



Coxhoe Communicator

July 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another school year, we want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic year at Coxhoe Primary School. This morning's Leavers' Assembly was a joyful and emotional celebration of our Year 6 pupils as they looked back on their full and successful Coxhoe journey. It was a delight to share in their memories, achievements and hopes for the future. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and wish them all the very best as they move on to new adventures.



Yesterday, our Awards Assembly was another highlight, as we celebrated the hard work, progress and talents of pupils from across the school. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how much has been achieved by so many children this term, in so many different ways.

Looking back, 2024–25 has been a year full of determination, learning and growth. The children have shown resilience, creativity and commitment in everything they've done and we couldn't be prouder of them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement, time and close partnership with us play such an important part in our school family and in the success of your children.

As we head into the summer holidays, we hope you all enjoy a well-earned rest with plenty of time to relax, recharge and (hopefully!) enjoy some sunshine. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year of learning and discovery.

Wishing you a safe, restful and happy summer break.

Mrs Bartle

Spreading Joy Through Song at Bowburn Care Home

We have had our final visit to Bowburn Care home this year! Children performed a selection of songs for the residents. They sang beautifully and brought lots of smiles and joy to everyone there. It was a heartwarming experience and a wonderful way to connect with our community. A big well done to all the children who took part, you made us very proud! Well done to everyone involved.

Congratulations

We are proud to announce the promoted roles within our school as we move into a new school year. Huge congratulations to all staff involved.

Mr Hopson secured the promoted post of Assistant Head Teacher. Mrs Tufts has joined the SLT. Mrs Duffy, Mrs Summerill, Miss Rodgers & Miss Watkins have all secured middle leader positions to develop aspects of school life.

Y6 Leaver's Performance

The Year 6 children blew us away with their acting, singing and dancing skills! They put on a West-end worthy performance of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean', filled with adventure, laughter and joy! They showcased a wide range of talents, from beautiful singing to gymnastics and even some hilarious tap-dancing! It was a joy to see all of their hard work pay off and we are immensely proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to everyone who supported the production, organising costumes, practicing lines and being a fantastic audience. You all truly helped make it a memorable experience for Year 6 and enabled it to be the huge success it was!

Pupil Voice

It has been a very busy year for our pupil voice groups in school. I just want to say a huge well done to our School Council, Mini Police, Inclusion Squad and Peer Mentors – you have all done a fantastic job! You have definitely earned a long break! The application forms for the new pupil voice roles will be handed out before the Summer so any children who are interested in applying, can do so in September.

Twirling Through Tuesday at Coxhoe Village Hall

Last week some of our children in Year 5 visited Coxhoe Village Hall to take part in their Tuesday afternoon Tea Dance led by Rita. The children had a ball and it was lovely to see different generations coming together. Rita even treated us to juice and a sweet treat, giving our young dancers just the boost they needed to keep moving. It was a heart-warming afternoon of music, movement and community spirit!



Y4 Trip to Seven Stories and Hindu Temple

Last week, our Year 4 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to visit a local Hindu temple as part of their Religious Education curriculum. The trip was a fantastic chance for the children to deepen their understanding of Hindu beliefs, traditions and practices in a real-world setting. From the moment we arrived, the children were captivated by the beautiful architecture, vibrant colours and peaceful atmosphere of the temple. They were warmly welcomed by the temple staff, who guided them through the different areas of worship and explained the significance of the murtis (sacred images), offerings and rituals. They learnt some drum rhythms to some Hindu songs and dressed in traditional Hindu clothing.

At Seven Stories, the children followed a scavenger hunt to explore lots of books. They had the opportunity to be immersed in a wide range of texts, completed art work, role play and listened to some stories. They had a great day!

Year 5 Residential in Autumn Term

Don't forget we have the Year 5 trip coming up in Autumn term, after considering various options, we have selected Weardale Adventure Centre for a two-night stay. The trip will take place from Wednesday 5th November to Friday 7th November.

