



# Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter

## 11th March 2022

### Social Media and Ukraine

Watching the horrors of war unfold has been very difficult for many adults this week. TV and Radio news are full of information about the awful attacks on the Ukrainians and, perhaps one advantage of social media, is letting us all see what happens when one country invades another. Much of the information on TV has, to a certain extent, been sanitised with the most horrific content removed, this is not the case on social media. We have recently become concerned that some of our children are seeing horrific pictures and videos of the war, and some are struggling to cope with what they have seen. There is not one particular app or website that is worse than the others. Pictures and videos of the war are available on YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and probably lots of other social media sites too. In addition they are being reposted so they do not always come directly from The Ukraine. We strongly recommend you take some actions to help your children:

1. Discuss this with your children, have they seen upsetting content? Explain what you would like them to do if they see something scary. (Turn the device upside down and get either Mum, Dad or their carer – they are not in trouble).
2. Carefully consider what social media (if any) is suitable for your children. The minimum age for most platforms is 13 because the content providers cannot guarantee that it is suitable for a younger audience.
3. Set up parental controls on devices. Many apps have settings which try and limit the most graphic content – but even with safety features turned on, content is not guaranteed to be “child friendly”. The website “Internet Matters” <https://www.internetmatters.org/> is particularly useful in providing advice on most apps and security settings.
4. Talk and listen to your children. We can’t pretend this isn’t happening and they may well have questions and worries which are better discussed than kept secret.
5. If you have serious concerns then please talk to the school as staff there may be able to help, or it might be that other children from the school are equally affected.

## Lunch Money

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*Lunch money for this half term amounts to £64.75. Please send in payment by cheque made payable to Durham County Council, or cash. Thank you.*

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Thank you!

Following our recent Number Day and thanks to your kind donations we have sent a cheque off to the NSPCC for £34.35.

## Class 1 and 'Little Learners'



### Pre-school

We started off this week developing our gross motor control by having tyre races on the field and playground. The children thoroughly enjoyed this activity. We also started our new topic on 'Growing -in our garden' by having a walk around our school grounds to identify what plants we have (very few due to all the rabbits!). We have also been painting and drawing spring like flowers and learning new vocabulary related to them. We also planted some sunflower seeds and look forward to their growth. ☺

### Class 1

This week we have started our new topic in Science - Plants. The children have been learning about what materials are made by plants and how plants grow and develop. We look forward to growing a variety of plants and vegetables over the next few weeks.

We celebrated 'International Women's Day' on Tuesday 8th March and the children researched and read up on many inspirational women of the past and present.

We completed our DT topic last week by finishing off sewing and gluing our hand puppets. Above are a few of the completed ones. I think they did a super, sewing job. ☺

### Requests

Class 1 and Pre-school would greatly appreciate any of the following items that can be donated to enhance our topics; Plants and Growing.

Thank you in advance ☺

- Seeds (anything to grow!)
- Jam jars
- Bags of compost
- Plastic pots
- Plastic trays
- Garden tools such as forks/brushes/ trowels
- Gardening magazine
- Wheelbarrows

*Miss Lee*

## This week in Class 2

In Class 2 this week we have been planning and writing our 'Daily Life' stories based on the books No 1 Car Spotter and Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke. We have created a character, setting and incidents to write about and have written our first draft.

In Maths, we have been applying our number knowledge to column addition and subtraction of 3-digit numbers with Y4 exchanging. We now know that when we have a 'bigger bottom' we need to 'borrow'!

In History, we learned how, where and why the emperor Hadrian built his wall, in preparation for our trip to Vindolanda (full report next issue).

In Science, we investigated how muscles work with bones help us move and created moving models of our arms using card, split pins and elastic bands for muscles!

