



Coxhoe Communicator

January 2026



Dear Parents/Carers

What a truly fantastic start to the year we have had - our children have returned with enthusiasm, positivity and a real desire to learn. It has been wonderful to see classrooms filled with such energy and determination. One of the highlights of the month has been our awards assembly, where we celebrated children's academic achievement and progress, alongside the Governor Kindness Award and the Headteacher's Coxhoe Citizen Award. I am proud of our children every single day, but it is especially lovely to come together as a wider school family to recognise those special moments of hard work, kindness, character and personal growth.

We also want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the FOCPS fundraising efforts, which allowed us to take the whole school to the pantomime – oh yes they did! East Durham College put on a fabulous performance and the children had an amazing time. There was so much laughter, excitement and joy. An extra special shout out goes to Mrs Walker for her brilliant planning and organisation, ensuring the event went so smoothly for everyone.

Our Class Museums are now underway and they are already proving to be a fantastic opportunity for families to discover more about what children have been learning this term. The pride pupils take in sharing their knowledge and creations is a delight to see and we hope you enjoy visiting them as much as the children enjoy showcasing their work. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a wonderful start to the year and we look forward to all that the coming months have in store.



TINARTS Pulse filming session

Year 5 were thrilled to welcome **TINARTS** for their exciting *Pulse* workshop. The children took part in an energetic dance workshop before watching a powerful and inspiring performance by the dancers, all linked to our science learning about the planets and the solar system. A lively Q&A session afterwards gave pupils the chance to ask thoughtful questions and learn more about the creative process. We were incredibly impressed by the children's engagement and the amazing confidence they showed when taking part in the activities.

Year 3 Class Museums

Morpurgo and Murphy really enjoyed hosting their class museums and had great fun planning, presenting and teaching! The children absolutely loved showing their grown-ups what they have been learning in school and took real pride in teaching them lots of new and interesting facts. It was wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm shine as they shared their knowledge. We really appreciate everyone who came along to support us and hope you learned something new 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, completing one is a requirement from the local authority.

Sports Report

Children across the school have made a great start to PE this term. Pupils in Reception to Year 2 have continued to develop their fundamental movement skills, focusing on balance, coordination and control. Alongside this, most classes across the school have begun new dance units, exploring a wide range of dance styles. Children have been enjoying learning how to move with control, expression and rhythm. They are working together to create and perform routines. We are very proud of the progress and confidence children are showing in their physical skills and their positive attitudes towards PE. Please check out the PE webpage to see some of the learning and skills developed so far this year.

A group of Year 5 and 6 children recently attended a Go Well Netball and Cricket Festival, where they took part in a carousel of activities. The children showed excellent enthusiasm and resilience as they rotated through the different stations, practicing key netball and cricket skills. They represented the school brilliantly, supporting one another and demonstrating positive sporting attitudes throughout the event.



Durham University workshops Y5 & Y6

All of the children in Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their workshop with Durham University. In our sessions, we explored what university is, including some of the courses that you can take, what life might be like and the opportunities you could have. We all loved hearing about different societies! They then put our knowledge to the test in some activities where we compared university to school and looked at managing our own time.

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
- Mrs Tufts
- Mrs Barron
- Miss Armstrong

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.

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".

"Which jobs help keep County Durham's heritage and countryside special?"

Answer:

County Durham and the Northeast are famous for their beautiful countryside, historic mining heritage and amazing outdoor spaces. Lots of people work in jobs that help protect these places so future generations can enjoy them too! Some examples include:

- **Rangers and Countryside Officers** – They look after places like Hardwick Park, Hamsterley Forest and Durham Heritage Coast by protecting wildlife, maintaining footpaths and running activities for families.
- **Archaeologists** – They help uncover and protect our region's rich history, including old mining sites and Roman remains like at Beamish and Binchester Roman Fort.
- **Heritage Officers and Museum Educators** – They work in places like Beamish Museum and Durham Cathedral, helping people learn about local history.
- **Environmental Scientists** – They study the local environment, from rivers like the Wear to woodland habitats, and help solve problems such as pollution or climate change.
- **Community Engagement Workers** – They help local communities get involved in looking after parks, nature trails, and local heritage projects.

If you have any connections to these careers, we would love for you to come into school to talk to our children about the fabulous work that you are doing.

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.



Year 1 Phonics check workshop

Thank you to all who attended the Year 1 Phonics workshop. We hope you found it useful. If you missed the workshop, the PowerPoint with all of the information you need is on the Year 1 webpage. Reminder – Phonics Screening will take place the week beginning the 8th June 2026.

Year 4 MTC Workshop

Thank you to all who attended the Year 4 MTC Workshop. We hope you found it useful. If you missed the workshop, the PowerPoint with all the information on can be found on our website. The MTC assessment period will begin June 1st to June 12th. We will send out further information closer to the time.

Dahl Class Museum

Thank you so much to all the adults who took the time to visit our Dahl Class Museum. It was wonderful to welcome you into school and see the children so confidently leading activities and sharing the learning they have been doing across our subjects. It was lovely to have the opportunity to talk through how we teach reading, writing and maths across the school and a chance to revisit approaches that may not be as familiar. We had some really positive discussions together and the children came away feeling so proud. Thank you again for your continued support and for making the afternoon such a success.

Adam Bushnell Workshops

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Adam Bushnell, a well known local author and storyteller, to our school for a wonderful two day visit. Throughout his time with us, Adam worked with pupils from Reception right up to Year 6, inspiring imaginations, sparking creativity and bringing stories to life in the most magical way.

