



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



Believe Aspire, Thrive, Together

Dear Parent/Carer

EASTER NEWSLETTER 2024

Introduction

As we prepare to enter the Easter holidays after what appears to have been the shortest half term on record, we are saying a temporary farewell to Miss Thomas and Miss Heaviside, who are about to start their respective maternity leave. We wish them both well at this very exciting time in their lives.

It is also good to see Mr Scaife back at Bowes on an occasional basis and we thank him for his continued service.

This Easter also marks Mrs Gibson's first year as our Executive Headteacher and everyone knows just what a very busy year it has been for her with two OFSTED inspections. We wish Mrs Gibson a deserved restful Easter break. Those of you at Cotherstone will be keen to learn about the result of the recent inspection and we are hoping to be able to share the published report with parents/carers upon return from the Easter holidays.

We have recently welcomed a new Governor Mrs Jane Wilkinson onto the Governing Board as a Foundation Governor. She brings a wealth of experience and key skills to the Board.

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

I notice that school issued the policy regarding children travelling in cars. I cannot stress enough the requirement for children to be suitably restrained in cars when undertaking any journey, however short it might be. Safety is paramount when transporting children in vehicles whether they are powered by petrol, diesel or EVs.

Class 2 have been busy measuring length and perimeters in maths and they have been problem solving by measuring the length of giraffes. They have also compared the story of the BFG with "Dreamgiver".

This was perfect preparation for World Book Day where the children undertook book reviews, shared books and read together. They also dressed up as their favourite characters from fiction or non-fiction books.

Space related activities got everyone in the mood for a really special Space Camp. I saw many of the costumes in Church on the Friday afternoon and many of the outfits were simply out of this world! Great stuff. I would highly recommend some of my favourite Sci-Fi films; "Back to the future" is simply a classic trilogy. Great Scott!

I was pleased to be able to attend the Celebration of our Mothers or that special person who cares for and looks after us Church Service at St Cuthbert's Church with Canon Matthew Pollard officiating. The children's contributions were brilliant. Incidentally the 15th of March marked St Cuthbert's day.

Bowes

I was pleased to note that the children are able to continue their swimming classes at Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre whilst Teesdale Leisure Centre is temporarily closed.

Class 2 has been learning about the Digestive system. In RE they worked hard considering the meaning of water linked to the meaning of the Holy Trinity and linking this to the significance of the baptism of Jesus.

Activities also included an outside times table relay in maths and working on their "Persuasive Poster" in English.

Some of the children took part in a netball tournament at Newton Aycliffe. Both the A and B teams finished second out of five schools winning four games each. Well done to all the competitors. Great achievement.

World Book Day was well observed and the costumes supported their favourite characters from their books really well.

I happened to be in school on Governor Sub Committee business on Wednesday 13th March and was fortunate enough to be able to join parents/carers watching the children take part in British Science week. Reception children made soda bread, Class 1 made some spectacular bird's nests whilst Class 2 made lava lamps and held balloon races in the Hall. Class 3 did some great work with batteries and noting the differences between wet and dry cell batteries.

As with Cotherstone I attended the church Celebration of our Mothers or that special person who cares for and looks after us service at St Giles' Church Bowes. It was a splendid service and the children contributed some heartfelt and special and meaningful thoughts to those special people.

Easter

Both schools are looking forward to the "egg excitement" of egg rolling and decoration next week prior to the Easter Holidays. (I am anticipating this of course).

Easter time is often associated with eggs which signifies new life. Easter eggs are often used by Christians as a symbol for the Resurrection of Jesus.

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.

Easter is a moveable feast and Easter Sunday or Easter day can be as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th. This year it is on 31st March.

Do not forget to put your clocks forward on 31st March when BST begins.

The recent improvement in the weather has been warmly welcomed and we hope that it continues.

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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