



Coxhoe Communicator

September 2025



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and a warm welcome to all of our new families. The children have settled back into school life and are busy impressing their new teachers so much. We would like to extend a big thank you to both staff and yourselves for the work that goes into making the transition into the new school year so smooth, it really has been beneficial. As always, we look forward to another exciting year at Coxhoe and lots of opportunities for our wider school family to share. To support our busy families, we strive to provide strong home school communication and plan as much as possible. On occasion, last-minute changes are required due to unforeseen circumstances, but these are kept to a minimum. Please use the calendar on the website and be aware of email/app messages. If you have any problems with the app or notice that you stop receiving messages, please alert the office immediately.

We are delighted to welcome this year's school council representatives to their new role. We look forward to working with them to ensure that our pupil voice has impact in our school. Congratulations to our new head pupils Edie and Charlotte B and our deputy head pupils, Charlotte H and Katie; we know that they will be an asset to our school development. We hope that you have a fantastic year but as always, please contact the relevant staff at school if you have any worries or concerns; working together is the best way to provide the best possible care for your children.

Kind regards,
Mrs Bartle



A MacMillan Thank You

A huge thank you to all parents, carers, children and staff that contributed to our Macmillan coffee afternoon! We raised over **£100** for this amazing charity. Treats will be available again today (Friday) after school if you would like to take something home with you to enjoy over the weekend. Please bring cash to make a donation.



Class Museums and Parent Workshops

Class museums have been a huge success and these have been scheduled again for 2025 – 2026. They enable parents/carers to find out lots more about what their children are learning at school and provide children with the opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills and build their confidence/self esteem. Seeing their enthusiasm and pride in their work is always such a pleasure.

The museums also now incorporate the chance for parents to get hints and tips on how they can help at home. Check out the calendar and save the date for yours!

PRIZE ALERT - £20 VOUCHER

Online Safety Support for our wider school family.

We use National Online Safety for staff training and for useful guides and find it extremely helpful and easy to access. We know that all our families have busy lives but really do encourage everyone to take some time to explore the website and complete the course for parents/carers.

ALL PARENTS/CARERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE GO INTO A PRIZE DRAW TO WIN A £20 AMAZON VOUCHER.

Please visit the below website to enroll for any course.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/coxhoe-primary-school>

Hand your certificate in to the school office by 20th October to enter the prize draw. If you are unable to print, please email the certificate to coxhoe@durhamlearning.net.

Harvest Festival

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming **Harvest Festival celebration on October 15th** at St Mary's Church, Coxhoe. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school family to come together and celebrate as a community.

This special event is a chance for us all to reflect on the things we are grateful for and to support others in need. As part of our celebration, we will be collecting donations for our local foodbank. If you are able, please consider sending in a non-perishable food item to help support local families.

You can look forward to enjoying some beautiful singing from the children, who have been working hard to prepare a selection of harvest songs.

Performance 1	9.30am	Y1, Y3, Y5
Performance 2	11.00am	Y2, Y4, Y6

We hope you can join us for this family occasion as we celebrate together and make a positive difference in our community. We would also very much appreciate parent/carers support in walking to and from the church please contact the school office if you are able to help.



First Aid Important Information

As you are aware, you will receive an email notification from Medical Tracker if your child receives first aid; this includes bumped heads. In the case of a bumped head, the class teacher will also speak with you to ensure you have received the notification at the end of the school day. We will telephone children in Y5-6 who walk home independently before the end of the school day so that you can advise us if you wish them to be collected or continue to walk home. Please note that in more severe cases where first aiders advise parents to seek medical advice, they will contact parents/carers soon after the incident.

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/carers may feel leave of absence forms could be declined, we still require the form to be completed as it is a requirement from the local authority.

Residential Visits

We look forward to another year full of exciting and enriching opportunities for our children both in the classroom and beyond. We hope you have looked at the information about educational visits and are able to help school provide these amazing opportunities for our children. The visits for our children this year are:

Year 5: Weardale Adventures	Wednesday 5th November – Friday 7th November
Year 4: Beamish	Thursday 19th March – Friday 20th March
Year 6: London	Monday 22nd June – Wednesday 24th June
Year 3: Camping outdoors adventure	Monday 6th July – Tuesday 7th July
Year 2: Late night stay	Friday 10th July

Safeguarding Reminders

- Our front door remains locked for security reasons. If you are inside the reception/office area, please do not open the door for other visitors. Only staff should open the door for any visitors.
- Please inform the school office IMMEDIATELY if you change any personal details such as mobile phone numbers and addresses. This includes additional contacts on your child's records such as grandparents.
- Please keep all medical information up to date and complete forms in a timely manner.
- We kindly ask parents to notify the school of any updates or changes to their child's dietary needs or health conditions to ensure we can provide the best possible care and support.
- Please ensure your child's inhaler is in date and there is one in school at all times. If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, kindly inform the school office so that Miss Armstrong can assist you in completing the necessary documentation.

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 8:40-8:55**. Gates do close promptly at 8:55 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.

Pupil Voice

We have started off the year welcoming new recruits to our Inclusion Squad, Peer Mentors and School Council after so many amazing applications. We want to say a massive well done to our children who have been selected to be in these important roles because the competition was definitely tough! Our children will be working alongside different adults in school to help make decisions that matter to them. Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting updates linked to pupil voice over the upcoming months!

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 9:00AM 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.** There is also the option to leave a voicemail message if the office is not yet open.

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.

