



# Corbridge Middle School

**October 2022 Newsletter**







# Corbridge Middle School



What an incredible start to the new academic year it has been! As Head, it has felt absolutely wonderful to start a new academic year alongside you all, and I have really enjoyed my first Autumn half term here at CMS.

There have been many highlights throughout this half term. We have successfully welcomed our new Year 5 cohort and it is fantastic to see Year 5 fully established and settled into school life here at CMS. It was lovely to welcome parents of new starters at our new intake evening. We also enjoyed welcoming prospective parents into school at our Open Day events which were all very successful. The students who gave up their time and volunteered to help our staff lead the activities and tours did an absolutely fantastic job and were a credit to our school.





## October 2022 Newsletter

We have been joined this term by Reverend Sam who has held assemblies with our children about the message of Harvest and we have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our school community. The West Northumberland Food Bank is incredibly grateful and will ensure these supplies go to families in need in our local area. Thank you so much for your support with our Harvest collection this year.

The next half term brings with it some exciting news. Over the half term holiday, our new outdoor fitness equipment is being installed. We hope that children will enjoy using this on their return. Our staff will be working with the children to help them understand how to use the equipment safely as part of a healthy lifestyle.

We also will be having a defibrillator fitted over the half term. Thank you to our PTA for helping us fund this project and enabling us to have potentially life saving equipment on site. The children in Years 6, 7 and 8 along with many of the school staff have had training this week in CPR to support us with this moving forward. Thank you to the 'Restart a Heart' team from Durham and Darlington NHS Trust for delivering this training.

We look forward to welcoming you all to parents evening next half term. I hope you have a wonderful Autumn break and we will welcome children back to school on Monday 31st October 2022.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Adele Brown





# Corbridge Middle School

## Harvest Festival



We can't believe the amount of donations received this term for Harvest!

The kindness and generosity shown by our school community has been overwhelming.

The West Northumberland Food Bank is incredibly grateful for our support.

The food we have collected will be used to support families in need in our local area.

Thank you again for your support with this collection.





# October 2022 Newsletter

## Music Ensembles



We are delighted to have had music ensembles up and running again this half term, and it has been wonderful to hear a range of styles floating down the corridors.

Music Ensembles remain free for anyone to take part, so get yourself along and try something new!

### Monday:

Senior Choir - Open to all in Y7 and Y8 - 12:30 in U6

### Tuesday:

- Wind Band - Open to all wind players - 8:30 on the stage
- Junior Choir - Open to all in Y5 and Y6 - 12:05 in U6
- Ceilidh Band - Open to all string players, plus percussion - all welcome to try percussion - 12:30 in U6

### Thursday:

Boys Choir - Open to all boys in all year groups - 15:05 - in L2

### Friday:

- Guitar Group - Open to all players - we have guitars for you to borrow so please come along and learn a new skill - 12:05 in U6





## Seven Stories Competition



Congratulations to Freya Foster, in Year 6, who has won a 'Design a Welcome Mat' competition, explaining why you love books, run by Seven Stories. The competition was last October and we had forgotten all about it until we received an email saying Freya had won! But, her design was so well-liked by the judges that they could not bear to have it as a mat, with people wiping their feet over it each time they came in! Instead, Freya's wonderful design is on mugs, which are being sold at Seven Stories instead.

On Oct 10th, Freya and her parents met with Rachel at Seven Stories, accompanied by Mrs Brown, to receive her prize and see the fantastic design made up into the mugs. Congratulations Freya on your amazing design.





# October 2022 Newsletter

## Food & Textiles



We have had a busy half term in Food and Textiles lessons. Pupils have been developing their practical skills through making pizza toast, sponge cakes, sausage rolls, chicken nuggets and macaroni cheese.

Year 5 have enjoyed tie-dying fabric which they will use to make a bag, and have been completing their sewing machine driving test!





## PSHE in the Autumn Term



At Corbridge Middle we use the Jigsaw PSHE scheme. This scheme is designed to connect the pieces of Personal, Social, Health and Well-being education together. The programme teaches young children and young people emotional literacy, social and lifelong skills, RSE/RSHE and resilience in an age-appropriate manner. The Jigsaw scheme is based on a spiral curriculum which means that topics, subjects or themes are revisited throughout the course. A spiral curriculum is not simply the repetition of a topic taught. It requires also the deepening of it, with each successive encounter building on the previous one.

Last half term our pupils covered the topic of 'Being Me in My World.'- Who am I and how do I fit?

