



BCF Vision: Believe,Aspire,Thrive,Together

From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2023

Introduction

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term and the 2023 Calendar year, it is well worth looking back on another momentous year. In particular the hard work and industry demonstrated by the children, their teaching and support staff and the respective Friends of the Schools has been commendable.

Sadly this Christmas at Bowes we are bidding a very sad farewell to Mrs MacInnes who has worked tirelessly for the school and children for over 12 years. Similarly Mr Scaife is also leaving after some 8 years and he will also be missed. Mr Copson is also leaving us at Christmas. We wish them all well in their future pursuits.

January will see the new arrival of Miss Amy Babington as the new Class 3 teacher at Bowes. We welcome her to the school and the Federation.

Teaching appointments continue to be made to maximise the teaching and learning opportunities for your children whilst ensuring the transitions are as seamless as possible.

We also mark in January, the third anniversary of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation (BCF) which has seen our two distinct schools, each with their own unique character, working together to ensure the best possible outcome for our pupils. Growing together, Learning together.

COVID-19

It is a salutary fact that COVID-19 has not been eradicated and it should also be noted that Influenza is also prevalent at this time of the year. The priority remains to safeguard individuals who may be at greater risk through underlying health issues or severely weakened immune systems. Please stay safe.

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.

This half term has seen the children remember the Armistice with their own poignant and respectful Assemblies on Monday 13 November at the morning in Cotherstone and in the afternoon at Bowes.

I was also lucky to be able to attend the Christmas Fayres at both schools. Cotherstone on Friday 1 December and Bowes on Thursday 14 December. The hard work and enthusiasm that goes into staging these events is a testament to pupils, staff, Governors and the local communities alike.

Nativity Plays

I had the privilege of attending the Nativity plays again this year. Bowes staged two performances of "Lights, Camel, Action" on Wednesday 6 December in Bowes Village Hall. Almost 170 attended the plays.

As this newsletter goes to press Cotherstone will be performing their Nativity play and I know that it too will be a huge success.

I am always humbled by the quality of the performances and we were royally entertained by children who acted superbly, learned their lines tremendously well, sang their hearts out, danced with great enthusiasm and wore their costumes with great distinction.

The teachers and support staff had relatively little time to put the plays together, but they should all be applauded for staging such professional and inspiring dramas.

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)

FOCS are fortunate once again to secure Santa's services so close to the big day and he will be appearing at the Fox and Hounds on Wednesday 20 December for Breakfast with Santa. Tickets are going fast.

Friends of Bowes School (FOBS)

The Nativity plays were hugely successful and £500 was raised.

The Wizard of Oz – The Witham

Both schools attended the production of the Wizard of Oz at the Witham on 14 December. We all journeyed down the Yellow Brick Road with Dorothy and her friends. The children and adults enjoyed the production and it was great fun to take over the theatre for a Christmas treat.

Christingle Services

Next Tuesday 19 December, both schools are holding their annual Christingle services. Revd Ruth Stables is leading the worship at Cotherstone at 0930hrs and Revd Linzi Blundell at Bowes at 2pm. Please come along, it is a special service with carols, the dressing of the crib, lighting the Advent Crown and of course the Christingles themselves. The children would love to see you there.

Teaching and Support Staff

Once again our grateful thanks go to those staff entrusted with the education of our children. When you sit down to your Christmas lunch with family members please think about the sacrifices made by the teaching and support staff within our schools and remember them as they too settle down to spend some quality time with their families.

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

We look forward to welcoming you and your children back in 2024.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Please stay safe.

Peter Nicholls

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