



From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

Dear Parent/Carer,

EASTER NEWSLETTER 2023

Introduction

As we prepare to enter the Easter break, we have reluctantly said farewell to Mrs Scaife who has given so much over 23 years to Bowes School. I was fortunate enough to be on the interview panel that recruited Mrs Scaife on 26 May 2000 and at a celebratory assembly on Wednesday the children gave her a variety of superb gifts and mementos, so that she can remember the many happy years she spent at Bowes.

It was a particularly memorable occasion because Mrs Scaife remembered many of the children that she has taught over the years, several of whom now have children of their own at the school and notably one pupil who is now a teacher at Bowes!

We wish Mrs Scaife the very best in her future endeavours.

Mrs Kidd, who has been the Interim Executive Headteacher since January, is going to stay on within the Bowes Cotherstone Federation for one day per week during the Summer term. She will be able to offer valuable support to Mrs Gibson our new permanent Executive Headteacher, who formally takes up her appointment when our schools return on 18 April. We thank Mrs Kidd for her continued hard work and look forward to welcoming Mrs Gibson after Easter.

Succession Planning

On Friday 31 March the Governing Board will be conducting interviews to select the new Deputy Headteacher for Bowes. I hope to be able to give you all good news regarding an appointment after the Easter holidays.

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

Although this seems to have been a short half term the children have all been working hard. Little Learners and Class 1 have been learning about Dinosaurs and Fossils. I was reading today about a new exhibit in the Natural History Museum in London called Patagotitan mayorum. The largest Dinosaur ever found (to date) at 37metres long, the dinosaur is on display until next January.

Class 2 have been learning about a fantasy story called the dragon machine. Class 3 have been learning about the Mayan civilisation and played the deadliest ball game ever called Pok-A-Tok! Fortunately, they survived the ordeal.

Class 2 had a different version of Cinderella called Cinderella of the Nile.

Miss Lee arranged for Mrs Lamb to bring a Tiny lamb called "Fluffy" for the children to see.

Class 1 have been learning about the UK and the countries that make up the Union in Geography. Thanks to FOCS Miss Lee now has a smart new chair for Storytime with the children.

On Friday the children will be at St Cuthbert's Church for their Easter Service.

Bowes

Class 2 carried out experiments on apples to simulate mummification. The results after a few days were gruesome!

Everyone enjoyed World Book Day, the costumes were superb and more fun was had to celebrate Red Nose Day.

Liz Million artist/illustrator came into school for a special visit with the children. She also spent time with each class. Class 1 had fun with the Big Bad Wolf, Class 2 Cleopatra and Class 3 the Frozen World. A really enjoyable day for everyone.

Class 2 have been studying the Animals of Farthing Wood.

Last Wednesday the children had a special service with Penny to celebrate those who care for us or those that we care for.

This Thursday was the Easter service in Church with Revd David and 105 adults and children took part in the service and each received a Palm Cross.

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)

Tina Bainbridge is Chair, Vicky Addison Vice Chair, Laura Drew Treasurer and Denise Marmont Secretary. Meetings are held in Bowes Club.

Easter

Both schools are looking forward to the excitement of Egg rolling and decoration this week prior to the Easter Holidays. Of course Eastertime is often associated with Eggs which signify new life. Easter eggs are often used by Christians as a symbol for the Resurrection of Jesus.

Of course today they are more often made of chocolate and covered in foil and your children might well enjoy an Easter egg hunt over the Easter festival. If you do please enjoy yourselves and spare a thought for the School staff enjoying their well earned break in readiness for the forthcoming Summer Term.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation Governing Board, to wish you and your families well over the Easter period.

We look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays.

Peter Nicholls

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