



Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter 11th November 2022



2023 New Starters

Applications for a school place close on 15th January 2023. Click here ¹to apply for a place for your child here at Cotherstone Primary.

Celebrating Reading at Cotherstone

It has been amazing as Reading Lead to see all of the fantastic work going on both in school and at home as part of our reading curriculum. Here is a snapshot of all the wonderful work I have seen recently:

Little Wandle - we implemented a new phonics scheme in school in September. Our youngest readers are making excellent progress in their first few weeks of learning to read!

Whole Class Reading - Children in Year 2-6 have been busy in their Reading lessons exploring a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, articles and songs. In these reading lessons, we use reading VIPERS which is an acronym for the key reading skills to help support our pupils to understand what a good reader looks like and how to approach answering reading questions.

Group guided reading - small group sessions are being used across the school to develop fluency whilst reading, learn how to use expression and punctuation and also answer questions about a text.

Reading for pleasure - children have been enjoying daily opportunities to 'read for pleasure' either in their class reading corners or in our cosy library area.

Home reading - it has been great to see all of the reading the children are doing at home - this was particularly evident in our celebration assembly with all of the raffle tickets entered into the reading raffle. Please continue to keep writing a quick note in your child's reading record so that we can celebrate all of the reading they do at home ☺

Take a look at the school website to find out more about our reading curriculum ☺!
<https://www.cotherstone.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/reading-and-phonics/>²

If you have any questions about reading, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Miss Thomas

PE Days

Class 1 PE days are still Wednesday and Thursday - please can children continue to wear their PE kit to school.

Class 2 and 3 are swimming on a Monday and will do PE on a Friday - please can children have their full PE kit in school on Fridays.

Anti-Bullying Week- Odd Socks Day!

As part of Anti-Bullying week next week, we invite all children to wear odd socks to school on **Monday 14th November**. The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be

¹<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place-deadline-15-January-2023>

²<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cotherstone.durham.sch.uk%2F%2Fur-curriculum%2Freading-and-phonics%2F&data=05%201%20p2185.admin%40durhamlearning.net%2F4ab30289127b463f7e8408dac3167b04%2F5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%200%20638036798557989283%2FUnknown%20TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDEiLCJQIjoiv2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%203000%20%20%20&sdata=qoil6PJbOB7w4EVKvjOOKXZtPQs3oPY6Dch95OtrR0%3D&reserved=0>

allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way!

Parent Project Afternoon

On the afternoon of Friday 2nd December, we will be holding a Parent Project Afternoon. This is an opportunity to spend the afternoon in class with your child completing activities linked to their current topic. The afternoon will run from 1:30 -3pm.

Lunch Money

If you would like to pay for your child's lunches for this entire half term please send in payment of £81. Cheques should be made payable to Durham County Council.

Water Safety Week

The swimmers will be practising their life-saving skills at their session on Monday. Please send your child with a set of tight-fitting clothes, such as leggings, in addition to their usual swim kit. Please do not send onesies.

Class 2 news

We have had a busy first 2 weeks back in class 2!

In literacy, the children have blown me away with their incredible shape poems! Finishing the unit off with a great bee poem, that sends the reader an important message! You could ask them all about the threats bees are facing.

In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction. In year 3, the children have been adding and subtracting crossing 10 and have started to add two-digit numbers using the column method. In year 4, they have been adding and subtracting three-digit numbers with more than one exchange and have been looking at estimating answers and using their skills and known methods to check their answers.

Before the half term in history, the children explored food from the Stone Age and had the opportunity to make and try stewed fruit. It was a huge hit! You could ask them for the recipe and try it at home! Over the past couple of weeks, we have moved on to explore the Bronze Age and have been identifying key changes and events.

In science, we are continuing with our Living things and their habitats topic and have been using and creating classification keys. For our first classification key, we explored liquorice allsorts and created our own classification key, they then had the opportunity to have a look at their peers' keys and evaluate them. They got to try some of the liquorice, and it was NOT so much of a hit! The children then went on to create a classification key that incorporated all of the living things we found on our hunt before half term and their enthusiasm was great!

In art, we have been looking at Prehistoric art and have been exploring 'earthy' colours. We are looking forward to exploring this further. In PSHE we have been focusing on friendships and families and ahead of Anti-bullying week, the children have created some lovely acrostic poems!👍

From the School Council

Children in Need Day

Next Friday on the 18th of November 2022 will be Children in Need day. The School Council had a meeting earlier this week to discuss how we can support and raise some money for this day.

Therefore, they would like children to come to school wearing their pyjamas, something spotty or both - for a £1 donation.

We would also love to be able to hold a bake sale after school on Friday. So, any cake/biscuit donations would be gratefully received.

We are hoping to participate in a small ramble around Cotherstone (weather permitting) so please ensure children have an outdoor coat for this. Parents and carers are welcome to join us. We will be leaving school at 1:30pm.



Awards

Class 1: Star of the Week: Sophia for fantastic blending and reading. Presentation: Evie.

Class 2: Star of the week: Zara for trying really hard in all of her subjects and being really kind!
Presentation: Thea.

Class 3: Star of the Week: Jake for your excellent work on addition and subtraction. Presentation - Brandon.



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Tommy - for making a great start to lunchtimes at Cotherstone Primary

Rupert - for always remembering his manners

Claudette - for her kindness towards her younger classmates

Finn - for being a great role model

Homework

Class 1 - Please see your child's individual homework folder.

Class 2 - Stone Age quick write and spellings. Please try and do some reading too!

Class 3 - Spellings. Science- Living things and their Habitats activity. Literacy- Create your own shape poem of an animal

After School Club

Just to clarify the times of the various clubs we are currently running:

Tuesday - Art Club 3:15pm - 4pm £3

Wednesday - Football Club 3:15pm - 4pm £3

Thursday - Cookery Club (scone making) 3:15pm - 4:15pm £6 - We made sweet pizzas this week, which the children loved! Please see the pictures below.

If you haven't already done so, please get in touch if you would like to book your child into after school club.







Dates for your diary

w/c 14th November - Week 1 of lunch menu

w/c 14th November - Water safety week

18th November - Children in Need

2nd December - Parent Project Afternoon

Friday 9th December - Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.

Thursday 15th December - Preschool and key stage 1 Nativity featuring key stage 2 singers and Christmas Fayre.

Monday 19th December - Christingle at St Cuthbert's church at 10:30am.

Tuesday 20th December - School closes for Christmas break.

Thursday 5th January 2023 - school re-opens

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Richard Batchelor and the Cotherstone Team