



Coxhoe Communicator

March 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of an amazing Spring Term, it is only right to celebrate everything our amazing school family has achieved together.

Our Family Easter Egg Competition was a huge success. The creativity, imagination, teamwork and problem-solving on display were simply outstanding. Because the challenge was open-ended, children and families were free to innovate and it certainly showed! What a lovely way to finish the term!

A big thank you to Mel's Travel for their incredible generosity in donating Easter eggs as prizes. We are so appreciative of the support we receive from local businesses who share our commitment to enriching children's experiences.

A huge thank you also goes to FOCPS for organising a superb free Easter family event. From the Easter egg hunt to the crafts and the tasty treats, it was a fantastic event full of smiles and laughter. Events like this bring our community together and we are so grateful to the volunteers who give their time, creativity and energy so generously. We are especially grateful for the passion and commitment from Mrs Walker, Mrs Lyons and Miss Turner in school who have driven these events forward.

One of our proudest moments this term was the local authority review of learning. We received incredibly positive feedback across all areas of school life. Reviewers praised:

- our strong personal development offer preparing our children for life beyond school
- the high-quality support provided for our vulnerable pupils and those with SEND
- the high standards and exemplary behavior of our children

This feedback reflects the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and of course, the kindness, curiosity and resilience of our brilliant pupils. We should all feel incredibly proud.

We are already excited for a summer term filled with sunshine (we hope!), new learning opportunities and more exciting adventures as part of our school family. There is much to look forward to and we can't wait to welcome the children back and continue building on the successes of this term.

Finally, I hope you enjoy a wonderful Easter holiday together. Whether you're travelling, spending time outdoors, or simply enjoying some well-earned rest at home, I hope you find time to relax as a family.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Kind regards

Mrs Bartle



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.

Year 2 Auckland Castle

Our Year 2 children enjoyed a wonderful visit to Auckland Castle and the Faith Museum in Bishop Auckland, linked with their RE learning about St Cuthbert and Christianity. They explored fascinating artefacts, visited the chapel and even created their own stained glass windows inspired by the things they love and how they would want to be remembered. With the sun shining all day, it was a truly memorable and beautiful experience for everyone.



Mini Police Litter Picking

Following a school assembly on Keeping Coxhoe Clean, our Year 6 Mini Police took action by carrying out a litter pick along the lane behind the school grounds. In just 40 minutes, the children collected more than 1,100 pieces of litter, showing fantastic teamwork and community spirit while also highlighting a challenge in our local area. They are now keen to continue raising awareness about the importance of looking after our environment and keeping our village of Coxhoe clean and tidy. Their efforts are a brilliant example of how small actions can make a big difference.



After School Clubs

Our Spring 2 after school clubs have now finished and it has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm and dedication throughout. Whether showcasing their creativity in Wands and Wizards Club and



Comic Book Club, or building teamwork and developing new skills in Athletics Club and Cooking Club, pupils have made the most of every opportunity. Don't forget to check out the after school club webpage to see highlights of all the fun! Summer 1 clubs are nearly full, so please contact the office if you would like to enquire about any remaining places.

Jewellery

Children are not permitted to wear earrings for school. This is due to Health and Safety guidelines and the active nature of school life for children. If your child has recently had their ears pierced, they may wear clear soft plastic piercing retainers. School has purchased some for emergency use only.

Staff Update

As a school family, we are delighted to share our congratulations with Miss Armstrong who is due to have a baby in September. She will continue to work with us until the end of this school year and will return throughout 2027.

Handy Heroes

Our annual Handy Heroes day is coming up! Dads, Grandads and Uncles save the date:

Friday 22nd May

School Meal Prices

From 20th April 2026, school meal prices will increase to £3.08. Please see your emails to read the letter from Durham County Council.

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.

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 February half term!