Next half term pupils will cover the topic of 'Celebrating Difference.'- Having a respect for the similarities and differences that we have. Anti-Bullying and being unique.

Staff will also cover other topics that might arise along the way and that need discussing in school.





# October 2022 Newsletter

## SCHOOL CONNECT PROJECT

HELP YOUR SCHOOL TO  
RAISE FUNDS BY  
DONATING YOUR  
UNWANTED CLOTHING  
INTO THE CONTAINER  
SITUATED WITHIN YOUR  
SCHOOL!

REMEMBER ONCE  
YOUR SCHOOL HITS  
£1000 WE GIFT THE  
SCHOOL AN APPLE  
TREE TO PLANT  
WITH THE CHILDREN

REMEMBER TO INVITE THE  
COMMUNITY TO DONATE!



### WHY IS RECYCLING IMPORTANT?

- RECYCLING REDUCES WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS
- RECYCLING PREVENTS POLLUTION
- RECYCLING HELPS REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



REMEMBER TO SPREAD  
THE WORD AND  
ENCOURAGE DONATIONS  
THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL  
CLOTHING CONTAINER,  
THIS CAN INCLUDE  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
MEMBERS TO HELP WITH  
FUNDRAISING FOR YOUR  
SCHOOL







## Sports Clubs

It's always lovely to see happy smiling faces at one of our many lunchtime sports clubs that are open to everyone.

Basketball, football and hockey club were all very popular again this week.







# October 2022 Newsletter

## The World Is Not A Bin



Last week we were delighted to have an assembly led by Dr Wendy Fail, senior waste manager officer from Northumberland County Council. Wendy told the Year 6s and 7s everything that can, and can't, be recycled in school and at home.

In the summer term the Council had arranged for our pupils to take part in a competition to design a poster for the side of a bin wagon. The fabulous Luella and Abilee helped to promote and organise the competition in school.

Wendy announced the winners were Sophia and Eleanor from Year 7 with Angus from Year 6 as the runner-up.

We can't wait to see the finished design being driven around Corbridge with the message "The World is not a bin". Hopefully it will make everyone who sees it think twice about dropping litter and throwing things away that can be recycled or reused.





## CMS EcoCommittee



The Corbridge Middle School EcoCommittee had its first meeting this half term. Fifteen pupils with at least one representative from each class shared their passion for protecting and enriching our environment.

The student-led group is working towards EcoSchool Green Flag status so completed an audit of seven areas: Biodiversity & Nature, Climate Change, Energy, Global Citizenship, Health & Wellbeing, Litter, Marine and Coast and the School Grounds.

They identified there was definitely room for improvement for each area and are putting together a list of ideas for how to progress. Their energy and enthusiasm is incredible - they really want to make a positive impact on the school and the local community.





# October 2022 Newsletter

## Living Organisms in Science



Year 6 are continuing their studies on living organisms in science.

They have conducted an investigation on how the amount of sugar affects the volume of yeast.

Hands-on practical work will develop their working scientifically skills such as planning a method, making careful measurements, recording data, drawing conclusions and teamwork.

They were amazed that yeast is a type of fungi, that too much salt or sugar is detrimental to its ability to reproduce and that cooking bread kills the organism.

Science is awesome!





Corbridge  
Middle School



Brighter futures across the globe

In English, Year 6 pupils are excited to be at the start of a partnership journey with Maasai Academy, in rural Kenya.

Rebecca and Lucy from Coco came in to talk to us about how we can take part and we made links between our Sustainable Development Goals and this friendship.

We had a video message from the Y6 pupils at Maasai for us here at Corbridge and sent one back to them, using a few words of Swahili we learned!

We hope that we can write to the pupils, share our experiences of school and our country, while understanding the very different experience they have in Kenya.





# October 2022 Newsletter



## **CMS NEUROKIN GROUP**

A support group for parents and carers who have children with special educational needs.

**ALL ARE WELCOME FOR A COFFEE AND A CHAT**

**THIS MONTH WE WILL JOINED BY MRS BROWN, OUR HEADTEACHER AND THRIVE SPECIALIST.**

**MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER - 6.30PM**

We look forward to seeing you there, Catherine & Lynda

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## E-Safety Focus



National  
Online  
Safety<sup>®</sup>

Each week we are providing some guidance for Parents and Carers about a particular app or online service which you may find useful. The guides can be found on our Friday Flyer and give a useful insight and highlight key safety features which many parents have found useful.