After school clubs

We're really excited for another year of fun, engaging after school clubs. Our first block of clubs is already well underway and it has been fantastic to see so many children getting involved. From sports and games to creative activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Clubs give children the chance to:

- Try out new hobbies and interests
- Build teamwork and friendships across year groups
- Stay active and healthy
- Develop confidence and new skills outside of the classroom

Check out our After School Clubs webpage to see photos of what we've been up to so far!

We still have a few spaces available this term. If you'd like your child to join a club, please contact the school office to book a place.

CAREERS UPDATE

"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".

Dear parents/carers

At our school we are always striving to provide our children with impactful experiences they can call upon once they have left us to help them succeed in the future. Therefore, in order to help prepare our children for future careers and the world of work we would like to partner with our wider community and local businesses to inspire, motivate and inform them of all the possibilities available to them.

We understand that time is valuable to parents/carers/wider families/local businesses and consequently have a range of engagement opportunities planned. We hope that something below is of interest to you but if not, we are always looking for innovative ways to work with our wider community and local businesses so we would be happy to discuss alternative options.

- **Careers Talks and Workshops with individual classes: 30 minutes to one hour long**
- **Careers Assemblies: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10:05-10:25**
- **Careers Fair: Friday 5th June 2026**

Recent studies have emphasised that children's aspirations are often shaped, moulded and restricted by gender stereotyping, socio-economic background and, importantly, who they know. These factors can, and do, go on to influence the academic effort children exert in certain lessons, the subjects they choose to study and the jobs they end up pursuing. Therefore, working together we can make a huge impact on the futures of our children. Help us to develop our next generation of employees.

If you are interested, please email Mrs Caygill on the school office email: coxhoe@durhamlearning.net with the following information.

- Your name
- Your business name/job title
- The opportunities you are interested in supporting us with

We will then follow up with you in more detail. If you have previously shared your contact details with me, thank you and you have been added to our careers contacts.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,
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>.



Sports Report

PE lessons are now in full swing! Mr Todd is continuing to deliver Fundamental Movement Skills lessons for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This half term, Year 1 and 2 are also developing their gymnastics skills. In Key Stage 2, children in Years 3–6 are focusing on gymnastics and invasion games. Some pupils in Year 5 and 6 have also started their swimming lessons. Don't forget to check out the class webpages and the PE webpage to see what we've been learning!

The Year 6 football team has kicked off their fixtures in the Go Well Football League. Mr Todd and Mr Varty have been impressed with the players' teamwork and positive attitude. We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming matches!

We are also excited to have recruited our new Indoor and Outdoor Activators for this year. Their role is to help everyone achieve 30 minutes of daily activity. We can't wait to see the creative activities they introduce!



Keep Clear of our school keep clears



SEND Update

Welcome back to our families after the summer break and a special hello to our new families of the children joining Early Years. I hope to meet as many of you as possible over the first half term and wanted to let you know about our termly SEND Coffee Afternoons here at school. These are a fantastic opportunity for parents and families of children with additional needs to meet for a tea or coffee, a biscuit and a chat. The coffee afternoons have been a fantastic chance for parents to meet others with similar experiences and share advice and support. Mr Hopson SENDCO.

This term's coffee afternoon will be at 2:15 on Tuesday 21st of October.

Question of the Month: Why might a child be added to the SEND register?

A child may be added if they are experiencing difficulties that are creating a barrier to their learning, development, or participation in school life. This could be linked to areas such as communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social and emotional development, or physical and sensory needs. Being on the SEND register allows us to put tailored support in place and ensure progress is closely monitored.

How does this happen?

This is always a collaborative process. Decisions are made together by:

- **The SEND Team**, who help identify needs and plan the right support.
- **Families**, who know their child best and play a key role in shaping support.
- **Class teachers**, who work daily with children and adapt learning to meet their needs.

If a child is added to the SEND register, they will have a **SEND Support Plan**, which is reviewed termly. These reviews give us the chance to celebrate progress, reflect on what is working and adapt strategies where needed.

We want to reassure families that being on the SEND register is not a label, but a way of ensuring your child receives the right support at the right time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher or a member of the SEND Team.

Uniform Reminder

As we start the new school year, we'd like to remind all families to check our school website for the correct uniform expectations. We've worked hard to ensure our uniform is practical, affordable and reflective of our strong family ethos. We are very appreciative of the support from parents/carers; our Coxhoe family are looking so smart. If you have any spare uniform that is still in good condition but children have grown out of, we would very much appreciate the donations, especially PE T shirts and hoodies. Please send into school with your children or drop off at the school office.

Footwear:

Please remember that trainers worn for school should be **all black**—no coloured logos or details. **All black** trainers were included as an option at the last school uniform review to support our active curriculum; please ensure trainers worn as part of school uniform are all black (this excludes PE days).

PE Kit:

Our PE kit is an important part of the school uniform and should be worn as outlined on the website.



Support for SEND:

If your child has SEND and you need support with uniform requirements, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we're here to help.

Thank you for your continued support in helping all students feel proud and ready to learn each day.

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.

School Bags

Could we politely remind parents/carers that children must use a book bag style bag for school as bags are stored in trays due to very limited storage. Children in Year 6 may bring a backpack or larger bag as they bring additional items of equipment to school and have a designated storage area.



Please make sure that all items of school uniform are clearly labeled with your child's name. Misplaced items can be returned much quicker if their owner can be easily identified.

Assemblies

In September 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:

- Welcome back and wellbeing
- Our Code of Conduct
- British values: democracy
- Head Pupil speeches and votes
- The conventions of courtesy and manners
- National Fitness Day
- European Day of Languages
- Respect
- Rosh Hashanah
- National Recycling Week (Visitor from DCC)
- Healthy Friendships

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