



Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter

13th January 2023

An Introduction from the new interim Executive Head Teacher

My name is Lindsey Kidd and I have been teaching for 25 years across Newcastle, Darlington and Durham Local Authorities. During the last 15 years, I have been working as a Deputy Head Teacher and then as Head Teacher at Copeland Road Primary School. During the Spring Term, I will be based across all three schools until the substantive Head Teacher, Julie Gibson begins her role as a permanent Head Teacher for the Federation. I have been able to visit both schools and begin to meet your children and all of the staff. I have been made to feel very welcome by everyone and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and meeting parents and Governors as well.

School Lunches

For children in key stage 2 - To pay for this half term's lunches please send in payment of £72.00 by cheque, made payable to Durham County Council, or cash.

For children in preschool - please contact the school office to see how much lunches amount to for this half term. Thank you.

This week in Class 3

We have been reading our text, Malamander, in literacy this week. A 'Lost-and-Foundry' appeared in the reading corner full of mysterious objects which were left in 'The Grand Nautilus Hotel'. We learnt about how to use hyphens and created labels to describe the items. We talked about how a man eating shark has a very different meaning to a man-eating shark and how hyphens help us to avoid this ambiguity. We also explored colons for lists. This helped us to write an inventory for the items found in our Lost-and-Foundry.

In maths this week we have been focusing on our multiplication methods. We have learnt two methods used when multiplying a 2-digit number by 2 digits. The first was the area model (grid method) and then the expanded column method. Both methods require lots of mathematical thinking and steps and Class 3 made excellent progress using both methods. They were able to show this by solving some tricky problem solving and reasoning questions! Well done C3; superstars! They can show you these methods in their homework this week!

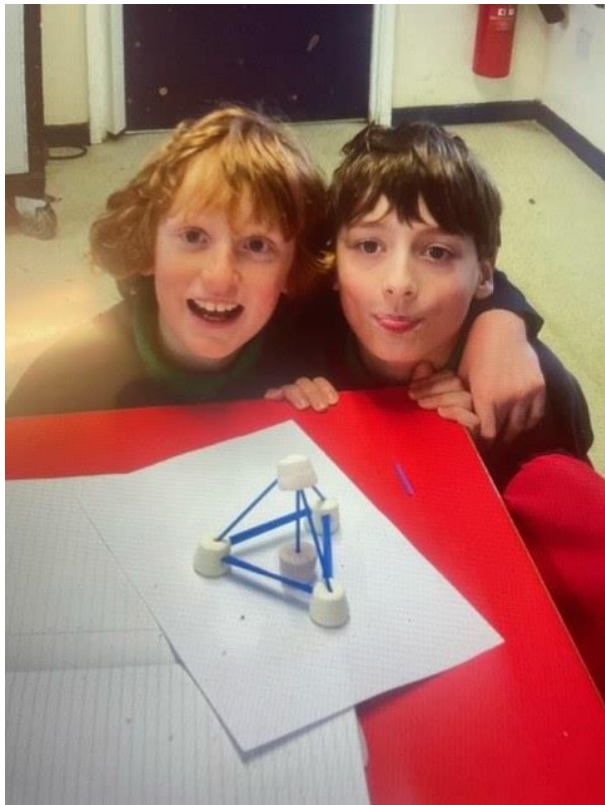
We had an amazing opportunity to use Virtual Reality Headsets last Friday! We went swimming with sharks (eek!), visited a Mayan temple and went to Dubai!

As part of our new science unit, Forces, we have been answering the question: What is gravity? To do this C3 planned and carried out their own scientific investigation by exploring if objects fall at the same rate. They decided on how they would investigate this by deciding on their equipment, considering fair testing and by making predictions. They then carried out the investigation and recorded their results in a way they preferred- graphs, tables and photos. As scientists, they explored the work of Sir Isaac Newton.

As geographers this week we have explored Earthquakes. We began by looking at the seismic monitoring system which showed us the earthquakes that had happened today, in the past two weeks, past month and past year. We discussed how earthquakes even happened on Christmas Day!! Class 3 then took part in three activities; they mapped earthquakes and their severity on a world map and carried out some research on some key earthquakes. Finally, they created their own 'stable, earthquake-resistant buildings' using marshmallows and straws. They tested the stability and structures of this on some JELLY! They considered how buildings should be built in earthquake-prone places.

Well done C3 - a busy, first full week back! You are all amazing 😊







FOREST SCHOOL -PRESCHOOL & CLASS 1

I am hoping too, weather permitting start Forest school activities initially with Preschool and Class 1 children on Monday afternoon. Please can your child bring in their own warm waterproof trousers/coat or all in one. They will also need wellingtons, hat and gloves for the session. We do have some waterproofs in school; however, they are very thin ones and not that warm. All clothing can be taken home each Monday. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Miss Lee



Awards

Class 1: Star of the Week: Sophia for fantastic blending, reading and sound work. Presentation: Noah.

Class 2: Star of The Week: Ryan for his excellent hot-seating in literacy. Presentation: Claudette.

Class 3: Star of the Week: Emmy for your brilliant maths work! Presentation: Thomas.



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Calvin - for his mature attitude

Thomas K for his lovely manners

Lydia for being a great role model

Henry for always being a great help to lunchtime staff

Homework

Class 1 - Please see individual homework books

Class 2 : Literacy - Adverbs. Maths - counting in 10s and 4 times table. Spellings.

Class 3 - Spellings- please practise every night. Maths- multiplicationHistory- do some research on Ancient Maya as we prepare to start our new topic.

After School Club

We are looking for new ideas for clubs to run in After School Club.

Suggestions welcome.



Dates for your diary

17th February - School closes for half term break

27th February - School re-opens

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Lindsey Kidd and the Cotherstone Team