**This week's spotlight is on Instagram**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RATING

13+

Instagram is one of the most popular social media platforms in the world, with over 1 billion users worldwide. The platform allows users to upload images and videos to their feed, create interactive 'stories', share live videos, exchange private messages or search, explore and follow other accounts they like - whilst at the same time continuously updating and adding new features to meet the needs of its users.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

## ADDICTION

Many social media platforms are designed in a way to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. There's a desire to scroll often/more in case we've missed something important or a fear of missing out. Instagram is no different and young people can easily lose track of time by aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers or even strangers.

## PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users (particularly influencers who are sponsored to advertise products) to tag a product or business in their post. This tag takes viewers, regardless of age, directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased and where children may be encouraged by influencers to purchase products they don't necessarily need.

## EXCLUSION AND OSTRACISM

Young people are highly sensitive to ostracism. Feeling excluded can come in many forms such as: not receiving many 'likes', not being tagged, being unfriended, having a photo untagged, or not receiving a comment or reply to a message. Being excluded online hurts just as much as being excluded offline - with children potentially suffering lower moods, lower self-esteem, feeling as if they don't belong or undervalued.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Product tagging on Instagram only works on public accounts. If your child wants to share their clothing style, make-up etc and tag items in a post then they may be tempted to change their settings to public, which can leave their profile visible to strangers.

Buy Milk



## GOING LIVE

Live streaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real-time and comment on videos during broadcast. Risks increase if the account is public because anyone can watch and comment on their videos, including strangers. However, other risks include acting in ways they wouldn't normally or being exposed to inappropriate content or offensive language.

## INFLUENCER CULTURE

Influencers can be paid thousands of pounds to promote a product, service, app and much more on social media - the posts can often be identified because they state they're a 'paid partnership'. Ofcom found that young people often attempt to copy-cat influencer behaviour for their own posts to gain likes, sometimes posting content which may not be age-appropriate.

## UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children compare themselves to what they see online in terms of how they look, dress, their body shape, or the experiences others are having. The constant scrolling and comparison of unrealistic ideals can lead to children feeling insecure about their own appearance, questioning how exciting their own lives are and having a fear of missing out.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to your child about live videos and the risks involved and how they can do it safely with family and friends. Talk to them about ensuring they have safety settings on so only followers can view them live, and maybe help them prepare what they would say when they do go live.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Instagram is one social media app which has its safety features available to parents in a user-friendly manner. The document provides examples of conversation starters, managing privacy, managing comments, blocking and restricting and can be found on the Instagram website: [community/parents](https://www.instagram.com/community/parents).

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram has allowed users to change the focus of their experiences online away from how many likes a post has by hiding the like counts. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as hiding the like counts on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes you get. This can be done by going into settings > notifications > posts > likes > off.

### REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS

If you're happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment. This can be added in the payment settings tab and will also help prevent unauthorised purchases.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to your child about who they follow and help them develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, are they trying to sell a product by promoting it?

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram has launched 'live moderators' on Instagram live where creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and turn off comments for a viewer. It's recommended to keep devices in common spaces so that you are aware if they do go live or watch live streaming.

### BE VIGILANT AND REASSURE

Talk to your child about the use of filters. While they can be fun to use they don't represent the real them. If you find your child continuously using a filter, ask them why and reassure them that they are beautiful without it to build up their feelings of self-worth. Discuss the fact that many images online are filtered and not everyone looks 'picture perfect' in real life, which can also lend itself to discuss what is real and not real online.

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram now has an in-built activity dashboard that allows users to monitor and control how much time they spend on the app. Users can add a 'daily reminder' to set a limit on how much time they want to spend on Instagram, prompting them to consider if it's been too long with a 'take a break' message. There's also the option to mute notifications for a period of time. These features can help you have a conversation with your child about how much time they are spending on the app and to set healthy time limits.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at iCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government computing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday





## Musical Instrument Tuition

A large number of students choose to take part in additional music lessons in school with a range of our music staff. We work closely with Music Partnership North and also invite a selection of self employed tutors into school.

We are now delighted to open up these opportunities this year to anyone who is interested. We do have limited spaces available, so tuition will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please consider which instrument you'd be interested in your child learning first, to then be directed to either the MPN information and booking system or to the self employed tutor. They will let you know how to arrange instrument hire, the cost of tuition etc.