Over the two days, children enjoyed engaging workshops packed with vivid characters, exciting adventures and brilliant opportunities to develop their own storytelling and writing skills. Adam's enthusiasm was infectious and it was fantastic to see pupils of all

ages fully immersed in creating, exploring and sharing their ideas. The buzz around school was unmistakable, from the Gingerbread Man in Reception to Ancient Egyptians and World War II in KS2. Adam truly encouraged every child to believe in the power of their own creativity. We are thrilled to share that Adam will be returning in January next year and we can't wait to see what new inspiration he brings with him!



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. For further information visit www.durham.gov.uk/familyhubs

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 4: Beamish	Thursday 19th March – Friday 20th March The deadline has now passed for children to attend this trip ! Reminder—The payment for this residential is due Monday 2nd March !
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
Year 2: Late night stay	Late night stay – Friday 10th July

Y3 Camping

Don't forget there is still time to sign your child up for an unforgettable outdoor adventure held on the school grounds. This residential will give your child the chance to explore nature, build confidence and enjoy quality time with their friends. Over the course of the residential, pupils will take part in team building games, nature walks, campfire singing and practical outdoor skills. Call the school office for further details.

After School Clubs and Lunchtime Clubs

Our Spring 1 after school clubs are now underway and it's been fantastic to see such great enthusiasm from the children. In Lego Club, pupils have been busy creating some impressive and imaginative models, while those attending Tag Rugby and Multi-Skills are developing their teamwork, coordination and sporting skills. Art Club has been full of budding artists exploring their creativity and our Heritage Heroes have been enjoying stepping into the role of historians as they learn more about the history of Coxhoe. Booking details for Spring 2 clubs will be sent soon.

Our lunchtime clubs have continued this half term, with Board Games and Weaving clubs providing fun and engaging activities. We are also looking forward to the launch of our Touch Typing Club, which will be starting soon.

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.



SEND and Inclusion

Question of the Month: "What is a Support Plan Review and why are they important?"

A **Support Plan Review** is a termly meeting where school staff and parents come together to look at how well a child's current SEND support is working. It's a chance to reflect on the child's progress, talk about what strategies have been successful and update targets so they continue to meet the child's needs. Parents' insights are an important part of the process, as they help build a complete picture of how the child is doing both in school and at home.

These reviews are important because they make sure the support a child receives stays relevant, consistent and effective. Needs can change over time and reviews allow staff to make adjustments early so the child continues to feel confident and supported. They also help everyone stay on the same page (teachers, support staff, parents and the child) so there is a clear plan for the next steps and continuity throughout the school year. If your child has a support plan, you will shortly receive your invite to our Spring term reviews.

Music Update

We have started our year off incredibly and can't wait for the opportunities that 2026 will bring us. The children have begun their new units across school and they are all continuing to develop their skills as performers and composers. We are excited to announce the beginning of our small group piano lessons in school and the continuation of our strings, woodwind and brass lessons. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and would like small group lessons with Durham Music Service or you would like any information about other opportunities for music in the area, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or Mrs Summerill.



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.

Young Carers

We are delighted to share that our school has been awarded Gold Accreditation on the Young Carers Neighbourhood Charter. This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to identifying, supporting and championing young carers within our community. If you would like more information about the support available for young carers, please contact Miss Armstrong – Family Liaison via the school office.

School Emails

To contact the school office or a member of SLT, please send your email to **coxhoe@durhamlearning.net**
To contact another member of school staff, please use
KS1: **EYFSKS1homelearning@coxhoeprimary.co.uk**
KS2: **ks2homelearning@coxhoeprimary.co.uk**

Polite Reminder - Items from Home

Children should not bring toys into school as this can cause disruption and unnecessary upset.
Children may have a small keyring/charm on their bookbag but please be mindful that these must fit into a school tray along with other school items.
Children in Year 5 and 6 may bring their own stationery if they choose to but school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage. Children in other year groups should not bring their own stationery.
Thank you for your continued support for the wellbeing of our children.

I am a Scientist—Year 5

As part of our science project with the Centre for Life, our Year 5 children met with 3 scientists online and were able to ask them any and every question they had about all things science. We learnt about permafrost, seagrass and science in psychology. We also learnt about what it takes to be a scientist and what inspired the scientists about their work. The children asked some fantastic questions and really enjoyed the experience!

Chartwells Workshops—Y3 and Y4

Year 3 and 4 had a very interesting and engaging visit from Chartwells, who taught us all about the Eatwell Plate and the importance of having a balanced diet. The children also learned about where different foods come from and how to identify whether vegetables grow above or below the ground. It was a fun, informative session that really got everyone thinking about healthy choices. A big thank you to Chartwells for such an enjoyable and educational visit!

Assembly Spotlight

In January 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 new year's resolutions**
- **Risks of too much screen time**
- **Considering the effect of online actions**
- **Age restrictions**
- **Martin Luther King Day**
- **Respectful online relationships**
- **Keeping safe online**
- **What is mental health?**
- **All of our feelings matter!**

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

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.

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.

Y3 Nissan Lesson in a Box

Morpurgo and Murphy were very lucky to welcome a wonderful visitor from Nissan Sunderland, who came to tell us all about Nissan cars, how they are made and what life is like in Japan, where the company originates. The children were fascinated and asked lots of thoughtful questions. She also kindly left us a box of exciting activities, which we have been very busy enjoying! We have been building cars, creating our own Pokémon, designing futuristic vehicles, and even learning some Japanese. It was a fantastic and inspiring experience for the children and helped them think creatively and learn about lots of different careers involved in making cars.

