



From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

27 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

PLATINUM JUBILEE HALF TERM NEWSLETTER 2022



Introduction

2022 marks the 70th Anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne on 6 February 1952.

In her Accession Day message, the Queen said that she hoped the Platinum Jubilee would bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities. She said that the Jubilee "affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years". She thanked everyone for their support, loyalty and affection, and signed the message "Your Servant".

It is marvellous to see that our schools have been marking this momentous occasion with their work on The Queen and certain decades from her long and glorious reign. The "Street Parties" on the school fields will enable our children to share good food and good company, whilst thinking about their friends and families.

The period since Easter has flown by and our schools have seen a seamless transition with the departure of Mrs Matthewman, who is enjoying her retirement and the promotion of Mr Batchelor to Executive Headteacher on an interim basis. We all wish him well as he continues to take our schools forward with purpose.

Miss Thomas has also stepped up to the post of Deputy Headteacher in addition to her teaching responsibilities at Cotherstone School and Miss

Megan Heaviside has taken on the teaching responsibilities for Class 2 at Cotherstone.

Mrs Julie Turner has joined Cotherstone Little Learners and Mrs Jennifer Papworth has stepped up to a full-time role as a teaching assistant. Mrs Hannah Nixon has joined KS1 at Bowes.

All of these appointments have been made to ensure that your children continue to receive the high level of teaching and learning standards that you are all familiar with.

COVID-19

We are by no means out of the woods yet regarding COVID but the risk assessments that have been faithfully followed in school have reduced the risk of spread. Vigilance must remain however if we are to effectively control the virus.

School Activities

I have previously mentioned the joint activities, but please remember that the BCF allows both schools to retain their own identities and so a balanced curriculum is taught at both Bowes and Cotherstone.

Cotherstone

The Platinum Jubilee has been reflected in much of the learning over the past few weeks. However Little Learners have also been focusing work on mini-beasts and looking at worms in different materials.

Class 1 are excited about their new toilet and sink and have been studying landmarks in London. Class 2 visited Bowless and identified some great fossils. They have also been working on statistics.

Stacking Oreos with the record of a stack of 21 in 30 seconds was certainly impressive.

Class 3 worked tremendously hard with their SATS and deservedly received much praise and appreciation. It should be remembered that the impact of COVID over the past 2 years has meant that the children's education was impacted in a negative way and they have shown great resilience and fortitude in their application of the tests.

Bowes

First Steps have been thinking about good friends. Next Steps have been enjoying tag rugby lessons. Stepping Stones enjoyed their day at Bowless studying rocks and fossils.

Years 1 and 2 have started swimming lessons at the Sports Centre.

The important project on 'Toilet Twinning' with a facility in the Cote D'Ivoire has earned some valuable publicity. The important message "flushing away poverty, one toilet at a time" is a vital one.

Stepping Stones have continued the work learning about the Queen whilst Next Steps have been learning about time.

I was privileged to sit in with the children whilst they undertook their SATS papers and can attest to how well they did and the professional way that they completed the exacting papers.

We should not forget of course that the teaching staff were also instrumental in assisting them prior to the hard work that they put in over the week.

Friends of the Schools

The Friends of the two schools are charitable based organisations who exist solely to serve the interests of the children at both schools. Every penny raised for fundraising goes to their respective school to supplement educational excellence. Any additional parents/carers who wish to join either Friends organisation would be more than welcome.

Friends of Cotherstone School (FOCS)

Kelly Green is Chair, Rachel Atkinson Vice Chair, Claire Carr Treasurer and Vicky Hindle Secretary. Meetings are held in the Fox and Hounds in Cotherstone on a termly basis.

Friends of Bowes School (FOBS)

The FOBS lottery has now been launched and you can join through the Facebook page or by contacting committee members; Tina Bainbridge Chair, Vicky Addison Vice Chair, Laura Drew Treasurer or Peter Nicholls Secretary.

FOBS have recently provided a new floor easel for KS1 and provided the funds for the Jubilee celebrations in school.

Half Term holiday

It just remains for me, on behalf of the Governing Body, to wish you and your families well over the coming week and to look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 7th June. Please think about the teaching and staff over the holiday too.

Peter Nicholls

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