- The total cost per child is £170, which includes five activities, accommodation and full catering.
- Payments can be made via the school app and are due by Friday 31st October.
- **A non-refundable deposit of £80 is required by Friday 5th September 2025.**

Y3 Road Safety

Our Year 3 children went out into the village to learn about road safety and how to cross the road safely. They practiced safe crossings, looking both ways and waiting for traffic to stop. This helped them understand how to stay safe near roads and be responsible pedestrians.



The children were excellent throughout and we are very proud of them!

Question of the Month: What SEND friendly activities are happening over the summer holidays in the Durham area?

The summer holidays can be a challenging time for families of children with additional needs, as the change in routine can be unsettling and difficult to manage. However, support is available. The North East Autism Society offers a helpful SEND Summer Activities Guide on their website, full of ideas and resources to help families plan enjoyable and inclusive activities over the break. Visit www.ne-as.org.uk to explore their suggestions and make the most of the summer.

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.

Family Hubs Summer events

Don't forget about the Family Hubs! The hubs support families from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities.

They are open from 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays. They have plenty of events on to entertain the children over the holidays, search for Family Hubs on Facebook for more information.

For more information visit:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs>

Personal information

As we come close to the end of the academic year, can we kindly ask parents to ensure the information we hold in school regarding your child is accurate. This includes contact number, pick up list and medical information. If your child has a medical need, Miss Armstrong may need to complete an Individual Healthcare Plan for your child – this is why up to date information is vital. If any information changes over the holidays, please email

coxhoe@durhamlearning.net

Y3 Trip to Seven Stories and Hindu Temple

Following in the footsteps of our Year 4s we also visited Newcastle last week!

Seven Stories was a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore their love of stories. Our favourite time was spent looking at Mog and The Tiger Who Came to Tea. We used our fantastic visual literacy skills to look at story telling through pictures as well our amazing vocabulary. The trip to the ISKCON Hindu Temple was a real showstopper. This amazing temple welcomed our year group with a host of activities, music and stories which really engaged our children and staff. We can't wait to visit again.



Dietary Requirements

We kindly ask that you notify the school office if your child is changing from a packed lunch to school dinners (or vice versa). This helps us ensure that meal orders are accurate and that all children are catered for appropriately. Please ensure that the school is informed of any dietary requirements or food allergies your child may have. It is essential that parents provide evidence of any dietary requirements so that we can pass this onto Chartwells our school meal provider.

School Held Medications

We will not be sending out our "Held Medications" form this year. If you have not completed the form or would like to update your child's permissions, please contact the office. Otherwise, medications held in school will continue to be given as necessary, where permitted, as per the last completed form.

Permission to Walk Home – Year 5

Children in year 5 are permitted to walk home from school independently providing a parent or carer has given permission. Please look out for an email over the holidays with a link to complete the form if you would like to give your child permission to walk home. If a child is on the list to walk home and they need first aid for a bumped head, we will always contact a parent/carers to notify them of this.

Assembly Spotlight

In June's assemblies 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:

- What constitutes a healthy diet?
- Simple self-care techniques
- Malala Yousafzai's Birthday (12/7/25)
- Transition
- Emmeline Pankhurst's Birthday (15/7)
- Nelson Mandela's Birthday (18/7)

Find out more on our Assembly page on the school website.

Brass festival/Singing sessions

We have had many wonderful end of year musical experiences. On Tuesday, we welcomed Mrs James from the music service who ran singing workshops with us. We each learned songs in parts and played singing games before performing in a huge assembly. We have also loved having Das Brass perform to the entire school. They entertained us and we danced the morning away. It was lovely to see some of our brass and woodwind players join them in one of their performances – well done everyone! You can see this band, and others, at the Brass Festival in Durham this weekend for free. Moving into next year, if your child is interested in music lessons (we offer brass, woodwind and strings) please get in touch with Mrs Summerill or your child's class teacher. You can also sign up via Durham Music Service by visiting <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>

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 8:40-8:55am. 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.

