Spellings via 'Google Classroom'

Year 2 - 'Hit the button' maths game online <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Practise quick recall Number Bonds, Make 20, Addition within 20 and Subtraction within 20

Spellings via 'Google Classroom.'

Class 2 - Spellings Unit 4 and adverbs charades.

Class 3 – Spellings. Maths Mat. Punctuation task.

Thank you for all your support.

Chris Matthewman and the Cotherstone Team

Dates for your diary:

24th May – Week 1 of the winter menu

28th May – School closes for half term break

Tuesday 8th June – School re-opens

8th June – Week 1 of new lunch menu

14th June – Week 2 of new lunch menu

21st June – Week 3 of new lunch menu