For further information follow the link: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs>

Year 6 Eden Camp

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Eden Camp as part of their history unit centered on World War 1 and World War 2. They loved exploring the different exhibits in the bunkers exploring aspects of the war from the Blitz to vehicles to life on the home front. It was fantastic to see so many sources of information and examples of what it was like to allow us to deepen our knowledge and understanding.

Year 4 Beamish Residential

Our Year 4 residential to Beamish was absolutely brilliant. The children threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm, curiosity and plenty of smiles. From exploring the historic town to taking part in historic workshops, they gained so much from seeing history come alive.

A huge thankyou to our staff for giving up their own time to support our Year 4 children on this residential. It was a memorable adventure for everyone involved.



Computing Showcase

We are currently organising our computing showcase event for the 26th June. Once stalls have been finalised, we will send you details on how to sign up. If you work in the world of computing and would like a stall, please get in touch with Mrs Bartle or Miss Rodgers.

Year 2 NSPCC

Year 2 took part in an NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe session, where they met Buddy and learned about what to do if they don't feel safe. The children explored the importance of speaking to a trusted adult and were introduced to Childline as a place they can go for help and support.

SEND & Inclusion

Question of the Month: "What does transition to secondary school look like for children with additional needs?"

For some children, moving to secondary school can feel like a big step. To help make this change as smooth and positive as possible, additional transition to secondary school begins around Easter time and is designed to gently support children who may need a little extra reassurance as they prepare for this important change. It often includes extra visits to the new school so pupils can explore the environment calmly and begin to feel at home, along with opportunities to meet key adults such as SEND and pastoral staff who will be there to guide and welcome them. In school, children take part in nurturing activities such as small group discussions and transition work to help them understand what to expect and to express any worries they may have. Staff from both schools also meet to share a holistic picture of each child, ensuring that their strengths, needs and wellbeing are carefully considered so they can start secondary school feeling understood, supported and confident.

Year 5 NSPCC

Year 5 pupils from Tolkien and Dickens classes took part in an NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe session, where they learned how to recognise when something doesn't feel right and how to keep their bodies safe. The session helped the children understand their right to feel safe, the importance of speaking out and who they can turn to for help and support. They explored a range of scenarios, discussing whether situations were safe or unsafe and how they could respond to protect themselves. The children also learned about the role of Childline and how it can provide support, advice and a trusted place to talk if they are worried about anything.

Reception – Raby Castle

Reception thoroughly enjoyed their first school visit to Raby Castle. They explored the castle, learning about the different rooms and the roles people had within them. The children had great fun navigating the mini mazes and loved spotting deer in the deer gardens. They also enjoyed playing a range of outdoor games, finishing the day with some exciting parachute activities. It was a fantastic day full of learning, exploration and fun!



Assembly Spotlight

In March 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:

- **Pupil Voice Assembly**
- **Introduction to World Book Day and Bedtime stories**
- **Litter pick assembly (am) (Mr King) followed by litter pick (pm)**
- **In class assembly NSPCC**
- **Pupil Voice - ASD Assembly**
- **British Science Week**
- **Class Assembly: International Day of Mathematics**
- **STEM Robotics Assembly**
- **Singing Assemblies**
- **Neurodiversity Celebration Week**
- **Ramadan and Eid-Al-Fitr (evening of 17/2/26-evening of 19/3/26) - Islam**
- **The effects of loneliness**
- **The benefits of physical exercise, activity on mental wellbeing and happiness**
- **What constitutes a healthy diet?**
- **Easter – Christianity**

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

World Book Day and Bedtime Stories

In March, we celebrated World Book Day in style - starting with Bedtime Stories on Wednesday 4th after school. It was lovely to see so many of our children and their families. The children came in their pjs, slippers, dressing gowns and I saw quite a few teddies. They listened to some bedtime stories and had milk and cookies in the classrooms whilst parents/carers had a cuppa and a chat in the school hall thanks to FOCPS. On Thursday 5th, we dressed as our favourite book characters or designed t-shirts themed around our favourite books and authors and took part in lots of reading and writing activities. What a day! Make sure you visit our class pages on our website to see lots of photographs of us having fun.