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 and 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.

Sports Report

Our afternoons of competitive sporting activities have continued in July, with Reception and Year 1 all taking part. They have thoroughly enjoyed their carousel of activities led by our coach, Mr Todd. They have loved having fun competing against their friends and scoring points for their team. Well done everyone!

Throughout this year, children from Years 4, 5 and 6 have been taking part in weekly swimming lessons. Swimming is part of the PE National Curriculum and we believe it is an essential life skill. We strive to ensure all children leave us confident in the water. Please see below the National Curriculum requirements and the results for our Year 6 children:

Meeting National Curriculum requirements for swimming and water safety

What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort can swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres?	88%
What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort can use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke]?	88%
What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort are able to perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations?	88%
What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort achieved all three of the National Curriculum outcomes?	88%

We are very proud of the progress our Year 6 children have made throughout their swimming lessons, and they should be too.

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, you should still submit a form as it is a requirement from the local authority.**

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".

Celebrating a Fantastic Year of Careers-Related Learning!

"If you can't see it, you can't be it!" - Marian Wright Edelman an American activist for children's rights.

If our children don't see people like themselves succeeding in a particular career, they will not believe it's a possibility for them.

As we come to the end of another exciting school year, we are thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of our Careers-Related Learning programme! Throughout the year, our children have explored a wide range of careers through engaging workshops, inspiring visitors, hands-on activities, workshops and real-world learning experiences through external educational visits. Throughout the year, our children have shown curiosity, creativity and confidence every step of the way. These experiences have helped our children have a greater understanding of what careers are available to them, the wider world of work, develop important life skills and dream big about their futures. A huge thank you to all the parents, carers, wider families, local businesses and community members who supported us this year. Your time, enthusiasm, and generosity have made a lasting impact on our children's learning and aspirations. We look forward to building on this success next year and continuing to inspire our young learners to explore the endless possibilities ahead!

We Need You! Please complete our 2025 parent/carer survey (see your emails)

As part of our ongoing drive to involve our parents and carers in our children's ever-growing knowledge of careers, we would be grateful if you would let us know what your job title is and sector and if you are willing to be contacted to support events linked to your career within school in the upcoming year.

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.

Footwear: Please remember that trainers worn for school should be **all black**—no coloured logos or details.

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

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.

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.

The date for return to school is Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

CPD Days for the 2025/2026 academic year are Tuesday 2nd September, Friday 28th November and Monday 1st June.



It is a time of change for staffing in our school and whilst we are very sad to say goodbye to staff who are leaving, we are very proud of their achievements in securing promoted posts.

Mrs O Sullivan

After 13 incredible years as part of our school family, we are saying a fond goodbye to Mrs O'Sullivan as she moves on to an exciting new chapter in her career, specialising further in SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

She has been part of our school family for many years and many of us will fondly remember her passion for singing and the school musicals and performances she brought to life. More recently, in her role as SENDCO, she has been an advocate for our children and families, offering guidance, care and a listening ear when it was needed most.

One of her lasting legacies is *Chillfest*, a unique wellbeing event she created to bring families together and support emotional health. We are grateful for everything she has contributed and we wish her all the very best as she continues to make a difference in the lives of young people in her new role.

Mrs Elliott

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Elliott, who has been a member of our school family for a remarkable 15 years. She is known for her kindness and compassion for her pupils and families during her time with us.

Having taught in lots of different year groups as class teacher, she is loved by all of the children for her warmth. In recent years, even more children have had the pleasure of being taught by Mrs Elliott as she worked across the whole school covering PPA.

Her interest in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has grown and we are so proud to share that she is moving on to a promoted role as SENDCO in another school. Congratulations Mrs Elliott, and thank you for everything. We wish you every success and happiness in this exciting next step!

