



Coxhoe Communicator

Spring 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a very busy and successful Summer 1 half-term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together as a school community.

Our amazing office team work hard to keep our school diary up to date and to send regular communications to support families as much as possible. These updates are designed to help you plan ahead and feel informed and we appreciate the time and effort parents and carers take to read and keep track of these messages. As we move through the summer term, the diary will only become busier with trips, events and celebrations, so thank you in advance for your continued support.



Firstly, I want to say a heartfelt thank you for your immense support during our recent Ofsted inspection. The kindness, encouragement and positivity shown both in person and in the survey by our families made a real difference. We are incredibly proud of our school and we are very much looking forward to sharing the report with you all in the near future. We must also say how proud we are of our children. They showcased our school values beautifully, demonstrating confidence, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the inspection process.

A very special mention this week goes to our Year 6 children, who approached their SATs week with determination and maturity. They have worked incredibly hard and should be so proud of themselves for striving to do their absolute best. I would also like to extend my thanks to our dedicated staff team, who ensured that SATs week was a calm, supportive and positive experience for all. Their care and commitment made a real difference. Thank you too to our Year 6 families, whose encouragement and support helped the children feel confident and ready. We were also delighted to enjoy such a fantastic Sports Day this week – and with some actual sunshine too! It was wonderful to see so many families come together to celebrate the children's efforts, teamwork and sporting spirit. Events like this truly highlight what a strong and supportive school family we have.

As we move into the next half-term and hope for more warm weather, please remember to support us in keeping children safe in the sun:

- Apply sun cream before school
- Children are welcome to bring sun cream to top up during the day
- Please ensure your child brings a hat
- Water bottles should be in school every day

As we head into the next half-term, we are excited for more learning, opportunities and celebrations together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely break when it arrives,

Mrs Bartle

Sports Report

Children in Year 1 to Year 3 recently enjoyed an exciting skipping workshop delivered by Skipping School. They practiced key individual skipping techniques, learned how to skip with a partner, and took part in a range of fun group games using the long rope. Our Activators also received training in skipping activities, which they now help to run at playtimes. It's been great to see so many children continuing to skip during playtimes.

All year groups have now taken part in our Mini Olympics sessions that were organised and led by our coach from Simply Sport. Children competed in small teams across a variety of events, putting into practice the skills they have developed in PE lessons throughout the year. Teams earned points in each event, which were combined to determine the overall winners. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, showing great teamwork and enthusiasm. These intra-school competitions contribute towards our School Games Mark application, and we are very proud to be working towards maintaining our Gold Award.



Sports Day was a fantastic success and a wonderful celebration of sport and teamwork across the school. Children competed enthusiastically in a range of individual events, including the sprint, howler throw and obstacle course, as well as team events such as the water run and target throwing/netball. We were extremely proud of the teamwork, determination and sportsmanship demonstrated by all of the children throughout the day. A huge thank you to all of our families who attended and cheered on the children during the day. Your support helped to create such a positive atmosphere and we thoroughly enjoyed the parents' races! We have continued to celebrate these achievements further in our Celebration Assembly today, where one child from each class received a Sports Day certificate in recognition of their effort and participation.

Attendance

We kindly remind you of the importance of notifying the school if your child is going to be absent. To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, please call the school office **before 9:00 AM** on the day of the absence. **This is part of our school policy; if we are unable to make contact with you, we may need to conduct a home visit.**

Early notification allows us to accurately record attendance and promptly follow up on any unexplained absences. If we do not hear from you, we will need to contact you to confirm your child's whereabouts. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe and informed.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance please get in touch with Miss Armstrong via the school office who will be happy to discuss this further with you.

Transition to Secondary School

Year 6 children will have now been allocated their secondary school place for September. Look out for dates / times of transition events in the upcoming months. Should you have any queries please contact Miss Armstrong via the school office.

Y4 Sweet Treat Friday

Our Year 4 pupils from Walliams and Rowling Class held a fantastic bake sale last week and what a success it was! Families and staff were treated to a delicious selection of homemade cakes, biscuits, and sweet treats, all lovingly prepared by the children and their families. The sale was incredibly well supported, with eager customers lining the yard to enjoy the goodies and support a great cause. Thank you to all who supported for their generosity.

Residential Visits

We are having another year full of exciting and enriching opportunities for our children both in the classroom and beyond. The visits for our children this year are:

Year 6: London	Monday 22nd June – Wednesday 24th June The deadline has now passed for children to attend this trip.
Year 3: Camping	Outdoors Adventure - Monday 6th July – Tuesday 7th July The deadline has now passed for children to attend this trip. Please note the final payment for this trip is due 1st June 2026.
Year 2: Late night stay	Friday 10th July. More information for this trip coming soon.