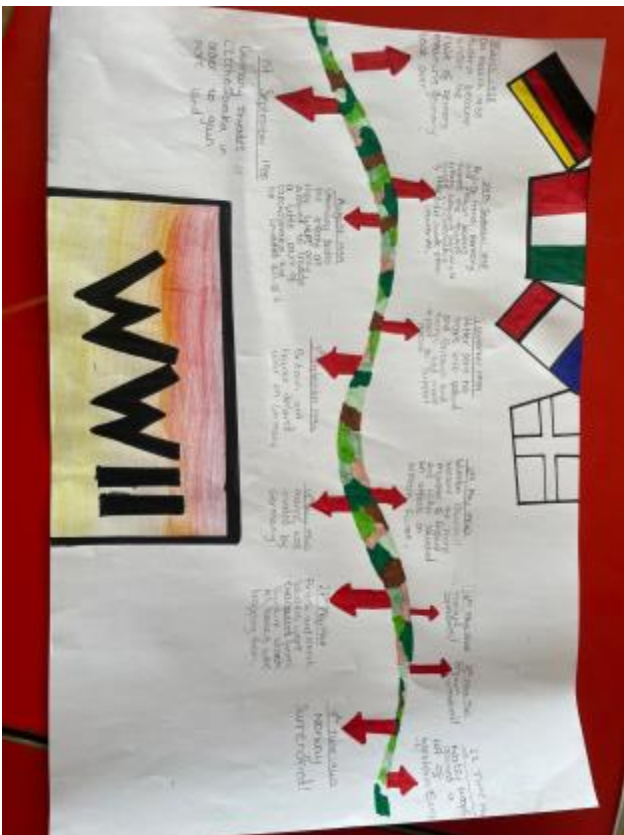
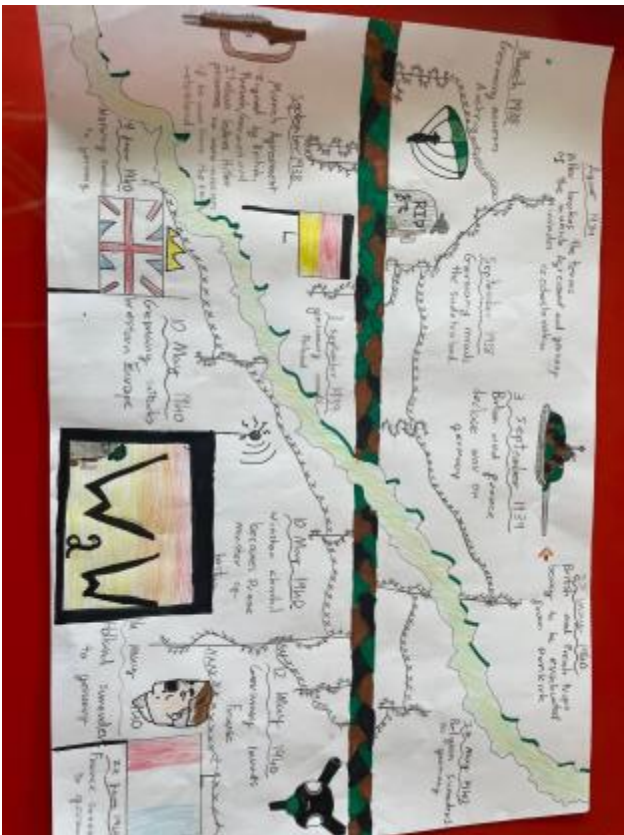
## This week in Class 3

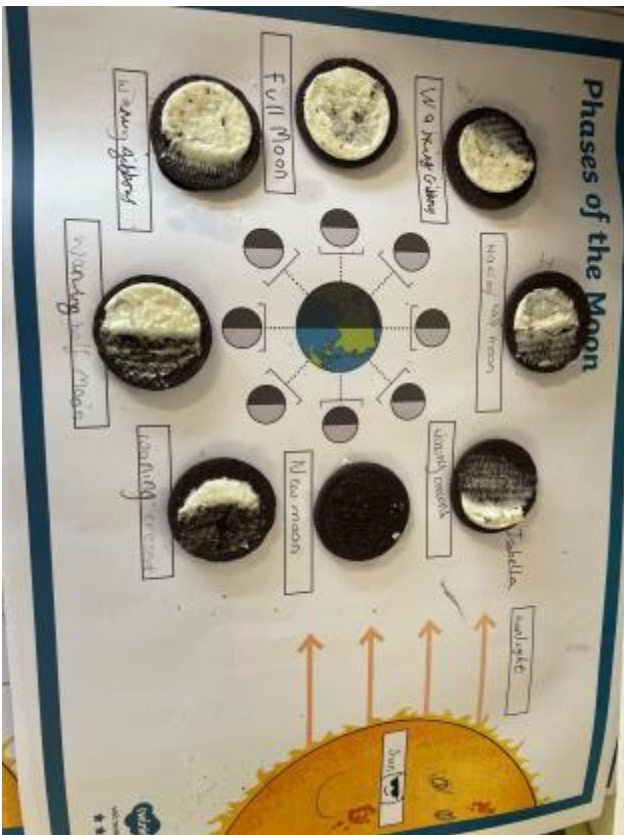
In Science this week we explored Day and Night- as part of this Class 3 created some fantastic animations using a globe, torch and lego figures! They then created fantastic explanation texts to explain the Science behind day and night and year 6 explored the seasons. We have had a busy week in science as we have also explored the phases of the moon. To do this Class 3 used Oreos to represent the 8 phases of the moon. We are now in the process of creating an explanation text of these phases.