Epilepsy awareness day

Epilepsy awareness day was Thursday 26th March. Children came into school wearing purple. If parents wish to donate to this amazing cause please head to :

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

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, they should still be completed as it is a requirement from the local authority.

Year 2 NatWest Workshop

Year 2 enjoyed a visit from NatWest Bank, where they learned about the difference between wants and needs and how to save and spend money wisely. The session gave children a valuable insight into how we use money and the importance of making thoughtful choices when managing it.

Keep Clear of our school keep clears



SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

Always park away from the
zig zag lines; they are here
for our safety. 😊

Safer Parking
around our school



STEM Robotics Year 3

Year 3 had an exciting STEM session, led by Amit and Emma from Cummins, who brought along their robotic dog, Laika. The children were fascinated to see how coding is used in the real world and enjoyed learning how the robotic dog operates. Following this, pupils had the opportunity to try coding themselves using microbits, applying their new knowledge in a hands-on and engaging way.



Sports Report

Children across the school have continued to make excellent progress in PE this half term. Please visit the PE webpage to see some of the learning and skills that have been developed so far this year.

Well done to our Year 6 pupils who attended the Tag Rugby festival with Go Well. They were fantastic representatives of our school, showing great teamwork and determination in all of their matches. We are very proud of how they conducted themselves throughout the event.



After the Easter break, we are looking forward to our second skipping day, with children in Years 1–3 taking part. We can't wait to see their skipping skills in action!

Our Year 5 netball team are preparing to compete in the Go Well Netball Cup after Easter. Good luck to all involved.



Throughout the summer term, each year group will take part in a "Mini Olympics" afternoon, competing in a range of sporting events. Children will work in small teams across 10 different activities, applying the skills they have developed in PE lessons. Points will be awarded and combined to crown an overall winning team for each event. These intra-school competitions contribute towards our School Games application, in which we were awarded Gold last academic year!

Year 3 NatWest Workshop

Year 3 enjoyed their visit from NatWest, where they learnt about how to budget for a business. They created their own smoothie business and a financial strategy to make sure it would be successful. They also learnt about fraud and how fake money is created and used in shops.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Date Notice Circulated to Parents: 02/04/2026

There will be a vacancy for a Parent Governor(s) from 02/04.

All parents other than those employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year or who are elected members of the Local Authority (LA) are eligible to stand for election. This includes:

- parents of children attending nursery either full-time or part-time
- any person who is not the natural parent but has parental responsibility for or who has care of a pupil registered at the school (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

If you are interested in becoming a Governor please contact school for a nomination form.

The completed and duly signed nomination form should be returned to school by 01/05.

Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary. Any remaining vacancies will be appointed by our Governing Board.

Should a ballot be required each parent will be sent a voting form.

When the process has been finalised school will inform the parent body via our newsletter. Education Durham – Governance Services will write formally to all nominees confirming the outcome of the ballot.

Governor update

We would like to welcome Rebecca Middler as our new parent governor. She is looking forward to working with our school family in her new role.

Online Safety - Question of the Month:

“How aware are we of what's on our children's phones?”

As children grow and begin to develop their own digital lives, it's natural for them to want independence and sometimes that means they don't always share everything that's happening online. This doesn't mean anything is wrong; it's simply part of growing up. However, staying connected to their online world is an important part of helping them stay safe and confident. A great way to support this is by having regular, calm and collaborative check-ins with your child about what's on their device. These check-ins might include looking together at:

- **Messages and group chats**
- **Recently installed apps**
- **Search history**
- **Photos and videos**
- **Privacy settings**

This isn't about catching children out, it's about keeping communication open, understanding their online experiences, and guiding them as they learn to navigate the digital world responsibly. A quick, friendly look through their phone every now and then can be a reassuring way to stay involved, build trust, and help them make safe choices online.

