



Corbridge Middle School

Newsletter April 2021

Music at Corbridge Middle School

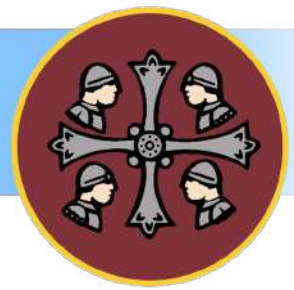
It has been a challenging year for creative subjects but it has been wonderful to be able to have some practical work and music making going on in school again.

In addition to this we have been delighted to welcome back our fantastic peripatetic music teachers into school. Lessons this term will restart for pupils who have already been learning an instrument in previous terms.

Pupils who wish to start learning an instrument for the first time will be able to do so from the Autumn term. Further information will be available closer to the time.



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Google Internet Legends



Earlier this year, pupils in Y5, Y7 and Y6 participated in a live virtual assembly with Google Internet Legends.

Internet Legends is a programme developed by Google to support individuals in learning to become safe and confident explorers of the online world.

This Easter, we distributed a fun challenge to Y5 pupils and their parents/carers – to build their very own Legend.

We hope that you had fun completing the challenge and it was lovely to receive so many photographs of your legend trophy.





Corbridge Middle School

How is your child doing? What progress are they making?

Due to the Covid pandemic, we have not been able to communicate with you to discuss your child's progress in the way that we usually do. We will always get in touch with you if we have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, attitude or work. But in addition we will also be ensuring that:

- All pupils receive an annual report towards the end of the year which will inform you if they have achieved their targets for each individual subject and give some feedback from both their subject teachers and their form teachers.
- All Year 7 and 8 pupils will receive a progress report during the week beginning 26th April. This will indicate whether we feel they will reach their end of year target and give some feedback on their attitude to learning.
- All Year 5 and 6 pupils will also receive a progress report during the week beginning 26th April, indicating whether or not we feel they will reach their end of year target and some feedback on their attitude to learning. Year 5 and 6 parents will also be able to book times to have an online meeting with some of their child's teachers on either the 5th or 10th of May. These meetings went well with the Year 7 and 8 pupils and it is so lovely to be able to speak 'face to face' - even if it is virtually!

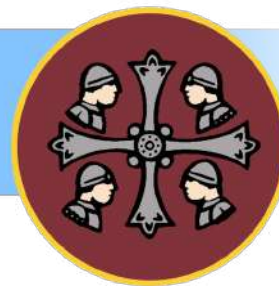
Please do continue to communicate with us using the school journal or by contacting us directly if there is anything you think we should know or you would like to discuss with us!

Would you like to work at Corbridge Middle School?

At the end of the summer term we will be saying a sad farewell to several members of staff as they move on to other positions or decide to start their well-earned retirement. We are currently advertising for the following positions. We are looking for:

- An Office Manager
- A Catering Manager
- A Key Stage 2 teacher
- A Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Interested? Please watch [this video](#) and have a look at [our website](#) for more details.



Weather & Climate Club

When we all went back to school after the first COVID-19 lockdown, there weren't many school clubs on.

This was very hard as many of the children were looking forward to spending time doing the things they enjoyed with their friends, classmates and teachers.

I know that many of the Year 5 pupils were especially looking forward to trying new things here as they had heard about all the opportunities that you had to express yourself with other like-minded people. However, the coronavirus came and that meant a lot of those things had to be cancelled. Fortunately, the staff have made a huge effort and the result is that Year 6 could start a Weather and Climate club!

We have been working hard on many different weather-based activities, such as trying to create a weather forecast using the school's weather station. You can find out more about the weather station and the data recorded there at

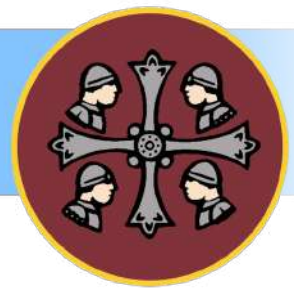
<https://www.weatherlink.com/map/ef8ac60b-88b4-4df8-a6c8-3ce8093b8b7f>.

