



Corbridge Middle School

Newsletter November 2020

Big Welcome Back

Dear Parents/carers,

It's been lovely having all of the children back following the partial closure during the summer term and we really are pleased with the high level of attendance throughout the school. Over the term we have been really fortunate to only have a few children and staff who have had to self-isolate and this has not been directly related to school. We continue to follow guidelines and our latest risk assessment can be found at: <http://www.corbridgemiddle.co.uk/covid-19-arrangements.html>

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Jane Kennedy

Sponsored Walk

Our whole school sponsored walk is now a school tradition and an important part of our fund raising efforts.

We had a couple of challenges this year; the work on the new pupil entrance meant that we were unable walk our usual route around the whole school and the Covid-19 restrictions meant that the whole school could not all come out at once. However it was an **AMAZING SUCCESS!**

Each year group ran or walked around the bottom field, mainly managing to avoid the teachers with the water pistols and had a great time.

The total raised was **OVER £4000** which is incredible. Every penny will be spent on enriching the curriculum.

Thank you so much for your support.





Corbridge Middle School

New Pupil Entrance

We are delighted that our new pupil entrance is finished!

The pupils now have a really safe entrance to and from our school from the car park and bus area; and it all looks very smart.

It can be busy at times and we appreciate your patience, particularly those of you in cars at the end of the day.

Please do speak to your children about where to safely cross to and from the car park and please do not park on the double yellow lines at any time.

Thank you.

Before...

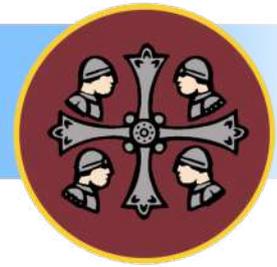


After...



Works At The Front Of School

Work has now also started at the front of the school to improve the entrance for visitors. If your child usually walks to school and uses this entrance it will be back in use shortly!



Gardening Enrichment

As part of our Gardening Enrichment Project, 7MB worked in teams to extract natural pigments from crushed plants using filtration.

We then created wildlife pictures with the different colours.

The best results were from turmeric, blackberries, beetroot and dock leaves. A great project involving nature, art and science.



School 360 Success

Well done to Sadie in Year 7 - she entered a competition in the Summer term which was to design a new background theme for our virtual learning platform - School360.

Her design was chosen and turned into a digital background theme named 'Jungle'.

Very well done, Sadie!





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Forest Skills Enrichment

We are pleased to welcome Forest Skills into our Enrichment Project this year!

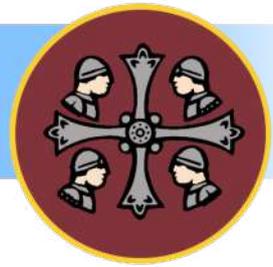
Outdoor learning gives children the opportunity to develop important skills, such as negotiation, resilience and independence.

Research into Forest Skills has found that children who gain hands-on experiences in woodland or natural environments develop important traits, such as social and environmental responsibility, social skills, confidence building, problem solving and creativity, which prepares them for later life.

Sessions include:

- exploration, safety, site selection, set up and get to know you games
- animals and habitats
- arts and crafts
- survival
- trees and plants
- fire making





How Well Is My Child Doing?

We are genuinely so pleased to have all the children back in school. The alternative curriculum that was in place for the first few weeks really helped the pupils to settle back into school life. It enabled us to assess as quickly as possible how each child was doing, both emotionally and in each subject, and we were able to put in some additional support for some of the pupils right from the start of term.

For the last few weeks, your child has been following a more 'normal' timetable. There are still some restrictions on what we can do in practical subjects, and we are still trying to minimise movement around school and the mixing of groups, but the teachers are now teaching their specialist subjects and love it and we hope the pupils do too!

Teachers are now in a position to set targets for the end of the year and these will be shared with you shortly. I am sure that you will appreciate how tricky this is after the period of school closure last year. We are determined that your child will not be adversely affected long term and analysis of the targets in comparison with last year shows that we are setting challenging targets and we will provide support for 'catch-up' as required. We will also let you know how well we think your child is progressing towards their targets and give an indication of their attitude to learning for each subject too.

Usually this update would be followed by a parents evening, where you would have the opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress in more detail. This will not be possible to do in the same way this year but we will provide you with the opportunity to request a conversation with a particular teacher if you need to. It is important to emphasise that if your child's form teacher or subject teacher has any concerns about your child at any time, they will always contact you anyway; they wouldn't wait until parent's evening.

We look forward to the future when we can sit down with you and discuss in more detail how your child is doing and how we can work together to ensure that they are thriving in every sense of the word!

Jane Kennedy





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Art Competition

Just before the summer break, a group of Year 6 pupils entered a national competition, organised by The Sun newspaper and Dobbies garden centres.

As the task was to draw and colour in a "prettiest rose" it was a lovely wellbeing task for the group. Mrs Watkins sent eight entries in and was thrilled to receive the news that both Cleo and Raymond had won! Both received £25 Dobbies vouchers for their beautiful artwork, which they are going to spend on a new rose for the garden (Cleo) and a bonsai tree (Raymond).

Well done to you both!