Year 6's have started to do some quick burst SATS practice. This week they took part in a SPAG relay where they answered questions as part of a relay race.

We have started our World War Two topic in History. In our first lesson we looked at the question 'Why did WW2 begin and how were Britain involved?' We explored the early events of WW2 and we created fantastic timelines.









## Space Camp



We are excited that we will be holding our second Space Camp on Thursday 24th March. This will enhance Class 3's current Science topic, Earth and Space.

Early years and key stage one pupils (Class 1) will take part in a variety of space themed activities throughout the day.

Key stage two (Class 2 and 3) will take part in activities throughout Thursday and are then invited to stay in school for an indoor camp out on the Thursday night. They will then continue the space activities throughout Friday.

Parents are invited into school for a special space camp celebration assembly on Friday 25th March at 2:30pm.

More details including an itinerary, list of what the children will need for the overnight stay and consent forms have been sent home with key stage two children. The consent form attached to this needs to be returned by next Thursday 17th so we can arrange tents.

Class 1 pupils will take part in the activities throughout the normal school day.

## Science Week



As next week is Science Week children will be taking part in a variety of science activities. Read what we got up to in next week's newsletter!

## School Council News



First of all, we would like to introduce you to our new School Council for this term:

Isabella B - Chairperson, Aaron J - Vice Chairperson 1, Emmy B - Vice Chairperson 2, Brandon M - Treasurer, Reuben H - Secretary, Lissy L - Councillor, Elodie - Councillor, Noah - Councillor, Penny B - Councillor. We are really looking forward to supporting our fellow pupils in school by listening to them and to be a collective voice for any decision making, events, ideas that happen in our school life.

Also, we would like to say a massive thank you to you all for your generous donations for World Book Day. We raised £25 and the School Council have decided that this will be donated to the British Red Cross DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. This donation could provide:

- hygiene kits for three families of 5, giving them supplies to stay healthy for a month
- eight blankets to families taking shelter
- 40 chlorine tablets to ensure that families have access to clean, safe water.

In our next meeting, we will be planning our Comic Relief/Sports Relief day which is being held in school on the 18th March 2022.

Bye for now - The School Council

## The School Garden



In school this week.

The children have been eagerly volunteering to lend a helping hand in our school garden during break times and lunch times. They have been busy digging, clearing away leaves, trimming bushes and getting it ready for the planting and growing season.

## World Book Day Report by Chloe



For World Book Day we all dressed up as our favourite characters out of a book. We raised money for refugees in the Ukraine. Everybody had amazing ideas from Postman Pat and his cat (Indi and Sennen) to Bumfresh Billionaire Boy (Lydia) and quite a few Iron men here and there. We had lots of fun doing a variety of activities and reading our favourite books. It was a great day, and our photos are on display in this week's Teesdale Mercury.



### **Awards**

Class 1: Star of the Week: Annie for always having beautiful manners and taking part in all activities.  
Presentation: Peter.

Class 2: Star of the week: Kitty for trying really hard with her column addition and subtraction.  
Presentation: Thom.

Class 3: Star of the Week: Josie for a fantastic WW2 timeline. Presentation: Isolina.



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Thomas G - for being a great role model.

Thom H - for being a great help to lunchtime staff.

Joss - for his mature attitude.

Harry - for always being so kind to his younger class friends.

### **Homework**

Class 1 - Please see your child's homework folder. Please practise spellings each night.

Class 2 - Vindolanda work. Addition/subtraction problems. Spellings.

Class 3 - Y5- Spellings, Fractions and SPAG- past and present tense work Y6- Spellings, SATS Buster Reading, SATS buster Arithmetic



## After School Club

### TUESDAY DRAMA CLUB!

Does your child, fancy joining our drama club in after school club on Tuesdays?

Do they fancy trying their acting skills or even writing their own script?

If your child would like to join please speak to a member of staff or ring the office.



*1 - **Tonight** - FOCS meeting at The Fox & Hounds at 7:30pm*

*Week commencing 7th March - Week 2 of lunch menu*

*18th March - Sports Relief in school*

*24th March - Space Camp*

*25th March - 2:30pm Space Camp Assembly. All parents/carers welcome.*

## Friends of Cotherstone School

FOCS are holding an 'extraordinary meeting' tonight at 7.30pm in the Fox and Hounds. All welcome.

***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***