You might also want to try some of the free online weather activities at www.metlink.org/experimentsdemonstrations/ which are great to have a go at.

In the club we are trying some experiments such as: a pine cone weather station and a plastic bottle rain gauge. Currently the club is only open to Year 6 but all the experiments we are doing are free to try at home. We would really like to open the club to more year groups when it is safe to do so.

Written by Abi, Isla and Georgina, members of the Weather & Climate Club





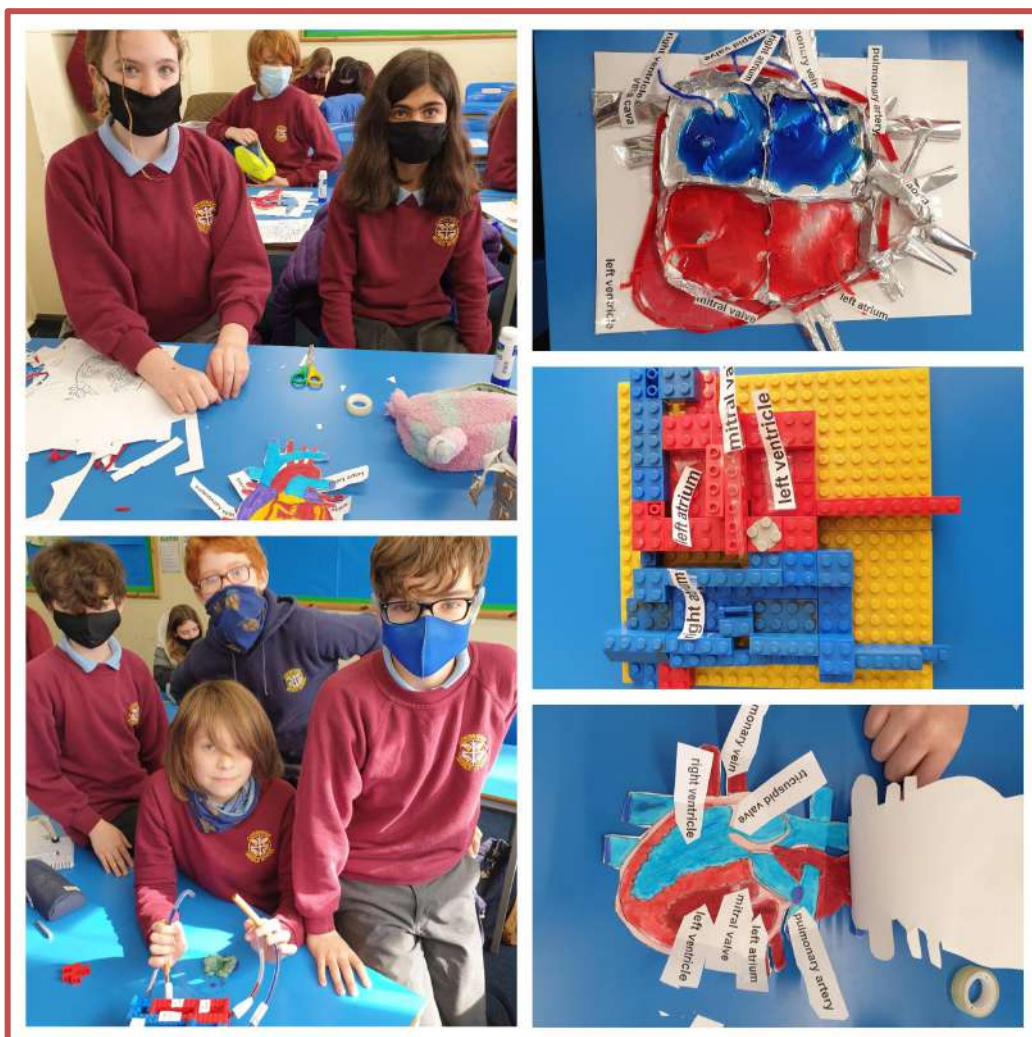
Heart Biomechanics Competition

All pupils in Year 7 took part in the BayerLab Heart Biomechanics Competition in their science lessons as the challenges linked so well to our current topic of Human Body Systems and was started in British Science Week.

