



Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter

7th October 2022

A message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

I promised to continue to update you with the progress of our recruitment campaign for our new Executive Headteacher.

Following the second round of advertising the BCF Governing Body carefully assessed the candidates against the essential criteria for the post.

At the shortlisting we selected a candidate for interview on Monday 26 September. The Governing Body carefully considered the merits of the candidate but were unable to appoint on this occasion.

Consequently we are re-advertising the post with a closing date of 31 October. The Governing Body will then conduct a shortlisting in early November and would hope to interview during the third week of November.

As you know when we learned that Mrs Matthewman was retiring at Easter we set in train comprehensive succession planning to enable Mr Batchelor to assume the HT role on an interim basis, to promote Miss Thomas to interim Deputy Headteacher at Cotherstone and to appoint a teacher Miss Heaviside to teach Class 2.

Bowes teaching arrangements remain unchanged.

These arrangements have ensured that these teachers may remain in place until a permanent HT is appointed

I will continue to update you as soon as I am able to do so.

Yours sincerely

Peter

P D NICHOLLS

Chair of the Governing Body

Packed Lunches

It's great to see children tucking into a healthy packed lunch each day. Please can we remind parents that if you're putting grapes in your child's lunch, please do cut them in half, as sadly they present a choking hazard.

Tag Rugby event

Year 5 and 6 have been invited to take part in a tag rugby event on Wednesday 12th October following the PE lessons they had with a Newcastle Falcons coach last term. Following an early lunch, we will travel by coach with pupils from Bowes to the Barnard Castle rugby pitch. We will return before the end of the school day. Please ensure PE kits are in school for this event.

Reading- Little Wandle- Parent workshop for Reception and Year 2

At Cotherstone Primary School, we believe that all our children can become fluent readers and writers. This is why this year we have implemented an outstanding phonics scheme, *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme.

Mark Siswick, who is the CO-CEO of the programme, attended Cotherstone school as a child and is playing a key role in continuing to develop the already high standard of phonics teaching in our school. As part of this he has sponsored both schools across the federation which has meant a complete refresh of reading books across the school!

We would like to invite parents of Reception and Year 2 children into school to attend a parent workshop to find out more about how your child is taught to read and how you can help support your child with their reading at home. This will take place on **Wednesday 19th October at 3:30pm** and will last for around 30 minutes.

This week in Class 2

This week in class 2 we have had lots of great learning opportunities! In literacy, we finished writing our non-chronological reports about our own creatures! Some very original ideas! To celebrate finishing our Literacy Shed clip 'Marshmallow' we shared some marshmallows at break time! We have now started our new book 'Journey' and we can't wait to get stuck in!

In maths, we are nearing the end of our place value work and have been working on ordering and comparing numbers (year 3) and Roman numerals (year 4).

In history, we have been exploring the different kinds of foods people in the Stone Age had and compared them. We have also looked at a Stone Age recipe for stewed fruit and we are looking forward to making it before half term break!

In science, we have been exploring vertebrates and invertebrates, you could ask them what each one means? We have also been looking at different types of skeletons and have started to create an information leaflet to share with the younger children in our school!

Finally, in art we have been making our own Stone Age clay pots, featuring a typical Stone Age design and these are now featured in our classroom for everyone to enjoy!



Awards

Class 1: Star of the Week: Chloe for fantastic story telling. Presentation award: Annie.

Class 2: Star of The Week: Penny for always being a super helper! Presentation: Reuben.

Class 3: Star of the Week: Thomas H for your enthusiasm for learning and contributions in class discussions. Presentation Award - Finley.



Lunchtime Awards

This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Isla S - for making a great start to lunchtimes at Cotherstone.

Peter - for always being polite to lunchtime staff.

Reuben - for volunteering to help Class 1 put their coats on for lunchtime play.

Sophie - for always taking care of her younger school friends at lunchtime.

Homework

Class 1: Reception - Please see individual folder. Year 2 - Spellings, reading and please see see individual folder

Class 2: To find out about diets in the Stone Age - To sort foods based on if they were 'hunted' or 'gathered' and to research other food Stone Age people hunted and gathered.

Class 3: Reading comprehension. Literacy- direct and indirect speech. Maths- recap of key learning Maths MatAwards



Dates for your diary

Week commencing 10th October - Week 3 of lunch menu

12th October - Class 3 to rugby competition

17th October - Key stage 2 to cross country

19th October - 'Little Wandle' Parents information evening 3:30pm in Class 1

20th October - Class 3 to multi-skills competition

21st October - School closes for half-term break

TUESDAY 1st November - School re-opens

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Richard Batchelor and the Cotherstone Team