



Coxhoe Communicator

December 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

What an incredible festive season we've had at Coxhoe Primary! Our children have amazed us all with their wonderful Christmas performances, each one filled with talent, confidence and joy. We are so proud of everything they have achieved this term. A huge thank you to our dedicated teams of staff for their hard work and creativity in making these events so special. We've loved welcoming families into school to share these fabulous experiences, your support means so much to us. The Christmas parties have been full of fun and laughter, giving children the chance to develop social skills, share with friends and celebrate together. Now they are ready for some well-deserved time with their families. Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas break! We look forward to seeing everyone **back in school on Monday 5th January** for another exciting term.



Wellbeing support over Christmas

During the Christmas period, some of Durham County Council mental health and emotional support services take a short seasonal break. To help ensure continued wellbeing see below the link to the Durham County Council resource page. These resources offer practical, empowering ideas to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people throughout the festive season.

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

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.

Leave of absence forms

Leave of absence forms can be found on our school website or from the school office. Please note that 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.

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 8:55am and children arriving after this time will need to be dropped off at the main entrance.

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 contact you we may need to conduct a home visit.

Bowburn Care Home

Some of our Y5 pupils visited Bowburn Care Home to sing Christmas carols with the residents. The performance was warmly received and brought festive cheer, reflecting the school's commitment to community engagement. Well done to everyone involved.

Feeding Families

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards our Feeding Families initiative. Your generosity, kindness and support have made a real difference in the lives of many.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Date Notice Circulated to Parents: 19/12/25

There will be a vacancy for a Parent Governor(s) from December 2025.

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 13/1/26.

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.

Christmas Break the Rules Day

Our Christmas Break the Rules Day was a fantastic success! The children had so much fun wearing festive clothes, enjoying a tasty treat and sipping juice. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised an amazing amount towards taking all the children to see a pantomime in January. We are so grateful for the incredible support from our parents/carers—thank you for helping make this day so special!



Sports Report

Children have continued to enjoy their PE lessons this half term, with many classes developing their skills across a range of PE units. Pupils have shown great enthusiasm and have continued to build on their teamwork, communication and game understanding during lessons.

We are very proud of our netball team, who have now completed their fixtures in the Go Well Netball League. The team demonstrated excellent commitment, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the competition and finished in a fantastic 4th place overall. This is a brilliant achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication shown by all pupils involved. Well done to the team for representing the school so positively.



Y2 Captain Chemistry

Year 2 had so much fun with our visitor from Captain Chemistry! The children really enjoyed learning about different animals and what owls eat. They became scientific explorers and used tweezers to dig through pellets to find bones from different animals. They also had so much fun examining animal bones underneath a microscope and identifying the differences between each of them!

Year 1 sing-a-long

Year 1 put on a wonderful performance at their Christmas sing-along. We were extremely impressed by their fantastic singing and how confidently they remembered all the words and actions to the songs. The children did an amazing job and we are incredibly proud of them. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported them.

Ferryhill Choir Performance

We loved having Ferryhill's school choir come and perform for us as part of their primary school tour. They showed us their wonderful singing skills and treated us to a selection of Christmas songs. It made us feel incredibly festive.

Educational Visits

The Residential Visits for our children this year are:

Year 4: Beamish – Thursday 19th March – Friday 20th March – **The deadline has now passed for children to add on to this trip.**

Year 6: London – Monday 22nd June – Wednesday 24th June - **The deadline has now passed for children to add on to this trip.**

Year 3: Camping – outdoors adventure -Monday 6th July – Tuesday 7th July

Year 2: Late night stay – Friday 10th July

Please ensure you check your emails for payment deadlines for the trips, please contact of the office if you have any queries.

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".

Did You Know?

65% of children entering primary school today will work in jobs that don't exist yet!

Jobs are changing quickly—many careers today didn't exist 10 years ago!

