



Our whole school value for this half term is **Perseverance**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start to the Summer term so far! Thank you to each and every one of you for all of your kind words, well wishes and positive responses to both mine and Mrs Blackwell's permanent appointments – we both feel incredibly privileged to work at such a fantastic school and to have been given this opportunity.

Our Year 6 children will be sitting their very important end of year assessments in just over a week and we are so immensely amazed at every single one of them- their positive, determined attitudes are quite remarkable. We wish them the best of luck and know that they will make their parents, themselves and the school very proud indeed! Once again, thank you to the Year 6 team for all of your hard work this year. As we draw nearer to the end of the academic year, the school has a number of events and exciting opportunities for you to join us in school – the staff are all very busy planning and organising!

#### **Parent Evenings**

I am delighted to announce that we had the biggest uptake of attendance at our meetings last week- this is great news for the children as we truly value your support and wish to communicate effectively with you in regards to your child's progress and development. All of the children really enjoy showing off all of their amazing work to you! Feedback from parents suggests that you all found the new on-line booking system easy to use and manage, although some of you will be sure to log on quicker next time, in order to ensure that you get the slot that you want. The increased time slots were also much appreciated. The afternoon sessions worked really well and I know that all of the children really enjoyed being present and being a part of the conversation.

We do hope that you enjoyed the tea, coffee and biscuits!

Finally, our new positive feedback book went down a storm and the staff couldn't wait to read all of your comments- they really are so appreciated. The book will be placed in the school foyer at all times for you all to have a read and will be available at all parent's workshops and meetings. Thank you to all of our staff for your commitments, efforts and for just generally being wonderful!

#### **Our Brand New Muga**

Our brand new addition to the playground has been scheduled to be installed this month. We are very excited and know that the children will be too. Watch this space!

### **After School Club**

After School Club is by no means only to cater for our working parents who need after school child care. Lots of children have asked if they are able to attend and the answer is of course they are! The children take part in a range of sports activities, arts and craft and film nights, in addition to cooking! Make sure that you check out their page on the school website and the board at the front of the school to see what they get up to. Lastly, a huge well done to all for their fantastic fundraising events – over £100 was raised. So far, lots of new and exciting gardening equipment and tools have been purchased 😊

### **The Amazing Mrs Phillips**

On behalf of all of the parents, staff and choir members, I would like to publically thanks Mrs Phillips for all of her hard work this year. She has revolutionised music in our school, continuously goes above and beyond for our children and already has some more, exciting proposals in the pipe line! It takes a lot of time, energy and organisation to make these events possible – we are very lucky to have her! Our amazing choir have a number of performances coming up – they will be going to perform at the NEC next term to take part in “The Big Sing”; singing at the church fete; performing at the Hope concert at the Derngate and are attending the Eisteddford service. All information regarding these events will be sent out to parents separately for further details.

In other exciting news, two of our choir members are now members of the County Junior Choir and will be performing with the BBC orchestra and singers very soon – we are immensely proud of Amelia and Zac!

Our Year 4 children are really enjoying learning how to play the recorder and will be performing to parents very soon. Across the school, Mrs Phillips will be continuing to teach children how to play the ukulele. We are already planning our music provision for next year 😊

In other news Samuel Roberts has successfully passed his grade 2 in classical guitar and Jack Fletcher has passed his grade 3 – huge congratulations boys! You’ll be rocking all over the world!

### **Sport at Cogenhoe**

Some of our Year 5 and 6 have been training hard for the last half term in order to prepare them for their big football tournament which is taking place next week. We wish the boys the best of luck (we would love another trophy to add to our growing collection) and would like to thank Mr Esherwood for all of his hard work in organising the tournament, training the boys and donating brand new football kits for them to wear with pride.

Year 3 have really enjoyed swimming this term and our Year 6 children will be attending swimming sessions weekly, once the SATS are finished.

Our Year 4 and 5 children have been in for a real treat this half term as they have been working with the Saints each week. The children have been able to take part in a physical session before “Tackling Numbers” in a Maths session each week – see their class pages on the website to see what they’ve been getting up to.

Lastly, we are very excited to announce that we will be taking part in “Strictly Come Dancing” once again this year for a number of our Year 1 and Year 2 children. Many thanks to Mrs Bailey, Mrs Walters and Mrs McCarlie who are giving up their own time each week to attend dance classes and are holding after school sessions. Further information about this event will follow in due course for all involved.

One of our pupils will be running a mile a day at school in May for a whole week in order to raise money for Cynthia Hospice. If you would like to support Joshua, please donate here:

[www.justgiving.com/Louise-Hollowell](http://www.justgiving.com/Louise-Hollowell) We are so very proud of him for independently organising this.

### Staffing Updates

Our new lunchtime supervisors have now joined the team and are really enjoying their time at Cogenhoe so far – they really are helping to make our lunchtimes even better.

I am also delighted to announce that Miss Jaimie Hare and Mrs Julie Nairn have now taken up their posts as teaching assistants in Year 2 and Reception– both were extremely keen to get started and really enjoying being a part of our fantastic team and are getting to know all of the children. Please do give them a wave if you see them.

Lastly, I am delighted to announce that after a rigorous interview process, Mrs Scarlett Hales and Mrs Fiona Jacobs will be joining us at the start of the new academic year in September. I am hoping to confirm which year groups teachers and teaching assistants will be placed in before the end of this half term as I know that you will all be dying to find out – as will the children! Both teachers have a wealth of teaching experience and have come highly recommended by a number of other professionals in the education sector. We are honoured that both only applied for positions at our school as they both really wanted to join the Cogenhoe family. Both will be spending time at school prior to September, in order to get to know the children and staff and ensure a smooth transition for the start of the new academic year.

### Reading Volunteers and Plea

We are still recruiting for reading help in school – please do contact the school office for more information. Any time that you can offer, no matter how small will be greatly appreciated. We desperately need blankets and picnic mats for children to use on the field at lunchtimes so please do donate if you have any spare.

### Time to Talk

Mrs McCarlie, our amazing TA has been working tirelessly in order to become trained in many areas including; bereavement counselling, attachment issues, social and emotional well-being to name a few. We realise and value the importance of this role within our school in order to ensure that we can support all of our children when external factors can become a barrier to their learning. Furthermore, we also recognise that at times, our families and parents/ carers may also benefit from some support and advice, therefore Mrs McCarlie will be offering appointments every Friday from 1.00pm until 3.30pm. If you feel that you just need someone to talk to over a cup of tea, then please do contact the school office to make an appointment.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Year 1 class assembly @9.00am**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May – SATS week for Year 6 children**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May- Choir cake stall and busking fundraising after school**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May- Mufti Day for UCC Charity**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Overnight camp at school for Years 3,4 and 5**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Film night @3.30pm- 5.15pm**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May- Eisteddfod Choir performance @11am**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May- New Reception Parent's Evening @6pm**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June- Year 6 residential week**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June- Hope Concert @ the Dergate for choir**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Disco KS1 3.15-4.45 Ks2 5.00-6.15**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June- Sports Day**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June- Church Fete**