Did you know that FOCPS (Friends of Coxhoe Primary School) cover the cost of transport for our residential trips? Without the contribution from FOCPS the total cost of the Weardale residential in November would have increased from £170 to over £200.

Stay and Play in the Community Hub

Our recent Stay and Play session was a wonderful success. It was fantastic to see so many families and members of the wider community joining us to explore activities, play alongside the children and share in such a joyful morning. Look out for our next session.

Epilepsy Awareness Day

A huge thank you to everyone that contributed towards Epilepsy Awareness Day. Children wore purple and learnt more about Epilepsy in class. It's not too late to donate, head to the website below if you would like to contribute.

<https://www.youngpilepsy.org.uk/get-involved/give-money/donate-today-to-support-young-people-with-epilepsy>

County Durham Family Hubs

Don't forget County Durham Family Hubs offer parenting advice, activities, health services, and practical help for children and young people of all ages. Pop in, connect and discover what's on in your local hub. They have so much on over May half term! For further information follow the link: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs>

Medical Appointments During the School Day

To help us keep accurate attendance records, we request that medical evidence is provided for any medical appointments that take place during the school day. An appointment letter or screenshot of a text message can be emailed to the office at coxhoe@durhamlearning.net or we can take a photocopy of a letter or appointment card. Please ensure that the school office is notified of the appointment in advance. Thank you for your continued support. Coxhoe Primary School.

Clubs

Our Summer 1 after-school clubs have now come to an end; it has been great to see children enjoying a wide range of activities. Please take a moment to look over the Summer 2 clubs offer.

Bookings are currently open and close on Tuesday 2nd June at 2pm.

Reminder

A polite reminder that all payments to school are required to be paid in advance; parents and carers must not carry outstanding balances or owe money unless a payment plan is in place i.e for residential trips. If you are having trouble making payments or would like help or advice, please contact the school office.

New starters – September 2026

We are excited to have received the list of children who will be starting school with us in September and are very much looking forward to welcoming them and their families into our school family. Preparations are already underway for a range of transition events to help ensure a smooth and positive start to school life.

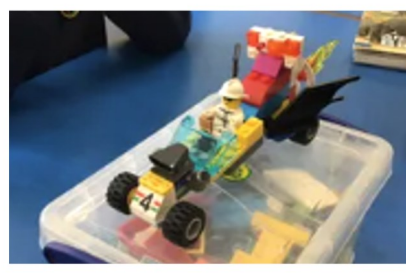
Families of new starters should have now received an information pack, which includes details about upcoming transition events.

App and Email Messages

Please make sure that you check app and email messages regularly. School Gateway will stop sending notifications for messages if 3 or more messages in a row are not read. If you are having trouble receiving messages, please contact the school office as soon as possible to make sure you do not miss any important information and so we can investigate any problems for you.

Y4 Nissan Workshop

Year 4 recently enjoyed an exciting workshop with Nissan. During the session, pupils designed and built their own vehicles using LEGO, showcasing fantastic creativity and teamwork. They also explored innovative ideas about what vehicles might look like in the future, sparking thoughtful



Safeguarding at Coxhoe Primary School: Keeping Our Children Safe

At Coxhoe Primary School, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where every child feels secure, valued, and supported. Safeguarding means protecting children from harm, ensuring their wellbeing, and helping them grow up with the best possible opportunities. It's not just about responding to concerns—it's about creating a culture of vigilance, care, and trust.

Meet Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

If you ever have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to speak to one of our trained safeguarding leads:

- Mrs Bartle
- Mrs Caygill
- Mr Hopson
- Miss Armstrong
- Mrs Barron
- Mrs Tufts

They are specially trained to deal with safeguarding concerns and will ensure that any issues are handled sensitively and appropriately.

What Should Parents Do If They Have a Concern?

If you're worried about a child, whether it's your own or another, you can:

- **Speak to a DSL directly** at school.
- **Call the school office** and ask to speak to someone about a safeguarding concern.
- **Email the school** with your concern, marking it as confidential
-

All concerns are taken seriously and dealt with in line with our safeguarding policy.

Together, we can ensure that Coxhoe Primary remains a safe and happy place for all our children to learn and grow.

SEND and Inclusion

Question of the Month: How will school support my child with additional transition to a new year group or key stage?

We know that moving to a new class or key stage can feel like a big change, especially for children who benefit from additional support. To help make this transition as smooth and positive as possible, we begin our enhanced transition programme after half term.