The first challenge was to create a new Olympic sport. Their suggestions included kayak-ball (a combination of steering a kayak on water whilst playing basketball) and ski-football! The pupils described how their sport would keep the players' hearts healthy by increasing blood flow and improving muscle tone.

The second challenge was to design a three course meal fit for an Olympic athlete. There were an incredibly inventive array of menus and the suggestions were all linked to a healthy diet with plenty of complex carbohydrates for slow-release energy, green vegetables which contain iron and protein for growth and repair.

The third challenge was to build a model heart using a variety of different materials and resources. This involved their scientific understanding of the heart, team-work and creativity. The best entries have been submitted to BayerLab and we should find out if we are one of the winning schools soon!





International Women's Day - Poetry Competition

Once again, a CMS pupil has been awarded first prize in a county-wide competition!

To celebrate International Women's Day in March, year 8 pupils were invited to write a poem linked to this theme and Sam Broadfoot's clever and thought-provoking acrostic poem was judged as the best!

Many congratulations to Sam, a very talented writer, and he receives £25 book tokens for himself and £200 for his school - so hopefully, he will be choosing a wide range of texts for the library from Forum later this term!

Here is the winning poem:

Challenging gender bias

Has been a century-long goal:

On October 10th 1903

Original women's movement,

Suffragettes started and almost lose did thee

Everyone around them

Told them it was hopeless

Or they couldn't just change things by

Clicking their fingers

However they kept on going, and

All seemed lost 'til 1918

Late one night, months before the war

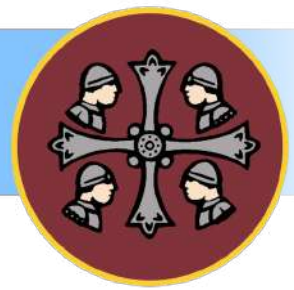
Liberal government didn't ignore

Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett,

Nagging them, protesting was incessant, and they

Gave women the vote, and

Even though it wasn't all women, it was a step towards the present day.



British Science Week

In March, we celebrated British Science Week with an assembly on Innovative Thinking - including using biomimicry or natural processes and organisms to help solve problems. We then set a couple of optional competitions for all pupils. One competition was introduced by Jessica Clark, a former CMS student, who now works at WSP Ltd as an engineer and is our STEM Ambassador. Pupils had to come up with a creative idea to help solve a global issue. Jessica helped to select the winning entries and named the following winners:

- Jessica Ross - Earth Safe Cookies
- Emily Simpson - Sustainable Mining
- Adam Turnbull - Solar Powered Bus

The other challenge was to design a lab coat for BayLabs. We had over 120 entries and the very best five entries from KS2 and from KS3 have been submitted to Bayer. We have some incredibly artistic and scientifically minded young people in school!





Corbridge Middle School

Hedgehog

AWARENESS WEEK



02-08 May 2021

What is Hedgehog Awareness Week?

Hedgehog Awareness Week runs from 2nd May - 8th May, and it is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS). It takes place every year and helps to highlight the problems hedgehogs face.

Through campaigns and educational projects, the BHPS raises awareness for how we can help these much-loved creatures. They also fund research that provides important new insights into the welfare of hedgehogs.

Why do we need Hedgehog Awareness Week?

Sadly, hedgehog population numbers are in decline. It's estimated that urban hedgehog populations have fallen by up to 30%, and rural populations by up to 50%, since the turn of the century. Hedgehogs prefer to live in countryside habitats like woodland and hedgerows, but unfortunately, they are shrinking. Many of them are living in urban gardens, but a lot of people aren't sure how we can help these vulnerable animals.

