



Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Gibson  
Chair of Governors: Mr P D Nicholls  
Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs A Butler



From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

26 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **WHITSUN HALF-TERM NEWSLETTER 2023**

### **Introduction**

As we prepare to enter this half term break it has been a busy period since our schools returned from the Easter holidays.

We welcomed Mrs Julie Gibson, our new Executive Headteacher, who has settled tremendously well into her new appointment. The transition period from Mrs Lindsey Kidd has been seamless, which is a credit to both Headteachers.

Immediately after the Whitsun holidays we will be welcoming Miss Sara Harrison, who is the new Deputy Headteacher at Bowes Hutchinson's C of E Aided School. We look forward to welcoming Miss Harrison to the Senior Leadership Team.

Also, at Bowes we will be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs Dorothy Hedley who will be retiring at the end of this academic year. I was fortunate to be on the panel that appointed Mrs Hedley more than 26 years ago. Dorothy has been an outstanding member of staff at Bowes school and her longevity of service has been exemplary. She will be sadly missed by all.

### **School Activities**

#### **Bowes**

Class 3 enjoyed a day of water-sports at Blackton Reservoir led by Rob and Rachel from Wilderness Outdoor Education. Although the weather could have been kinder all the children enjoyed themselves as can be seen from the photographs in the school newsletter.

The children also learned about starling murmurations. For about a month earlier in the Spring the early evening displays within the village were simply breath-taking.

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla the school enjoyed a Coronation Party which, because of the anticipated poor weather, was held in the Village Hall. The food and games were enjoyed by all.

On the afternoon of Sunday 7 May, there were two celebrations in the village. Firstly, Josh and Phoebe from school officially unveiled the two trees to Commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and then the village came together for a celebration party. There was also a village photograph which featured 159 villagers to mark the Coronation.

School received their International School Award with grateful thanks going to Miss Gillard for her hard work in securing the accreditation.

Class 1 started their project work on Farming and Class 2 the Tees/Swale project. Class 3 worked hard to mark National Numeracy Day.

### **Cotherstone**

Class 3 have been working hard in mathematics and studying 'The Highwayman' in literacy. They have also been working on 'Materials' in science with Miss Thomas.

The school also celebrated the Coronation with an afternoon of games on Friday 5 May. The decision to hold the event on the school field was a good one and the sun shone for the games and ice creams which went down a treat.

Class 2 worked on poetry based upon the 'Black Hat'.

On Tuesday 25 April, Miss Lee hosted a very special event. The 'Daremaster' team from CITV came to the school. Danny Murphy and Emily, the presenters, were both in school together with Chris the Producer and interpreter Lucy. This was a real coup for the school. The children loved the whole day and learned some British Sign Language; numbers, colours, fruit and undertook some of the real challenges that Danny had taken on the television. I was impressed with just how well the children showed their newly honed skills and how they interacted with Danny. Well done Miss Lee.

Little Learners have been going boldly into Space as astronauts. The whole school has also undertaken some fantastic work outdoors.

### **KS2 SATS Tuesday 9 – Friday 12 May**

The Standards and Testing Agency will tell you that children undertake these tests in order to produce national performance data. However, this does not tell the whole story. You may have recently read in your newspapers about the apparent controversy concerning some of the English papers in this year's KS2 SATS. I am unable to comment on that, but I am proud to say that having attended two days at each school for the English and Mathematics papers all the children undertook the tests professionally and with considerable enthusiasm. Miss Thomas and Mrs MacInnes plus all those support staff who kindly assisted ensured that the children worked their way through the

papers with great endeavour. What pleased me in particular was the supportive manner in which they undertook the papers and then hugged one another upon completion. Great team spirit in what is after all a testing time for all concerned.

**Annual Church Walk Tan Hill to St Giles' Church Bowes Saturday 3 June**

The final Saturday of the Whitsun holiday sees the staging of the walk which commences at the Tan Hill Inn at 1000hrs and finishes at St Giles' Church where light refreshments are laid on for the participants. All are welcome to attend and dogs accompanied by their owners are also most welcome. Please let school know if you are intending to walk.

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

We look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays.

*Peter Nicholls*

P D NICHOLLS