

Cotherstone Primary School
Newsletter 3rd December 2021

Thank you

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Kelly and her team at the Friends of Cotherstone School for all of their hard work. We really appreciate your support. Thank you!

Little Learners

'Little Learners' have had great fun this week. We started the week with a little snow, just about enough to make snow angels, but not enough for a snowman!

The children have continued to work hard making Christmas crafts to sell at the FOCS Christmas fayre. I think they did a great job! 😊



Class 1

Last week Miss Lee's cousin, William Maughan, came into school to talk to the children about food and farming and how crops are grown and turned into packaged food that we buy from off the shelves in shops.



William is an arable farmer from near Darlington and farms over 500 acres and also looks after a considerable number of free-range chickens. He spoke to both Key Stage 1 and 2 separately in their bubbles and brought along samples of crops and most importantly a new John Deere tractor which the children all thoroughly enjoyed sitting on. He gave the children a pencil and a workbook for KS1 from the NFU all to do with farming. We hope to welcome William back into school next year to learn more aspects about food and farming. Thank you William!

Class 2

In Class 2 this week, we have been investigating fractions of numbers including halves, quarters, thirds and eighths. We folded shapes and used cubes to help us understand.

We have been doing lots of reading and completed our class book - Danny the Champion of the World - and we all really enjoyed it!

In Geography, we have been learning about counties, what they are and why we have them. We then researched County Durham and found some famous landmarks and even some famous people!

We have also been working very hard creating some quality items to sell at the Christmas Fayre to help raise money for the Friends of Cotherstone School on Thursday. All this combined with practising carols for the carol service and rehearsing for the Christmas performance, it's been another busy week for the children. Well done! 😊

Class 3

Last Friday, we spent time developing our Art sketchbooks. We began by drawing a dragon's head and a dragon's eye with no further instruction than that. We then explored three shading techniques. After this, we explored developing a dragon's head drawing using proportions and shading. Class 3 were then able to compare this with their drawing they did at the beginning to see their development in sketching. We then moved on to exploring dragon eyes, we began by looking at a variety of dragon eyes and Class 3 used their sketchbook to sketch a variety of eyes they liked the features/colours/ patterns of using their shading techniques. The children will use these to develop their own dragon eye design by thinking about the different features of the eyes that they like.

We also spent time working on our handmade gifts to sell at the Christmas Fayre. We created hot chocolate stirrers and handmade Christmas decorations using pine cones and some using felt.

In History, we worked on an important skill called 'cause and effect'. We focused on the relationship between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We looked at some key events (the causes) and then thought about what the effect would be of these events. Class 3 really impressed me with their incredible discussions throughout this lesson!

Nativity

Our Nativity performances will take place on Tuesday 14th December. Early Years and Key Stage One's performance will take place in the school hall at 1:30pm. The Key Stage Two performance will be held at Cotherstone Village hall at 6pm.

Tickets for the performances can be purchased on the door at a cost of £2 per ticket or £5 for a family ticket. All proceeds will go to the Friends of Cotherstone School fund.

Refreshments will be available after the show.

Christingle

The Christingle Service in the village Church will take place on Wednesday 15th December. Early Years and Key Stage 1 parents are invited to attend the service at 1:30pm. Children can be collected at the end of the service. Key Stage 2 parents are invited to attend at 2:15pm. Children can be collected at the end of the service.



Children's Christmas Party



The Children's Christmas parties will take place on Thursday 16th December. Children are invited to wear Christmas party clothes on that day. Friends of Cotherstone School will be providing party food and treats.

Awards

Class 1: Star of the Week: Harry Green for being so kind and thoughtful to the younger members of the class. Presentation: Noah.

Class 2: Star of the Week: Reuben for recalling lots of facts about the UK. Presentation: Robby.

Class 3: Star of the Week: Owen for your incredible discussion in our History lesson. Presentation: All of Class 3 for their sketchbook presentation.

Lunchtime Golden Tickets

Class 1: April - for her politeness towards lunchtime staff. Calvin - for his great independent cutlery skills.

Class 2: Finley - for being a great friend.

Class 3: Thomas H - for always being polite to lunchtime staff.

After School Club

It's been go, go, go in after school club this week. Lots of games have been played and lots of fun has been had. Please ring the office if you would like your child to be involved.

Homework

Class 1: Homework - Please practise singing the songs for the nativity and learning any lines given. Reading for 5 minutes each night would also be great!

Please see individual child's folder.

Please continue to read with your child for 5 minutes each day – every little helps.

Class 2: Keep practising your lines (and the ones before - your cues). Maths: Times table practise
Geography: Can you find any facts to share about County Durham?

Class 3: Learn and rehearse your lines for the Nativity. Reading comprehension

Please continue to read with your child as often as possible and record this in their reading record. Thank you.



Friends of Cotherstone School

FOCS Christmas Raffle tickets are now available. They are £1 each. If you would like some please get in touch with Sarah Kowalski (07530039124) or any of the FOCS committee. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 15th December. There are some fantastic prizes to win and all money raised goes to Friends of Cotherstone School. Thank you!

FOCS would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our recent fundraising events.

We raised £128.05 at the Village Light Switch on; and at our Christmas Fayre the total raised was £457 - which is amazing!!!

Any unsold items made by the children will be available to purchase at the Christmas plays on the 14th December, where refreshments will also be served by FOCS. Entry for the play is £2 for adults and £5 for families.

Kelly Green – Chair to FOCS



Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Chris Matthewman and the Cotherstone Team

Dates for your diary:

w/c 6th December – Week 3 of lunch menu

7th December – Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

14th December – Class 1 Nativity 1:30pm in school

14th December – Class 2 & 3 Christmas play 6pm in the Village Hall

15th December – Christingle service at St Cuthbert's Church – Class1 at 1:30pm, Classes 2 & 3 at 2:15pm

16th December – Christmas party

16th December – School closes for Christmas break

16th December – FOCS Village Carol Singing 6pm. Meet at the school corner

17th December – FOCS Village Carol Singing 6pm. Meet at the school corner

5th January 2022 – School re-opens for Spring Term