AR and VR app developers

Social Media manager

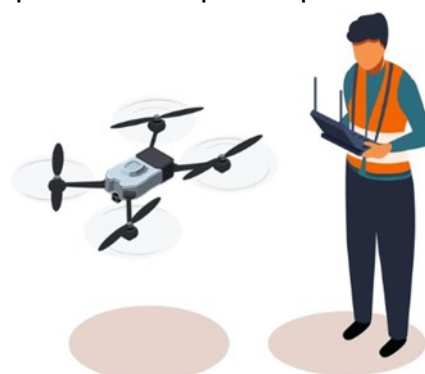
Drone operator

AI prompt engineer

Influencer

Cloud computing specialist

E-sports coach



Skills like creativity, resilience and communication are valuable in almost every role. Talking about these with your child helps them understand why learning matters.

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.](https://coxhoe.sites.schooljotter2.com/curriculum-1/our-wider-coxhoe-curriculum/careers)

EYFS Nativity

We are incredibly proud of the children for their fantastic first Nativity performance. They sang beautifully, danced with pride and confidence and created a truly special show. We're sure you'll agree, it was a lovely performance from start to finish!



Year 2 Nativity

A massive well done to all our Year 2 children for a fantastic Nativity! We are so proud of everyone for their amazing singing, dancing and acting. We hope you all had a fantastic time watching and are all in the Christmas spirit.

Year 5 trip to The Baltic and Newcastle Reform Synagogue.

Last week, Year 5 enjoyed an inspiring day out packed with creativity and learning. In the morning, the children visited The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, where they took part in a fascinating Mayan artwork session and explored the gallery. They even paused to sketch the stunning views of the Quayside!

In the afternoon, the classes headed to The Reform Synagogue for an insightful tour. The children impressed everyone with their thoughtful questions and demonstrated fantastic knowledge throughout the visit. It was a wonderful day that combined art, history, and cultural understanding – well done, Year 5!

<https://www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk/our-team-and-classes/our-classes/our-classes-2025-2026/dickens-and-tolkien-2025-2026>

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Assembly Spotlight

In December 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:

- First Sunday of Advent
- Challenging Stereotypes
- Christingle singing
- How can we care for others at Christmas time?

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

Music

Wow! The children across school from Reception to year 6 have amazed us with their wonderful performances in their nativities, sing-a-long and Christingle services. Our choir children also represented our school beautifully at the choir of the year competition where they sang their hearts out against 10 other schools. We are very proud of music within our school and we can't wait to see what the new year brings.



If your child is in Key Stage 2 and would like to begin music lessons there are still opportunities to do so. High quality music lessons are available in school. You can choose from strings (with Miss Brookes on Mondays), woodwind (with Mrs Unwin on Tuesdays) or brass (with Mr Bradshaw on Tuesdays). If you are interested, please visit the Durham Music Service website <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up> Please note that there are a limited number of spaces available with each teacher. If you have any questions, please speak to Durham Music Service, your child's class teacher or Mrs Summerill.

SEND and Inclusion

Question of the Month: "How do we work with external specialists to support pupils with SEND?"

At our Coxhoe Primary School, we believe that supporting children with SEND is a team effort. Alongside our teachers and SENCO Team, we work closely with a range of external specialists to provide the best possible support for your child. These may include:

Educational Psychologists – who help us understand a child's learning needs and recommend strategies.

Speech and Language Therapists – who support pupils with communication and language development.

Occupational Therapists – who advise on physical and sensory needs.

Specialist Teachers – for areas such as visual or hearing impairment.

Health Professionals – including school nurses and CAMHS for emotional wellbeing.

We collaborate by sharing observations, assessments, and strategies, always with your consent. This ensures that advice from specialists is built into your child's support plan and classroom practice. Our goal is to create a consistent approach between home, school, and external services. A member of the Neurodevelopmental Team visited us last week had this to say, "School observation completed. All staff are exceptional! The pupils well behaved & respectful. Keep up the good work."



Keep clear of our zig zag markings. Do not stop, drop or park on our yellow school keep clear road markings.

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.

Fewer cars at the school entrance will help make it safer for everyone

What you could do instead....

- ✓ Try walking, cycling or scooting – even if its just one day a week, it can make a big difference.
- ✓ If you need to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school and walking the remainder of the way or car share with other families.



For more advice visit our website

www.durham.gov.uk/schoolparking



Walking, cycling or scooting to school contributes to the recommended daily physical exercise for you and your children.

It also helps to **reduce congestion** around school and **improves air quality**, providing benefits for everyone.





Merry Christmas

FROM EVERYONE AT
COXHOE PRIMARY