During this time, children will have **more opportunities to spend time with their new teacher**, helping to build familiarity and trust. We also plan **structured transition activities**, which may include short visits to new classrooms, meeting new staff and practicing new routines in a calm and supportive way.

Children will be given the chance to **get to know their new learning environment**, including where things are kept, what the daily timetable looks like and what to expect in their new setting. This helps reduce uncertainty and build confidence.

We also encourage children to **share any worries or things they are excited about**, either through conversations, drawing, or planned activities. This allows staff to respond to individual needs and ensure everyone feels supported.

Our aim is to make transitions a **gradual, positive experience**, so children feel secure, prepared and ready for their next step.

Careers Corner

"Career-related learning in primary schools is not about setting pupils down a specific path, but ensuring they understand that there are many options open to them... to learn about the world around them".

We are very excited about our 2026 'Careers Day' which will take place on **Friday 5th June** this year. On this day, we are inviting all children from Reception to Year 6 to dress up as the career they aspire to be in the future. Also, as a result of the continuing overwhelming success of our 'Careers Fairs', our 2026 fair will be held on this day too where our children will have the opportunity to talk to volunteers from a number of different sectors about their job roles and the skills and qualities they need in them. We are very much looking forward to the day and can't wait to see all of the careers our children dress up as!

Free School Meals

If your child is not currently receiving free school meals and you receive any of the qualifying benefits, please contact the school office for an application form. We can process applications for Free School Meals at any time so if your circumstances change, or if you are unsure if you qualify, please complete an application and we can check your eligibility.

Reception Stay and Play

Our Reception Stay and Play session was a great success and we would like to thank all of our families who attended. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning through play, both indoors and outdoors. From planting sunflower seeds, problem-solving in the water area, to demonstrating their creative skills in the malleable area, the children were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the session. It was wonderful to see them confidently sharing their learning experiences with their families.

Polite Reminder

For the safety and wellbeing of all children, please ensure that any food in packed lunches is cut into small, manageable pieces if there is a risk of choking (for example, grapes, cherry tomatoes or hard fruit). We also kindly ask that packed lunches are balanced and healthy, helping pupils to stay energised and ready to learn throughout the day. Thank you for your support in keeping mealtimes safe and nutritious.



Leave of absence forms

Leave of absence forms can be found on our school website for you to complete. They are also available from the school office. Please note if you wish to submit a leave of absence form, it must be completed **4 weeks before** the said absence and both parents need to sign the form. If your child is attending an event we would kindly ask you provide evidence of this at the same time you submit the leave of absence form. Although parents may feel leave of absence forms may be declined, it is a requirement from the local authority that a form is completed.

Bowburn Care Home

A group of Year 3 pupils visited Bowburn Care Home this week and joined the residents for a lively movement to music activity. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and we were very proud of the way they engaged with the residents.

Mini Police visit to HQ

The Mini Police enjoyed an exciting visit to Durham Constabulary Headquarters at Aykley Heads. During the visit, the children toured the Police Control Room and had the opportunity to see first-hand how the police respond to incidents and support the local community. They asked thoughtful questions and learned more about the important role police officers and staff play every day. Members of the policing staff praised the children for their excellent contributions, enthusiasm and outstanding manners throughout the visit.



Uniform

Emblematic, our school uniform provider has given the following cut off dates to ensure that your items arrive before September:

- **Midnight 21st June for delivery to school**
- **Midnight 19th July for home delivery**

We welcome donations of any outgrown uniform but ask that all donated items are in good condition. Please make sure all names are removed before handing them in to the school office.

Netball Ferryhill

After finishing top in our group, we went on to play for the cup. We continued our winning streak against a competitive Chilton team and narrowly missed out on reaching the final as we went to a shoot-out competition after a draw against Vane Road. Out of 15 schools, we secured 3rd position.

Thank you!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Jonathan from the Road Safety Team at Durham County Council for visiting our school. He delivered an engaging and informative assembly, helping our pupils understand the importance of staying safe on the roads, particularly around our school.

We are also very grateful to the Road Safety Team for generously donating a banner for our school to display. The banner carries the important message: "Show us you care – park elsewhere", helping to promote safe and considerate parking for the benefit of all our children and families.

Safer Parking around our school

SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

As a driver you have a responsibility to park
in a safe and considerate manner.

Park with care and help make the area near and
around our school a safer place for everyone.