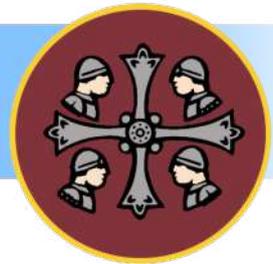


Myths and Legends

Year 5 are in the middle of their term's work on Myths and Legends and they have been learning about local folk tales. 5P have produced news reports about The Lambton Worm, which has been great fun to watch and listen to. This week, they are performing to their class and we have had a class full of blacksmiths, witches and sleeping-bag-clad worms! Lots of swords, armour and tea towels have figured heavily in their drama pieces too!

Mrs Watkins has been very impressed with their clever script writing, funny interviews and amazing costumes and props - thank you 5P! It has been an absolute pleasure this week.





Library Update

As we can't fully open the Library to all pupils, next term we will be running a 'Did somebody say just read?' click and collect book service for Year 6 pupils.

Paper slips will be placed in form rooms to enable pupils to request a specific book, author or genre which will be delivered to their classroom.

Alternatively, they can choose the 'surprise me!' option and Mrs Ramsay will suggest books they might not have considered choosing.

Form tutors will support pupils in accessing the Library catalogue, and posters have been put in form rooms with further information for pupils.

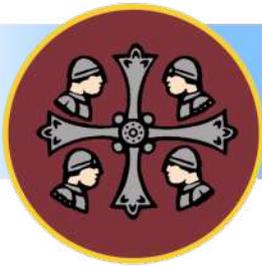


My Wellbeing

Caring for our well being has never been more important. We have set up a classroom on School 360 dedicated to advice and support promoting positive mental health. It is open for all Year 7 and 8 children and will feature a range of activities and signposts that pupils can access at their leisure.

If you are in Year 7 or 8 and would like to join, please use the classroom code: oefq2bb (it is all lowercase and the only number in the code is the 2)





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Celebrating Success

Maia (Y6) has been fundraising with her family!

Their young friend Oscar, who has Alopecia, is raising money for his charity, Alopecia UK to celebrate their 15th birthday.

With Oscar's fundraising activities as inspiration, Maia, Ruben and Duncan were aiming to raise money to add to Oscar's charity by abseiling 90ft down Langley Castle in Northumberland during Wild About Adventure's event 'Great North Abseil' on Sunday 13th September.

Alopecia UK is a small charity working to improve the lives of those affected by alopecia. The charity has aims around Support, Awareness and Research.

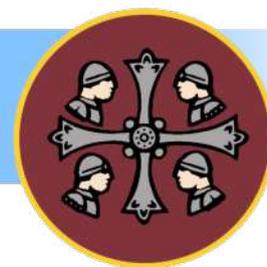
Alopecia UK relies on the support of fundraisers and donors to continue the fantastic work it does.



Care Week

Monday 19th October saw our first ever school value week. Pupils were focussing on the value 'Care' and looked specifically at how they look after themselves. We decided that when caring for ourselves, laughter is often the best medicine! Both Mrs Brown and Mrs Parkinson shared stories of times they just had to laugh which really tickled everyone in the 'bubble' assemblies!





Useful Dates

DATE	TIME	EVENT	AIMED AT
Friday 13th November	All Day	Children in Need Non-Uniform Day (Min. £1 Donation)	All
Friday 13th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 18th December	3.30	School Closes for Christmas Holiday	All
Monday 4th January	All Day	Teacher Day	All
Tuesday 5th January	All Day	School Opens For Spring Term	All

Christmas Fayre

Christmas at Corbridge Middle School is definitely NOT cancelled – but unfortunately the Christmas Fayre is!

We really appreciate all the local businesses and friends of the school who support us by donating prizes to the raffle; so this year we are going to write to them and ask instead what we can do to support them.

We will ask our pupils to help with publicity, posters, Christmas card designs; anything at all that we can do to help in these difficult times.



Crocus Donation

The school would like to thank Mr Jewitt for donating some Crocus bulbs on behalf of the Rotary Club!



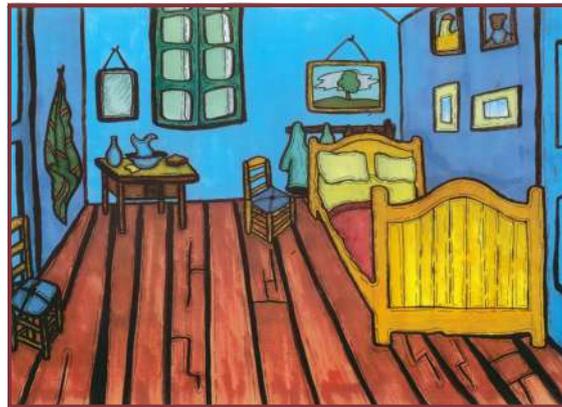


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Art Of The Month

Year 8 have been looking at one-point perspective and they had to copy Van Gogh's famous painting 'The Bedroom'.

This wonderful work is by Finn in Year 8!



SafeToNet

SafeToNet are currently offering 60 days free access to their safeguarding app, follow the instruction on the image below for more information

A message from SafeToNet


SafeToNet

As part of SafeToNet's support for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 parents can now get a **60-DAY FREE ACCESS** to SafeToNet's pioneering safeguarding app.
Visit safetonet.com/abw2020 and use the code **ABW2020** to sign up now and make sure your children are safer online.

Children in Need

Friday 13th November is Children In Need Day, we will be raising money by having a 'Come As Yourself' non-uniform day.

The minimum donation is £1





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