Mrs Topping

We're incredibly proud—but also a little sad—to be saying farewell to our amazing teaching assistant, Mrs Topping.

With her huge heart and passion for supporting every individual child, Mrs Topping has been a truly special part of our school family. She has inspired so many through her love of outdoor learning, leading our Forest School sessions with energy, creativity and care. Through *Roots and Shoots*, she's nurtured both our allotment beds and the children who've worked in them—teaching patience, responsibility and a deep respect for nature.

Mrs Topping is now moving on to an exciting new chapter as a university lecturer—a role where we know she'll continue to inspire others with the same warmth and enthusiasm we've been lucky to experience every day. She will be a huge miss in our school community, but we are so proud of her and can't wait to see all that she achieves in this new role. Thank you, Mrs Topping, for everything!

Mrs Storey

After many unforgettable years as our brilliant Deputy Head Teacher, it's time to say a huge (and emotional!) goodbye to Mrs Storey.

Mrs Storey has been a truly unique and treasured part of our school family—crazy, funny, endlessly caring, and always ready with a wise word, a quick-witted joke, or a much-needed tech tip! Her support for our children, staff and families has been nothing short of phenomenal, especially during the toughest times like the COVID pandemic, where her calm leadership and compassion helped guide us all through.

What makes Mrs Storey so special is her magical mix of humour, heart, and high standards. She's always been fiercely passionate about doing the very best for every child, while making sure everyone around her feels supported and valued. And yes—she's just a *little* bit competitive too (in the best possible way)!

While we're going to miss her so much, we're also incredibly proud as she takes her next step to use her knowledge, experience and love for education in new and exciting ways. There's no doubt she'll be just as amazing in her next chapter as she's been here.

Thank you Mrs Storey—for the laughter, the leadership and the lasting difference you've made. You leave behind big shoes, full hearts and countless memories.

A message from Mrs Storey...

"As I say goodbye after seven incredible years at Coxhoe Primary School, my heart is full of gratitude and warm memories. Thank you to every parent, carer, and especially to the amazing children who've brightened my days.

One of my greatest joys has been planning and enjoying residential trips with our pupils. From the buzz of our camps onsite, to laughter around the campfire and muddy adventures in the woods, each trip has been a highlight of my time here. You've all helped create moments I'll treasure forever.

Parents and carers, thank you for your kindness, support, and the trust you placed in me. And to the children—thank you for your courage, curiosity, and resilience on every journey. Watching you grow, encouraging each other, and sharing in those adventures has been a privilege.

While I'm excited for what comes next, and to spend more time with my twins, I'm genuinely going to miss this special school family. You've all made this a second home, and that won't be easy to leave. Know that I'll be cheering you on in all you do, I know you will go on to do great things.

With all my thanks and very best wishes,
Mrs Storey"





Staying Safe Online This Summer!

As we head into the long-awaited six-week summer break, we know many children will be spending more time online—whether it's playing games, watching videos, or chatting with friends. While the internet can be a fantastic place for learning and fun, it's important to remind our children how to stay safe while exploring the digital world.

Here are a few key tips to help keep your child safe online this summer:



Keep Personal Information Private

Remind children never to share personal details like their full name, address, school name, or passwords online.



Be Aware of What They're Watching and Playing

Check age ratings and content of games, apps, and videos. Encourage children to talk to you about what they're doing online.



Talk About Online Friendships

Make sure your child knows that not everyone online is who they say they are. They should never agree to meet someone they've only spoken to online.



Use Parental Controls

Set up parental controls on devices and apps to help manage what your child can access.



Encourage Open Conversations

Let your child know they can come to you if something online makes them feel uncomfortable or upset.



Balance Screen Time

Help your child enjoy a healthy balance between screen time and offline activities like reading, playing outside and spending time with family.

We hope everyone has a safe, happy and relaxing summer break. Let's work together to make sure our children stay safe both offline and online!

If you'd like more resources or advice on online safety, visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> or <https://www.childnet.com>.

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