Assembly Spotlight

In May we have explored current affairs inspired by Newsround in our class assemblies and learnt more about many different themes and topics in our wider school assemblies:

- Safer Parking Around Our School (Jonathan DCC)
- The Importance of Sleep
- World Asthma Day
- VE Day
- Deaf Awareness Week
- Mental health Awareness Week
- Sun Awareness Week
- International Day of Families
- Walk to School Week

Find out more on our Assembly page <https://coxhoe.sites.schooljotter2.com/curriculum-1/our-wider-coxhoe-curriculum/assembly-resources>

Y5 trip to Durham University

Children in Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Durham University this term. We learned about university life and researched some of the different courses that we could study. We then spoke to students about what living at university was like, considering some of the things that we would want to take with us. We also enjoyed a tour of the campus, looking at some of the huge lecture theatres and visiting a couple of the different colleges at Durham University. Remember to check our class page on the website to see the photos!

Y2 Sweet Treat Friday

A huge thank you to all of our Year 2 families who kindly donated delicious, sweet treats for our Sweet Treat Friday Bake Sale. Thanks to your generosity and support, we raised an impressive £124.17! We are incredibly grateful to everyone who baked, donated and purchased items to make the event such a success.

Online Safety

Question of the Month: Are you aware of the privacy settings on your child's devices and accounts?

Being aware of privacy settings is a great first step and you don't have to be an expert to make a big difference. A helpful approach is to explore settings together with your child. This not only improves safety but also builds their understanding and confidence.

Top tips for getting started:

Check devices and apps together:

Spend a few minutes looking at settings on phones, tablets, games, and apps your child uses. Focus on key areas like who can contact them, who can see their profile, and whether accounts are public or private.

Make accounts private where possible:

For most primary-aged children, profiles should be set to private, meaning only approved friends can see their content.

Use built-in parental controls:

Many platforms offer helpful tools to support families. For example:

- Apple Screen Time (iPhone/iPad)
- Google Family Link (Android devices)
- Microsoft Family Safety (Windows/Xbox)

Turn off location sharing:

Check that apps are not sharing your child's location unless absolutely necessary.

Review regularly:

Apps update often, so it's worth checking settings every few months.

Keep conversations open:

Let your child know they can always come to you if they are unsure about anything online. Taking small, regular steps can make a big difference in keeping your child safe online and doing it together helps them learn how to stay safe as they grow.

Open and honest communication about online safety is key to supporting your children stay safe online. Please find attached a poster full of ideas for keeping children safe online over the summer.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, see that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

IT'S THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on ditzzy Sundays in October.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Lates

We understand school mornings are a hectic time of the day but, to minimise interruption to lessons, all children need to arrive at school between 8:40am-8:55am. Gates do close promptly at 8:55am and children arriving after this time will need to be dropped off at the main entrance. If you are running late, please contact the school office to inform us of this. If you are struggling with morning routines please contact Miss Armstrong, Family Liaison, for support.

Friends of Coxhoe Primary School (FOCPS)

All the children have been invited to take part in Coxhoe Primary's sponsored Move-a-thon organised by the FOCPS. The event started on Monday and will end on Monday 1st June. The half term break is a great opportunity to add some extra activity to the children's sponsorship form that has been sent home. We ask that children request sponsorship for every 30 minutes of physical activity they complete during the two weeks. Walking, running, cycling, swimming, dancing, football, skating, scootering etc. can all be included in the activity total. The half term break could be a great opportunity to tick some extra stars off - trips to the park, dog walking or trampolining in the garden - it all counts!



Friends of
Coxhoe Primary School

Today was a non-uniform day to help us prepare for the Summer Fair. We requested donations for the tombola such as gift sets, alcohol, toiletries, unopened toys/games etc. Donations can still be brought into the school office after half term so please think of us if you come across anything suitable. We are also on the lookout for raffle prizes so if you have any friends or family members who could source a prize or you or your employer could donate something, we would be so grateful.

As always, the money we raise is used to fund enrichment resources and activities for the children that wouldn't be available without the funds from the FOCPS and the support you give us.

If you would like to register your interest in volunteering at the Summer Fair on the 8th July - you can let us know by popping into or calling the school office or by sending an email to coxhoe@durhamlearning.net. Alternatively, you can send a direct message via our Facebook page and we will add you to our list.



Handy Heroes

Handy Heroes Day was truly memorable and one of our most successful events for parental engagement. We are incredibly grateful to the wonderful gentlemen and children who gave their time and energy to help improve our school grounds. Their hard work, teamwork and enthusiasm made a real difference. A huge thank you to everyone involved for supporting our school community.

A huge thank you to Coxhoe Garden Centre at Parkhill who kindly donated us these beautiful flowers and plants for our Handy Heroes event! It is greatly appreciated and we would like our parents to support this local business too!

