



From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

17 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

FEBRUARY HALF TERM NEWSLETTER 2023

Introduction

As we prepare to enter this half term break it has been an eventful period since school returned for the New Year.

Mrs Lindsey Kidd is our interim Executive Headteacher within the Bowes Cotherstone Federation and will continue in this role until after Easter when Mrs Julie Gibson will become our new permanent Headteacher. We are indebted to Mrs Kidd for her hard work and endeavour to maintain continuity across both schools.

At Bowes Mrs Sue Scaife will, as you all know, be leaving us also at Easter after 24 years. Mrs Scaife has offered so much over the many years to Bowes Hutchinson's School and will be sadly missed by all.

The Governing Body has initiated the recruitment process for a new Deputy Headteacher and we are scheduled to conduct interviews on 31 March.

Now that Mr Batchelor and Miss Thomas have reverted to their permanent teaching positions within Cotherstone School, we have welcomed Miss Megan Heaviside to Bowes after the sterling work that she carried out at Cotherstone.

COVID-19

Omicron has proven to be more transmissible but less virulent than earlier strains but there is no room for complacency. Risk management plans must still be adhered to and hand washing regimes as rigorous as always. COVID remains within the community and must still be treated with caution.

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

You will have gathered from the school newsletters what a varied and interesting time the children have had this half term at school. Little Learners and Class 1 have learned about the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Water Rabbit. They have also started some valuable outdoor work connected with Forest School.

The Ancient Egyptians have proved to be most interesting to class 2 whilst Class 3 have produced some magnificent artwork.

Bowes

Bowes children in Class 1 have been learning about Kings, Queens and Castles – they even had a visit from a Medieval Queen and a number of children were able to dress in period clothes. Yasmin and a colleague visited to give a presentation about teeth. Class 2 also learned about the Ancient Egyptians and also did important work about ears. Class 3 considered the Blue Planet and learned about the Arctic and Antarctic.

Scholastic Book Fair will be 27 Feb – 3 Mar and the children can use their world book day vouchers towards the cost of books.

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)

FOBS AGM was held on 23 January. The new committee is Tina Bainbridge Chair, Vicky Addison Vice Chair, Laura Drew Treasurer, and Denise Marmont Secretary. Meetings are held in Bowes Club on a termly basis.

Teaching and Support Staff

I reinforce the message of the high esteem with which we hold the teaching and learning Staff of both schools. Their industry, commitment, professionalism and endeavour cannot be underestimated. Please continue to remember them over the half term break.

Enjoy the half Term. Please stay safe.

Peter Nicholls

P D NICHOLLS