



# Coxhoe Communicator

July 2020



I need to start this very strange newsletter with a HUGE thank you to so many people!!

Our school year 2019-2020 has seen us face unprecedented times, bringing us many challenges. However, our Coxhoe family has not just risen to those challenges - they have smashed them. We are immensely proud of everyone in our family for showing determination and resilience, care and compassion, diligence and conscientiousness... but most of all... sticking together whilst staying apart!

**Our staff** have been amazingly creative in helping our children remotely. Lots of thought and discussion has gone into creating support that was right for different times throughout this period - from the initial choice activity board to the more structured daily tasks, holiday challenges, subject challenges, transition week and our final project for the last week of the year. We listened carefully to your feedback and adapted as we went. As well as working hard to provide the online learning - they have gone the extra mile in so many ways. I know that you will agree that coming together to create the videos, the prompt response to your calls, emails or tweets, making the phone calls home and the visits to deliver different packs have made a real difference. Alongside this, they have been in school since the day we closed, supporting vulnerable children and children whose parents were critical to the COVID19 response. Especially in those early stages of lockdown, when the situation was at peak.

Other staff in our team have also worked tirelessly throughout. This includes our wonderful admin team who have supported remotely, our Taylor Shaw staff and dinner staff who have continued to provide meals and hamper also and supporting with additional cleaning and our fabulous cleaning team.

A special shout out goes to the fantastic Mr Coils, our amazing caretaker, who has barely had a day off since Lockdown began. His cheery manner has kept both children and staff smiling through the ups and downs.

*Thank you!*

**Our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles....** all those adults who have helped our children to continue their home learning journey. We know that there have been good days and tricky days! You should be so proud of all that you have achieved for our children.

*Thank you!*

**Our Governors**, especially our chair, Kay Simpson, and our vice chair, Malcolm Smart, who have worked closely with SLT to provide support and monitor provision, safeguarding and wellbeing. The moral support they provided for our Senior Leadership Team has been invaluable!

*Thank you!*

Lastly but certainly not least, **our wonderful children!!** We have all been overwhelmed by how hard they have worked and how creative they have been in their home learning. We know that there have been times that it has been tricky for them - yet they have risen to the challenge. More importantly, we have seen them do it with a smile! I was delighted to award medals to our Home Learning Heroes who were nominated by their teachers for outstanding work during these difficult times. It was extremely difficult for them to choose because all of our children have been superstars in different ways. We have been very moved by how caring and kind they have been too - helping members of their families and their community.

*Thank you!*

Take care and stay safe, Mrs Bartle

*Jh Bartle*



## September Planning

Wider opening in June was a difficult time with intricate planning to reduce risks alongside providing a welcoming environment for our children. We know that it was not easy for parents too and we are very appreciative of the way that they have followed such stringent guidance to help keep everyone in our school family safe.

September is likely to bring mixed emotions for everyone. I know that staff are really excited about being back in their classrooms with their children - doing what they love. I know that children will be keen to be back at school with their Coxhoe family - we know from your feedback how much they have missed it too. I know that parents are looking forward to some routine back in their lives.

However, we do understand that everyone will have worries about the full re-opening of school. A thorough risk assessment is currently underway and new routines to support this will be put into place. As you will understand, this is a lengthy process if it is to be completed thoroughly and collaboratively. By working together, we can significantly reduce risks to keep everyone in our school family safe. Both the government and the Local Authority have provided guidance in recent days and this will no doubt be updated in the coming weeks with current information. We therefore intend to provide a detailed leaflet to offer guidance to parents by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of August. We are exploring as many different ideas as possible to support both social distancing and enhanced cleaning. Please bear with us as we continue to prepare.

In order to help with planning, we can share the following key information:

**A phased approach is planned for September to ensure that children settle in well and understand the essential new routines and rules. We have a CPD day on 1/9/20. Y5&6 children will return to school on 2/9/20. Y3 & 4 children will return to school on 3/9/20. Year 1 & 2 children will return to school on 4/9/20. Reception children will be visiting school with their parents throughout this first week but will not begin school until 7/9/20.**

Staggered start/end time - families with surnames A- ..... 8.35-8.50 start & 3.00pm finish; families with surnames - 8.50 - 9.05 and a 3.15 finish. Childminders and nurseries who drop off/pick up multiple children will be allocated a set time.

All PE is outdoors - school PE kit is compulsory (see website) and all children must have long bottoms. Coats may also be worn if necessary. Each bubble will have a PE day - and children will wear their PE kit for school. This will eliminate the need for PE kits to be stored in school and getting changed at school.

