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BCF Vision: Believe, Aspire, Thrive, Together

From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

16 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

FEBRUARY HALF TERM NEWSLETTER 2024

Introduction

As we prepare to enter this half term break, it has been a very busy period since our schools returned for the New Year.

We will be welcoming Susan Bulmer to Bowes School immediately after the break. Susan, who has been volunteering at both schools since the Christmas holidays, will be employed as a Teaching Assistant.

Also at Bowes, a mother and daughter combination of lunchtime supervisors has seen Rosie Seymour sadly leave us, but she is replaced by her mother Ruth Allinson. We wish them both well in their new endeavours.

We also marked, 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. This gave the opportunity to re-vision the federation as we engaged "Believe, Aspire, Thrive, Together" within the schools.

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

Class 3 have been looking closely at UK Energy systems in Geography whilst in English they have been taking both a traditional and alternative view of such classics as The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

EYFS and Little Learners have been receiving some very special visitors with a vet, a doctor and a first-responder from the Emergency Services whilst a representative from the Mountain Rescue Team also visited. Together they worked with the children to give them a clearer understanding of the valuable work that they all carry out on our behalf. This combination of information and practical experience was invaluable for the children.

Class 2 have been looking at Ancient Greece, whilst the RSPB Big School Bird Watch was well observed.

'The Beehive', the new sensory room is coming along nicely. This will offer the children an invaluable space to enjoy in the future.

The recent seasonal weather also allowed the children to enjoy team building exercises and to build snowmen.

Bowes

Class 3 entertained a special visitor from Durham University to help them with their work on comparing landscape and population densities over the years.

Alan Turing, the brilliant mathematician and computer scientist, was the obvious choice for Numbers Day. The children have also been looking at the phases of the moon.

Governor, John Degnan, Bowes village local artist worked with the children to create their own artwork. Children also dressed up as what they would like to be career-wise when they grow up. Looking at the photographs it was encouraging to see how many wished to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects. Their enthusiasm was to be admired.

Class 1 looked at "Poles Apart", the journeys of a penguin family travelling around the world.

Two local police officers came to visit school as part of a PSHE session on jobs and people that help us.

Teaching and Support Staff

Once again our grateful thanks go to those staff entrusted with the education of our children. When you sit down with family members this week 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.

As we enter the period known as Lent, the time that Christians observe when Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. The word Lent is also a shortening of an old English word meaning "Spring Season", the snowdrops, daffodils and other spring flowers would suggest that Spring is indeed just around the corner.

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

Please stay safe.

Peter Nicholls
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