Year 5 Natwest

Year 5 pupils from Tolkien and Dickens classes enjoyed an engaging visit from NatWest, where they learned about budgeting and managing money in a business context. The session focused on fraud, where the children explored how fake money can be made and used and how to spot it. A highlight of the visit was a role-play activity, where pupils acted out different real-life scenarios involving money and fraud. Using props, they took on roles such as shopkeepers and customers, helping them to understand how scams can happen and how to respond safely and responsibly.

Attendance

We kindly remind you of the importance of notifying the school if your child will 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.

Year 4 Oriental Museum and Durham Cathedral Visit

Year 4 had a fantastic day exploring Durham! We began our adventure at the Oriental Museum, where the children were especially captivated by the Ancient Egypt exhibits. From mummies to hieroglyphics, they were able to build on their classroom learning and see real artifacts up close. They also enjoyed discovering fascinating objects from many other cultures and historical periods.

After a lovely walk through Durham, spotting features of the city and plenty of amazing local sights along the way, we made our way to Durham Cathedral. Here, the children deepened their understanding of St Cuthbert and St Bede, exploring the stories and history that make the cathedral such an important place.

Throughout the entire trip, the children behaved brilliantly and represented the school proudly. It was a day filled with curiosity, learning and lots of smiles!

Year 6 NSPCC

Year 6 took part in an NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe session where they learned about what to do if they don't feel safe and where they could go to for support. The children looked at different scenarios that may happen and discussed whether they were safe or unsafe for a child before looking at the role Childline plays.

Careers Corner – Proud to be from the Northeast!

"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".

At Coxhoe Primary, we love helping our children learn about the amazing world of work! Labour Market Information (LMI) is just a formal way of saying what jobs people do, what skills they need and what jobs might be important in the future.

Here's an easy to understand look at what's happening in the Northeast: Right now, fewer adults in the Northeast have jobs compared with other parts of England—about 70 out of every 100 adults are in work. But the good news is that the number of people working in our region has still gone up slightly this year, which means opportunities are growing.

What Are the North East's Big Job Areas?

The Northeast is full of exciting job sectors. Some of the most important ones for the future include:

- **Digital and Technology** – things like coding, robotics and cybersecurity
- **Advanced Manufacturing** – designing and making clever machines and products.
- **Health & Life Sciences** – helping people stay healthy or inventing new medical ideas.
- **Energy** – including renewable energy like wind turbines and solar power

What's Coming Next for the Northeast?

The future of jobs in our region looks exciting! The Northeast has been chosen as a special AI Growth Zone, which will bring new technology companies and create thousands of jobs in areas like computing, engineering and innovation.

Jobs that help look after the planet—like working with renewable energy—are becoming more and more popular as the UK works towards greener living.

We want every pupil at Coxhoe to know that their future is full of choices and that the Northeast is an exciting place with brilliant opportunities ahead. **If you would like to celebrate your success story with our children, helping our pupils imagine bright futures, we would love for you to come into school to talk about the fabulous work that you are doing. Please contact the school office or speak to Mrs. Caygill.**

Visit the Careers Page on our website to see what visits, visitors, assemblies and curriculum experiences we have been involved in which promote a range of careers to our children <https://coxhoe.sites.schooljotter2.com/curriculum-1/our-wider-coxhoe-curriculum/careers>.

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.

Hargreaves and Rosen Class museums

Hargreaves and Rosen really enjoyed sharing their learning with you. We hope you enjoyed our experts sharing all of the knowledge they have learnt this half term. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and for the lovely feedback we received.

Spring Disco

The Easter Disco proved to be a highly successful and enjoyable event with positive feedback. A huge thank you to everyone that helped organise this for the children.

Bowburn Care Home

We selected some fabulous Year 3 children to go to Bowburn Care Home. The children celebrated St Patrick's day by painting and playing games with the residents. We are so proud of how mature the Year 3 children were. You should be very proud of them!