



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



## **Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all the staff for their dedication in supporting all the children and the school consistently and effectively throughout difficult times. I am extremely proud of all of our staff and feel that we need to recognise the hard work and effort that happens in Cotherstone for the benefit of the children.

If anyone has any concerns about any aspect of school life, I would encourage you to come and talk to us so that we can help you and we will always do our best to do that.

I feel very lucky to work with such an outstanding team and thank you for your support.

Chris Matthewman

### **Pre-School at Cotherstone Primary**

We are really excited to inform you that we will be opening preschool provision from September 2021. We will be returning the Dinosaur Room to classroom use for focused work for years 1 and 2 whilst Class 1 will be used for continuous provision including for nursery children. In order to provide for this we have followed the advice and guidance of Durham County Council's Early Years Team, who have approved the arrangements. We will be able to offer 30 hours funded placements and 15-hour provision as well as private places as appropriate for rising 3s, 3 and 4 year olds. Please contact the school if you are interested.

### **Summer Term Sports Events**

Sadly, the sports events we had planned for the next few weeks have been cancelled by Staindrop Academy on LA and government advice. We will be arranging alternative activities in school.

### **School Lunch**

A gentle reminder to pay up front for your child's school lunches for this half term please.

### **Class 1 - Rhubarb Crumble!**

Last Friday afternoon Mrs Matthewman made rhubarb crumble with Class 1. We had grown some rhubarb that we had purchased at the start of the year to go in our sensory garden in Class 1. The children have watered the plants daily and looked after them well and the rhubarb had really taken off! It was lovely to cook with our own produce and the rhubarb crumble was a great success! Thank you Mrs Matthewman!



### 30 Days of Nature

We have been doing our daily acts of wildness each day and this week one of our favourite activities was to go and search for natural objects in our school grounds and to write a list of them before popping them into our bags to take home. The children found a variety of objects that included wild flowers, twigs, feathers, pebbles, empty bird egg shells and sheep's wool!



### Country Dancing

Over the past couple of weeks, in P.E the children have been learning the country dance 'Oxo Reel' and the 'Barber's Plait' using the maypole. The children have all been very excited to learn these dances and worked well together in their groups. We look forward to performing them to the rest of the school in a few weeks. 😊



### Wanted!

Does anyone have any large plastic ice cream tubs that they would like to recycle? We would love to use them in our outdoor area, along with any unwanted pans, plastic cutlery (for the mud kitchen), shells and milk bottle tops. **I would really like some plastic bottles too – as many as possible as I need them for my Science lessons over the next 2 weeks!** Thank you!

## Obelisk investigation by Class 2

As part of our Science Topic, 'Light', we planned an investigation to see how shadow length and position changes throughout the day. As a link to our topic, Ancient Egypt, we explored what an obelisk is and used an obelisk to track the length and position of a shadow throughout the day.

We made predictions before we carried out our investigation and wrote a list of equipment and our scientific method. We thought about how we would make sure it was a fair test.

We waited for a day where it was going to be sunny all day long to carry out our investigation. We found out that the shadow was the longest in the morning at 9:15am and the shortest at 1:15pm and the shadows moved clockwise. To present our results we made a bar graph and wrote our conclusion for why we thought this happened.

Great work scientists of Class 2!

## Class 3

This week in our D.T. lesson we cooked some delicious South American-style empanadas to link in with this term's Geography topic - South America.

To make the filling for the empanadas we added tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, parmesan and olive oil and then we made our pastry using plain flour, butter, baking powder (although one group forgot to include it!) and a small amount of water. Lots of different cooking skills and techniques were required from chopping, mixing, measuring, weighing, rolling, shaping and combining ingredients.



Ashton said "I really enjoyed working with my table as a team. My dough was perfect, thanks to Josie for helping me out! I got to try new things like parmesan and basil. I have never sliced up mozzarella before so that was great.

Aaron said "It was amazing and I really enjoyed taking my time with the presentation and when my empanada came out of the oven it looked perfect and tasted delicious! I felt very proud of myself."

### **Message from the School Council**

We can confirm that Cotherstone Primary School are now the proud owners of two new butterfly houses! This was made possible by everyone who kindly donated funds following our non-school uniform day a few weeks ago. Thank you!



Sightings have been reported of butterflies already visiting and using them which is amazing and a fantastic addition to our magical garden.

### **After School Club**

As the warm weather continues the children have been able to end their school day with fun outdoor games with Jennifer, including football, cricket, den-making and games on the adventure trail and there's even been time for some colouring in and decorating ginger bread men!

### **Golden Ticket Lunchtime Awards**

Golden tickets this week were awarded to:

Aaron – for being a great team player during lunchtime play.

Summer – for always being polite to lunchtime staff.

Ryan – for his lovely manners and politeness at lunchtime.

Joss – for his kindness towards his fellow pupils.

### **Awards**

Class 1: Presentation award – Lydia. Star of the week - April for fantastic phonics work!

Class 2: Presentation award – Emmy. Star of the week – Henry for an excellent science investigation.

Class 3: Presentation award – Isolina. Star of the week – Ashton for his great enthusiasm and teamwork while cooking empanadas.

Well done to you all.

## Homework

**Class 1:** EYFS – Ordering to 20 cut and stick activity and letter formation.

Year 1 – Spellings, Money sheet and Spag mat.

Year 2 – Spellings. Telling the Time sheet and Spag mat


**Class 2:** Spellings. Ancient Egypt Topic Work- instructions for this are in Homework books.

Please continue to read at home as often as you can and write any reading you do at home in your child's/children's reading record. Raffle tickets are entered into our book raffle for the chance to win one of our fantastic books.

**Class 3:** Spellings. Maths mat. Art – create an image to accompany your Titanic poem.

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## Cotherstone Fun Weekend

 Cotherstone Fun Weekend is on the 23rd, 24th and 25th July 2021. Ducks and Raffle Tickets will be available available to purchase from Sarah Kowalski (raffle) and Kelly Green (ducks) every Friday in July on the green after school. They are £1 each! Thank you 🙏

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

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

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

25<sup>th</sup> June – Years 5 & 6 swimming

28<sup>th</sup> June – Week 1 of lunch menu

~~28<sup>th</sup> June – Class 1 Football Competition at Staindrop Academy – CANCELLED~~

~~29<sup>th</sup> June – Class 2 Cricket Competition at Staindrop Academy – CANCELLED~~

~~29<sup>th</sup> June – World Cup Football Competition at Staindrop Academy – CANCELLED~~

~~30<sup>th</sup> June – Class 3 Athletics Competition at Staindrop Academy – CANCELLED~~

w/c 12<sup>th</sup> July - DVD afternoon

12th July – Picnic Day with games and bubbles in bubbles!

13th July – Sports Day – school children only

14th July - Bridge Building Activity Day

15th July - Y5/6 Activity Day - The Hub

20<sup>th</sup> July - Y5/6 Leavers assembly to be filmed for parents