- Violin - MPN - a small number of spaces available for an immediate start - <https://live.paritor.com/p/2302>
- Guitar - MPN - a small number of spaces available for an immediate start - <https://live.paritor.com/p/2302>
- Voice - MPN - spaces available now - <https://live.paritor.com/p/2302>
- Drums - MPN - a very limited number of spaces available for immediate start - <https://live.paritor.com/p/2302>
- Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, MPN - a small number of spaces available for an immediate start - <https://live.paritor.com/p/2302>
- Cello - spaces available now - please contact [abigail.strike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abigail.strike@hotmail.co.uk)
- Piano - a small number of spaces available - please contact [lizmilner100@googlemail.com](mailto:lizmilner100@googlemail.com)
- Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, - spaces available now - please contact [christurnbull98@gmail.com](mailto:christurnbull98@gmail.com)





# October 2022 Newsletter

## Instrument Amnesty



Calling all unused instruments that may be hiding in wardrobes or lofts... we need you!

If you do think that you have any old instruments you'd be willing to donate to school, we will gladly accept them - huge thanks to all those who donated in our last amnesty.





# October 2022 Newsletter

## Clubs Timetable

### *Autumn 2022*

Time	Club & Room	Staff
<b>Monday</b>		
12:05	<b>Hockey club -Yr 6, 7 and 8 - 12 05 PROMPT</b>	Mrs Parkin
12.35 - 1.05	<b>Library</b>	Mrs Ramsay
12:30 - 1:05	<b>Y8 Weather and Climate Club</b>	Dr Batchelder and Mr Swinney
12:30 - 1:00	<b>Senior Choir</b>	Mrs Fisher
12.05 - 12.35	<b>D &amp; D (U3)</b>	Miss Jones
12.35 -1.05	<b>Friendship Club KS3(L6)</b>	Mrs. Liddle
<b>Tuesday</b>		
12.35 - 1.05	<b>Library</b>	Mrs Ramsay
12:05 - 12:35	<b>Junior Choir</b>	Mrs Fisher
12:35 - 13:00	<b>Homework club (L8)</b>	Mrs Thornton
8:30-9:00	<b>Wind Band</b>	Ms De Vere
12.35-105	<b>Friendship Club KS2 (L6)</b>	Mrs. Liddle
12:35-1:05	<b>Ceilidh Band</b>	Miss Stephenson
<b>Wednesday</b>		
12.35 - 1.05	<b>Library</b>	Mrs Ramsay
12.05-12.35	<b>Basketball</b>	Caitlyn - Full of Beans
5 12.35-1.05	<b>Basketball</b> (1 session for each Key stage, they will differ depending on the Year groups lunch sitting)	





## Clubs Timetable

*Autumn 2022*

Time	Club & Room	Staff
<b>Thursday</b>		
12.35 - 1.05	<b>Library</b>	Mrs Ramsay
3:05 - 3:30	<b>Boys' Choir</b>	Mr Reed
12:05-12:35	<b>KS2 Football Club</b>	Mr McKee
12:35	<b>Drama club - KS2</b>	Mrs A Brown
<b>Friday</b>		
12.35	<b>Drama club - KS3</b>	Mrs A Brown
12.35 - 1.05	<b>Library</b>	Mrs Ramsay
12:05 - 12:35	<b>KS2 Computer Club</b>	Mr Johnston
12:05 - 12:30	<b>Guitar Group</b>	Mr Newbrook
12.05 - 12.35	<b>Chess Club (L5)</b>	Mr Swinney





# October 2022 Newsletter

## Important Dates Autumn 2022

Date	Event	Aimed at
21/10/22	Teacher Day	All
31/10/22	School reopens after half term	All
03/11/22	KS2 Football - Highfield	All
07/11/22	Face to Face Parents' Evening	All
17/11/22	Face to Face Parents' Evening	All
18/11/22	School Photo Day	All
23/11/22	Virtual Parents' Evening	All
23/12/22	School Closes for Christmas Break	All

## Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held on the following dates: Monday 7th November (face to face); Thursday 17th November (face to face); Wednesday 23rd November (Virtual).

All bookings for both face to face and virtual Parents evenings should be made through SchoolCloud: <https://corbridgemiddle.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

On this occasion, you will have the opportunity to book appointments with up to six of your child's teachers.

Due to the amount of time available, we are only able to allocate five minutes for each appointment. However, if you feel more time is needed after this appointment, teachers will be happy to make individual arrangements to telephone you another time.



