



# Coxhoe Communicator

September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are absolutely thrilled to be welcoming our family back to school. Whilst we know that things will be different and we have many new 'normals' to adjust to, we know that together we can make this work.

We would like to say a huge thank you for all the support that you gave to your children during lockdown and for the wonderful way that our school family managed to stay together whilst apart.

We have worked extremely hard over the summer to prepare for these next steps and we hope that you found the detailed leaflet helpful. We know that it was packed full of information and needed lots of digesting – but sharing this is vital to ensure the safety of our children, our staff and our community.

All of the practice that has been put in place will be reviewed continually. We really appreciate any feedback and this will inform how we continue to develop and move forward. However, we do know that there will be some routines that are not as convenient but, like in all aspects of our lives, these changes are essential to reduce risk of infection and stop the spread of Coronavirus. The leaflet and risk assessment, as well as adapted policies, are all available on the website.

We know that many of our children will be very excited about returning to school but it is natural, especially during these unprecedented times, to have some worries about returning after such an extended period of time. The wellbeing of our children is our priority as we help them settle back into a new 'normal' school life. We have a huge amount in place to support our children and will share our 'Recovery Curriculum' in more detail in the coming weeks. Planning for the first few weeks has incorporated additional time for PSHE and staff will be responsive to the needs of our children. If you have not yet done so, please complete the very short Return to School Survey on the home page of the website. Thank you for your support in this – the information is really helpful in helping us to support children in the coming weeks. Academically, we know that children will have gaps in their learning and will be monitoring this and adapting teaching and learning to help children meet their full potential.

As you will see below – planning for the new term has required lots of adaptations to our normal arrangements. However – we are striving to find ways around each and every challenge, offering things in different ways.



## Staffing Update

Due to circumstances beyond our control, a last-minute change of staffing has been implemented. We have considered the impact on children very carefully in the changes made. Miss Pearn will no longer be teaching in Reception in September. We have appointed a new teacher for the autumn term – Mrs Spiers – and we know that you will welcome her into our Coxhoe family.

In Milne class, Mrs Fahey and Miss Pearn will now be the class teachers. Miss Pearn will also provide additional support for children across Year 2 in their return to school.

Mrs Skaife will be supporting children in KS2, classes Morpurgo, Rowling, Walliams, Dickens, Tolkien & Shakespeare, in their return to school.

Our other four new members of staff are very excited to begin their journey at Coxhoe primary school and we are looking forward to them becoming part of our School family. Lots of luck Mrs Spiers, Miss Read, Mrs Marsden and Mrs Bell.

## Home School Communication – The School Gateway

All Home-School communication will be moved over to the School Gateway on the 1st September. In order to ensure that everyone can access crucial communication Tuesday to Friday - all messages will be sent on both platforms, the School Gateway (our new app) and School Jotter (our current app). If you have not done so, please make sure that you download and sign up for the School Gateway app. If you have not shared your email using the survey on the home page of the website - you may not be able to register. A test message has been sent this morning on both platforms. If you have signed up and are having any difficulties/not receiving messages - you will need to contact the office and speak to Miss Dunkley this week.

The School Gateway will also be used to improve efficiency across aspects of school life such as Breakfast Club. Messages can also be sent to groups or even individuals so should make the communication more effective.

## Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 4.00pm

This is a great way for you to get to know a little more about your child's new teacher and to find out more about class routines/activities. As the current restrictions prevent this from happening in the usual way, we will be delivering this virtually. More information will be provided nearer the time. Please ensure that school has your up-to-date email address.

## Sports Report

The recent school closure provided a great opportunity to be more active and explore the outdoors. Families have unearthed new walks and learned lots of new skills. Let's all keep this going! Rowing class will be exploring lots of ways to continue this and share ideas of ways to stay active at home.

In school the normal sporting competitions for the Autumn term have been put on hold meaning that the football and cross country leagues won't begin until 2021. Don't be disappointed, as instead we will be hosting our own competitions in school. Which class will win the battle of the bubbles?

Reminder – children will attend school wearing their full PE kit 1 day per week. Both of their PE lessons will be held on that day. The school PE kit is compulsory – the T shirt and the hoodie – these are the only branded items that we require and they are very reasonably priced.

PE days are as follows and will begin in week 2:

Monday- Milne/Dahl/Donaldson/Mckee

Tuesday- Walliams/Morpurgo/Rowling

Wednesday-Hargreaves/Rosen

Thursday-

Friday-Dickens/Tolkien/Shakespeare

## MacMillan Coffee Morning – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

We know that as a school family, we are all very keen to support this amazing event. After careful consideration we would like to trial having an adapted event so that we can continue our support for this amazing charity that touches the lives of so many.

We hope to hold an outdoor event with spaced seating and use track and trace in the same way that we would if visiting a coffee shop. We invite families and staff to donate with store bought or home-made cakes/biscuits – so that we are able to offer the option of either to our customers. More information will follow nearer the time.

## Building Developments

### A Mezzanine Floor

We have been very busy over the summer holidays with some exciting new developments. As a school we have grown considerably over recent years to meet the needs of our growing community. We have liaised closely with an architect to help us create more space so that we can provide the best opportunities for our children.

A new mezzanine floor has been designed and built in Shakespeare classroom. Despite a very challenging schedule, the work has been completed and we are absolutely delighted with the results. This provides us with a larger shared upstairs space that offers a wealth of opportunities for our creative team to provide many more opportunities for our growing family.

Lookout for a reveal on the website soon.

### **Library Makeover & a home for Cooper**

Our library has long been due a make-over and it had been planned for this summer. Our amazing staff have been working over the summer to bring a vision of a more interactive learning space for all aspects of the curriculum. A home for Cooper is also an important part of this re-development. It is coming to life and the grand opening will take place in a few weeks. Look out on the website to find out more.

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