

From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

21 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **OCTOBER HALF TERM NEWSLETTER 2022**

### **Introduction**

This week we reach another half term, which will take us to Tuesday 1 November and the run up towards Christmas.

Much has been achieved this half term and of particular note have been those educational activities that have involved both schools in the Bowes Cotherstone Federation (BCF).

### **Collaborative events**

First day back after the summer holidays and both schools enjoyed day 3 of the Tour of Britain, which came through Cotherstone village on the route from Durham to Sunderland.



*A selection of photographs showing both schools enjoying the Tour of Britain. We were lucky with the weather too!*



After this joyous occasion, we bid a sad farewell on Thursday 8 September to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II aged 96. She has been succeeded by her son King Charles III and the Queen Consort.

Miss Gillard worked hard on behalf of the Federation to receive the International Schools Award for the period 2022-2025. This is a tremendous achievement and is a result of the hard work with our partner school in France.

Both schools also attended Barnard Castle Rugby club for an afternoon's training with a representative from Newcastle Falcons.

### **COVID-19**

Vigilance must remain high as winter approaches and COVID vaccine boosters and nasal influenza vaccines are available now.

### **School Activities**

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. This newsletter can only offer a snapshot of the myriad activities and events that the children enjoy.



## Cotherstone

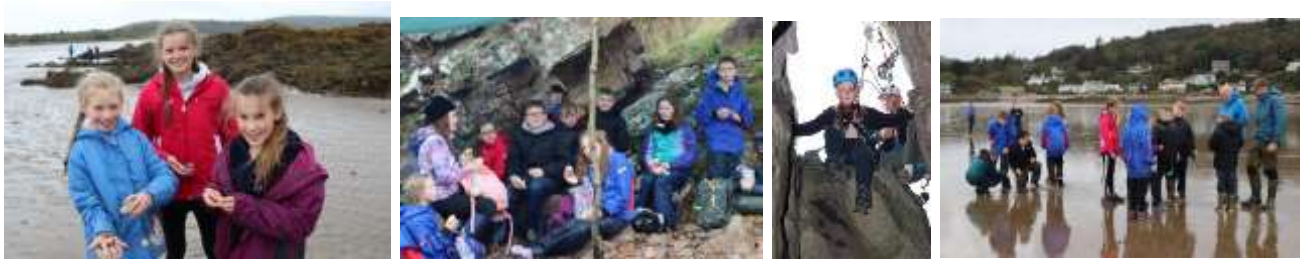
Cotherstone School enjoyed a whole school visit to the Newcastle Life Science Centre following a generous donation.

Cotherstone also have their Harvest Festival in St Cuthbert's Church on Friday 21 October at 2pm.

## Bowes

15 Bowes Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a residential educational experience in Scotland between 4-7 October. Staying at lodges in Barend near Sandy Hills the children were a credit to the school and to themselves. Their behaviour was impeccable and they thrived in the activities, which although designed with safety in mind, take them outside of their comfort zone.

Whether rockpooling, swimming, walking for over 5.5 miles in challenging weather conditions, crabbing from a pontoon or abseiling or rock climbing they approached every activity with enthusiasm and considerable courage and bravery.



*A selection of the incredible activities that the children enjoyed. Beachcombing, lunch under a tarpaulin and a break from the walking. abseiling, water activities in wet suits, camp fires on the beach and rock climbing. Special thanks to Mrs MacInnes for leading the residential.*



Bowes School held their Harvest Festival in St Giles' Church on Thursday 13 October with over 120 in attendance. The generous gifts of produce were auctioned on Monday evening 17 October in the Village Hall and raised £800 for church funds.

Produce has also been gifted to the Barnard Castle Foodbank. We are very grateful for these gifts and the generosity shown by everyone.

### **Teaching and Support Staff**

None of the above would be possible without the staff at both schools. They have once again ensured through their hard work, industry, commitment and professionalism that your children have received the quality of teaching and learning that we have come to expect from our small outstanding rural schools. Do remember your teachers this half term.

### **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)**

FOCS have recently helped the school by providing bird feeders and feed for the birds.

### **Friends of Bowes School (FOBS)**

FOBS are holding a Family Bingo night on Friday 18 November at 7pm in Bowes Village Hall. All welcome.

### **Future School Plans and Staffing Arrangements**

Both schools continue to plan ahead to enhance facilities and to maintain the high standards of educational excellence at Bowes and Cotherstone. I have also ensured that you have been kept fully informed of the recruitment arrangements for our new Headteacher.

The post of Executive Headteacher was readvertised in accordance with the regulations and the closing date for applications is 31 October and the interview date will be during the third week of November. All candidates will be considered under fair and open competition and the permanent appointment in the new year.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation (BCF) Governing Body to wish you and your families well over the half term break.

We look forward to welcoming you back in November.

*Peter Nicholls*

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