How can we help?

- Cover drains and deep holes
- Ensure there's an easy route out of ponds and pools
- Check areas thoroughly before mowing or strimming
- Build a hedgehog home
- Avoid using pesticides and poisons
- Pick up litter, so hedgehogs don't get trapped

Fun facts about hedgehogs

- Hedgehogs can hibernate
- There's a reason they're called hedgehogs! They root through hedges and other undergrowth in search of small creatures to eat, and make a grunting sound similar to that of a pig/warthog
- They don't use their eyes to hunt, as their eyesight isn't very good. Instead, they use their hearing and smell
- Hedgehogs have over 5000 spikes
- There are 15 species of hedgehog in the world. The UK only has one native species, which is the European Hedgehog
- A group of hedgehogs is called an array, although it's very rare that you'll see them together
- Hedgehogs can swim and even climb trees!



Thank you Mrs Holmes!



Jo Holmes has been a governor at our school for many years and became Chair of Governors in 2014. Her knowledge of the school and knowledge of the community, both as a parent and someone living locally, was invaluable in ensuring that the decisions we made helped our pupils and families and our wider community.

Jo's contribution to the leadership of the school as a governor was recognised both locally and nationally and she also supports the governors in other schools as a National Leader of Governance. Jo was well known to our staff - whether it was for a meeting, to help run our hockey club or more recently to help us with the lateral flow testing we were all used to her being in school and she will be missed.

We are pleased to welcome Roy Bearpark, Outreach Manager for the STEM Outreach Team at Newcastle University, as our new Chair of Governors and we look forward to working with him more closely.

Our school governors are:

Chair of Governing Body Mr R Bearpark - Co-opted Governor
Vice-Chair of Governing Body Mr T Weston Parent Governor
Chair of Resource Management Committee Mr P Jewitt Co-opted Governor
Chair of Teaching and Achievement Committee Mr C Bruce Co-opted Governor
Mr M Warland Co-opted Governor
Mrs J Adey Co-opted Governor
Mr M Horn Co-opted Governor
Mrs A Leggett Parent Governor
Mrs J Kennedy Headteacher
Mrs A Harvey Co-opted Governor
Mrs M Browne Staff Governor
Mr D Johnston Observer



Corbridge Middle School

Lunchtime Tennis Club

The PE department were delighted to welcome our tennis coach into school to offer some first class coaching for our pupils. Ian, who works for Newton Tennis, will be offering his services to all year groups as a lunchtime club over the next few weeks.





Tennis Coaching at Corbridge & Stocksfield Tennis Clubs



If your child has been enjoying the tennis clubs at school, then they may wish to take part in some of the tennis coaching sessions which are offered by Newton Tennis at Corbridge Tennis Club and Stocksfield Tennis Club.

The details for these sessions are:

SATURDAY - Stocksfield Tennis Club - LTA Youth Start 9-10am (4-11yrs) LTA Youth Yellow 10-11am (10-16yrs)

SATURDAY - Corbridge Tennis Club - LTA Youth Orange 1-2pm (8-9yrs) LTA Youth Yellow 2-3pm (10-16yrs) LTA Youth Start* 3-4pm (4-11yrs)

MONDAY - Stocksfield Tennis Club - LTA Youth Start 5-6pm (4-11yrs) LTA Youth Yellow 6-7pm (10-16yrs)

WEDNESDAY - Corbridge Tennis Club - LTA Youth Start 5-6pm (4-11yrs) LTA Youth Yellow 6-7pm (10-16yrs)

Membership Information:

Corbridge Tennis Club - clubspark.lta.org.uk/ctc

Stocksfield Tennis Club - clubspark.lta.org.uk/StocksfieldDistrictTennisClub

Book online - www.newtontennis.co.uk

Head Coach

Jonathan Newton - 07970167234 info.newtontennis@gmail.com

'Youth Start'

you get a ...

Racket, Balls, T shirt & 6 sessions for £34.99 aimed at new players just starting.



