



# Cotherstone Primary Newsletter 17th November 2023

## **Poppy Appeal**

Thank you for sending in donations for the Poppy Appeal. You helped us raise a fantastic £60.35, which we will be sending off to the appeal next week.

## **School Lunch**

Lunches for the half term amount to £80. Please send in a cheque made payable to Durham County Council or cash.

## **This week in Class 1**

Class 1 and Preschool have had a very busy start back to school after half term. We all thoroughly enjoyed making our own 'Flanders Fields' at the top of our school grounds during Forest School last week. The children had to find two sticks each and then had the challenge of fastening them together

with either string or a pipe cleaner. They then used red wool to wrap diagonally one way then the other to make the flower. Finally we stuck them in the ground and reflected upon what we had made and why. In our previous Forest School session the children made their own name out of leaves! This proved to be challenging for most and lots of support and help was needed between themselves.













This week in EYFS we have been learning about 'Diwali' and making Rangoli patterns and diva lamps out of playdough. We listened to the story of Rama and Sita and have enjoyed listening to and dancing along to Indian music. We LOVE our new outdoor play area which is all one level now so we have no areas for slips or trips and all of the chippings and stones have gone 😊

In Class 1, we have started learning about Geography this half term. Our first lesson was looking at what our classroom looks like. We made 'messy maps' using lots of different materials found in our classroom

such as Lego, boxes, cubes etc. The children imagined they were looking down on the classroom like a 'birds eye' view and then labelled important parts of the classroom like tables and whiteboards etc. We then went for a good look around our school and created a pictogram of all the different areas in our school. Great work! 😊

In literacy, we have been using the poetry book 'The Lost words', and the children have created their own acrostic poems based on their names and then on a piece of nature. We have also been working on adjectives, verbs and basic punctuation such as capital letters and full stops.

In maths, we have been working on addition and subtraction, finding a part, number fact families and recording addition and subtraction sentences and also using the part-whole model.

In PSHE, we have been working on understanding our feelings and how to cope with them and then this week we have been working on steps to success, how to achieve something.

In computing, we have continued to be familiar with using a PC to open it up, shut down and use it effectively to type and play a game.

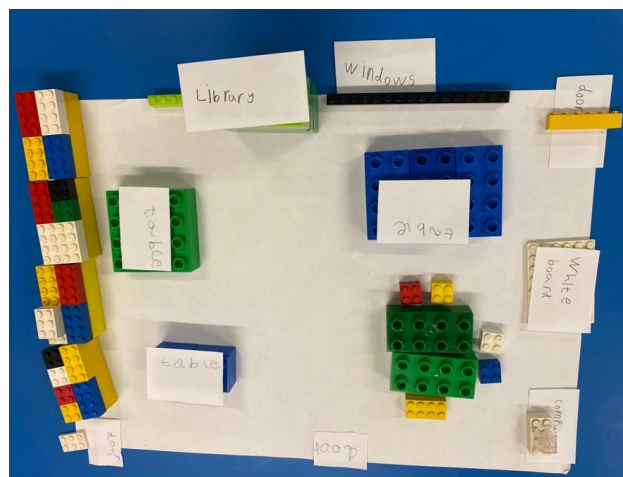
In science, we have started our topic on 'Seasonal changes'. We have discussed the seasons and focused on Spring this week. We found out what months are in Spring, what the weather is like and what typically happens in the Springtime.

In P.E we have continued our fantastic weekly sessions with the sports teacher from Staindrop Academy school focusing on multi-skills.

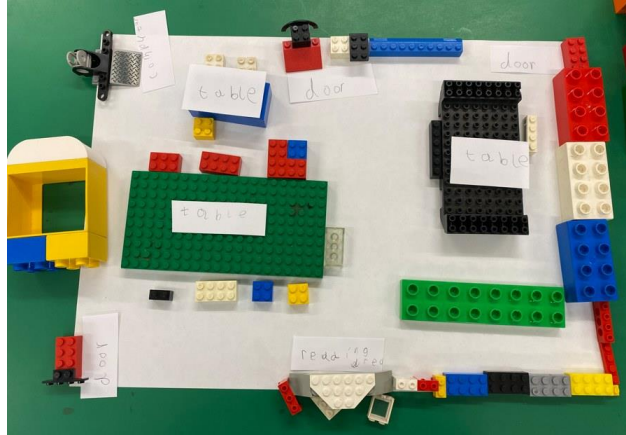
Phonics lessons are taught every morning and the children are making super progress with their reading, writing and sound work!

Overall, we have had a busy couple of weeks and look forward to next week starting to practice the Christmas play, to be performed in a few weeks time! Well done to all the children and thank you for having such a positive attitude to your work and school life!

Miss Lee







### **Awards**

Class 1: Star of the Week: Sonny for trying so hard with number formation. Sophia ST for her great 'Diwali' contributions.

Presentation: Annie

Class 2: Star of the Week: Scarlett for your fantastic fluency in maths work this week! Presentation: Joe

Class 3: Star of the Week: Penny for her excellent finds on our nature walk. Presentation: Jon



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Sophia C for her good manners

Thomas for always being polite to all lunchtime staff



Scarlett for looking after her younger school friends during lunchtime play

Finley for always being a great help to lunchtime staff

### **Homework**

Class 1: Please see your child's homework folder.

Class 2: Spellings. Maths: consolidation of this weeks activities. Reading comprehension.

Class 3: Science: Living processes question. Maths Y5: Fractions of quantities. Maths Y6: Equal fractions. Spellings.

### **After School Club**

If your child attends Cookery Club on Thursdays please ensure you send in a container so they can bring their cooked produce home. Next week the children will be making pizza.

### **Friends of Cotherstone School**

♥ Pamper Night - please remember to book your place with Rachel for next Thursday's pamper night - a night to chill before the chaos of Christmas. Treatments on offer are mini facial; hand massage; foot scrub; or foot reflexology taster offered by Claire Tellegan using Neals Yard or Rachel using Tropic products.

🎄 Christmas is coming early to Cotherstone this year with Santa making a guest appearance on Wednesday 22nd December at The Fox and Hounds. Come along, bring your brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents and enjoy Breakfast with Santa! All children will receive pancakes, juice and a Christmas gift from Santa and grown ups will receive croissants and coffee or tea. Once everyone has eaten, Santa will settle everyone down by the log fire and read a Christmas story.

Tables are booking up fast and we really hope you can join us to start the Christmas holidays in style. To book a table, please contact Laura Chandler 07803407951 / laurahunter100@hotmail.co.uk

📱 Whatsapp - Any parents not yet on the FOCS Information Whatsapp Group are welcome to send their mobile number through to our Facebook page or direct to any member of the FOCS Committee. It's helpful for weather warnings/school closure updates ❄️ as we come into winter and reminders of Christmas events at what can be a really busy time of year! 🎄 Only admin can post so the chat is relevant and monitored.

👛 Donations for raffle prizes for both adults and children would be hugely appreciated for various fundraising events over the festive period. If you could pass to any one of the committee members or leave at school that would be amazing!



### **Dates for your diary**

23rd November - FOCS Pamper Evening

27th November - Final swimming session

1st December - FOCS Christmas Fair and light switch-on

12th December - Christmas lunch

15th December - Key stage 1 Christmas performance

18th December - Christmas party

19th December - Christingle

19th December - School closes for Christmas break

22nd December - FOCS Breakfast with Santa

4th January - School opens for Spring Term

***Thank you for your continued support.***

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

***Mrs Gibson and the Cotherstone Team***