Children must not bring pencil cases/stationery from home. We are exploring an individual pack for each child with all of the essentials.

Children will be allowed to bring a packed lunch into school but we do ask that this is wiped clean every day and washed thoroughly each week.

## Home School Communication

You will no doubt have many questions and we are keen to keep channels of communication open. There will be lots of good practice that can come from this very difficult situation. The shared mailboxes are one of these: they will continue to provide an easy way for you to ask questions/share information with your child's class teacher. This will be helpful for parents who do not drop off or collect their children. Face to face meetings will not be possible in the Autumn term - although we will review this regularly. Brief messages can be shared face to face outdoors, such as passing over a first aid slip. We stress that we are always still very keen to talk to you about any concerns and telephone meetings can be arranged promptly.

If you have questions about the re-opening, please feel free to email over the holiday period. As an SLT, we will continue to review the documents, and plan so please bear with us. The mailboxes will be monitored regularly over the holidays, as are the answerphones. Please let us know if you have any concerns as this may feed into our risk assessment and practical planning for the new school year.

## Sporting Update

During the school closure I have been delighted to see and hear many of us having been keeping active. We have re-created famous sporting moments, held our own sports days and completed orienteering challenges around the local area. The staff have even been sent some challenges too for the summer break! Sedgefield SSP have been great providing us with ideas and they have come up with 42 activities to try over the summer. Check out the PE section on the learning hub for the link.

## Twitter

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been sharing their home learning adventures with us on Twitter. We have thoroughly enjoyed using this platform as a tool to share amazing ideas and achievements. Over the summer holidays, please feel free to continue to share your adventures via Twitter, retweets may not be as frequent but I will certainly be on there once a week. In September, teachers will continue to use Twitter but in a slightly different way: we will be sharing achievements in class but also posting to try to reach out to authors, scientists, mathematicians and many other influential

## Year 6

This time of year is always tinged with sadness as we say our fond farewells to our Year 6 children. This year brings a great deal more sadness as we have not had the opportunity to spend the summer with Year 6 - enjoying all of the fabulous traditional Year 6 activities. Yet our Lockdown Leavers have made us immensely proud: they have continued to show determination, diligence and resilience throughout this period of uncertainty. This shows just how ready they are for the next step in their journey and we know that as a school family you will join us in wishing them well 'virtually'.

As a school, we have tried to create some 'new' special moments for them: visiting them with their Lockdown SATS accompanied by a treat; delivering their personalised Lockdown Leavers mug along with their school report; creating a Year 6 video to remember; creating a fabulous yearbook with some wonderful photographs and messages and finally, we are organising a socially distanced picnic on our school field before they begin their new school journey.

They may have missed out on some opportunities but they are creating new memories - our Lockdown Leavers of 2020 will certainly not be forgotten!

## Online Safety

During lockdown, we have been using technology more and more - we would like to thank you for continuing to share our vision and working together to ensure our children remain safe internet users. As we go into the summer holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of remaining vigilant when it comes to using the internet. As we continue to live in an ever-changing digital world, we strive to support you in keeping up-to-date with the latest changes, crazes and tips surrounding online safety, however, if you have any concerns during the holidays, please remember there are lots of resources out there to support - take a look at our website page for more information.

## Hello, Goodbye & Baby bumps!

As you are aware, we are saying goodbye to two fabulous members of our school family this year. We have had a few tears in school this week but we know that they will keep in touch. Please join me in thanking Mrs Jefferson and Mrs Richardson for all that they have given to our school family.

We are delighted to welcome three new members of staff to our family. Miss Read will be teaching in Year 3/4, Mrs Marsden will be teaching groups of children in Year 5/6 and Mrs Bell will be a new teaching assistant supporting in KS1.

We have two new Coxhoe babies on their way: Miss Pearn and Mrs O'Sullivan will be going on maternity leave in December.

## School Gateway

Reminder, as of the 3rd of September all school related communications will only be accessible via School Gateway. Download the app for free by searching "School Gateway" in your app store. We are very excited about communicating through the gateway as messages can be sent to individual classes/groups. Clubs, trips and school lunches will all be paid through School Gateway. Please email the school if you have any problems signing up.

## Office Reminders

- The link to order new uniform is available on our school website (please check school uniform guidance on the website before purchasing new uniform)
- Dinner money is increasing to £2.10 per day
- Reminder that children moving from year 2 to 3 will begin to pay for school lunches.
- Medication All medication must be returned to school on the child's first day back. Miss Dunkley will be waiting outside the school office to collect this. New forms will need to be completed at this time.