Corbridge Middle School

Film Directors In The Making

Y6 have been filming documentaries as part of their Film-making topic in Computing. They have to create a 5 minute film about one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

They worked in groups to decide which SDG they felt strongly about. They then researched their chosen SDG using a number of trustworthy sites.

They also learned about camera angles, positioning, interviewing techniques and writing scripts before utilising these new skills to film their documentaries. The pupils have a little more filming to do before they start to edit the documentaries for their final piece.





Year 6 Swimming at Wentworth Leisure Centre

At the start of this term, one of our year 6 form classes excitedly boarded the bus which was to take them to Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham.

Swimming as part of the curriculum hasn't happened for a good while now but it has thankfully made a welcome return. Slowly and cautiously, we are now once again able to offer all the great extra activities that enrich our curriculum.

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their swim session, some pupils commenting on how nice it was to immerse themselves in the water! As ever our pupils represented our school extremely well.

Thank you to our brilliant PE department for organising the swimming lessons for the Y6 pupils.



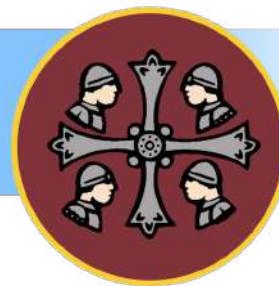
Peer Mentoring

This week a group of year 6 pupils began a 10 week course on how to be a peer mentor. The course is run and led by Stacy Herberson who works for Northumbria Healthcare.

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing how they all progress on the course but more importantly we will be delighted to have them as peer mentors within our school as they move into year 7.

There will be further opportunities for other pupils to take part in this course later on in the year.





Tynedale Hockey Club

We are in the fortunate position to have a strong link with Tynedale Junior Hockey Club who are currently based at Mowden Hall.

If your child is interested in training with them please consult their Facebook page or contact Jo Holmes directly at jopholmes@gmail.com



Food & Textiles

Pupils have been working hard in Food and Textiles lessons at the start of this term.

Year 6 have completed their Beanie Buddies in Textiles, and Year 5 were excited to prepare a lovely Rainbow salad for their first Food practical lesson.





Willow Tree Pollarding

Following our annual tree inspection we were saddened to hear that our very old Willow trees were recommended to be trimmed. It's a process called pollarding – it reduces the size of the tree and any existing wood rot.

Cutting off the top of the tree in this way encourages new growth and so we look forward to seeing some new growth in the near future.

Thanks to the four Y5 pupils who happily volunteered to be included in the photographs to show you the sheer size of these trees!

Before



After



Last week, Dr Batchelder and a small group of Year 7 children planted a new fruit tree Orchard at the front of the school. We look forward to these trees maturing over time and bearing fruit.





Corbridge Middle School

Club Timetable - Summer 2021

Time	Club & Room	Staff
MONDAY		
12:35	Y7 EcoSTEAM club	MBA
12.05 -12.35	Y6 Tennis Club	MBL
12.35 -1.05	Y7 Tennis Club	MBL
TUESDAY		
12.55 -1.25	Y5 Dance Club	MBL
12.25-12.55	Y8 Dance Club	MBL
12.05	Y6 Weather & Climate Club U4	MS
12:35	Y7 Lego Challenge	MBA
WEDNESDAY		
13.05	Y6 Craft/drawing club U5	FA
12.55 -1.25	Y5 Tennis Club	MBL
12.25-12.55	Y8 Tennis Club	MBL
THURSDAY		
12.05-12.35	Y6 Dance Club	MBL
12.35 -1.05	Y7 Dance Club	MBL
FRIDAY		
12:35	Y7 drop in for EcoSTEAM/Lego	MBA
12:25	Y5 Pokémon club L5	JF

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Key Dates - Summer Term 1

Date	Time	Event	Aimed at
3rd May	All Day	Early May Bank Holiday	All
28th May	3.30	School closes for May Half Term	All
7th June	8.45	School opens for Summer Term 2	All