

Coten End Newsletter

Issue No 13

Friday 24 April 2026

Message from Mr Williams

Dear Parents/Carers,

What another incredibly busy and positive few weeks it has been here at Coten End. I am delighted to be able to share some truly fantastic news with you at the start of this message – our school has been awarded OPAL **Platinum** status. This is an outstanding achievement and something of which we are immensely proud. Platinum is the highest possible OPAL award and is a reflection of the commitment, creativity and belief in the power of play shown by our staff, pupils and wider community. Rachel Murray, our mentor and auditor, was extremely impressed with the range and quality of play opportunities on offer and, most importantly, with the way our children use play to collaborate, problem-solve and thrive. Thank you once again to everyone who has donated time, resources and enthusiasm to help make this possible.

On Wednesday this week, it was wonderful to see the children so engaged with our Earth Day activities, which provided a real focus on sustainability and caring for our planet. Across the school, pupils took part in a wide range of learning experiences, including workshops from climate specialists, refashioning and upcycling projects and discussions around an incredible text titled 'The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind' which is a powerful story about a young boy in Malawi who uses creativity and determination to build a windmill and bring electricity to his village. The enthusiasm and thoughtfulness shown by the children was a real highlight of the week and sustainability is something that we care greatly about and Miss Chacko leads on brilliantly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the very important message today shared by Mrs Sheepy regarding our FRIENDS PTA. FRIENDS plays a vital role in supporting school life, helping to fund those extras that truly enhance our children's experiences. However, the group is in desperate need of additional volunteers from our parent community to keep it going strong, in particular those roles advertised recently. Any help, whether regular or occasional, makes a genuine difference. If you are able to offer some time or support, I would strongly encourage you to get in touch. Without new volunteers, FRIENDS cannot continue the fantastic work it does for the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. It is a privilege to lead such a vibrant and caring community, and achievements like OPAL Platinum and the success of days like Earth Day and our Swish event today are only possible because of the strong partnership between home and school.

Kind regards,

Mr Nick Williams



BE SAFE BE RESPECTFUL

Sunny weather!

Without wanting to jinx anything we are in the middle of a patch of good weather!

Please ensure that your child has a sunhat to wear when outside and also they should bring a full water bottle each day (clearly named).

Children should not bring sunglasses to school (unless they are prescription glasses); we cannot be responsible for loss or breakages and therefore request that they are not brought in to school unless absolutely necessary.

Please remember that suncream needs to be applied before school so that children are protected. Children may bring in suncream to reapply however this cannot be done by staff.

Modern Foreign Languages

Zoom call with Austria

Last week Year 6 enjoyed having a German conversation with Austrian children on a live Zoom call. The school is in Graz, the second largest city in Austria.



Culture Club (Portuguese)

At our first Portuguese Culture Club our Portuguese speakers taught the children some basic language and introduced us to their language and culture.



Chicks and Ducks!

Year 2 have received our duck and chick eggs and some have begun to hatch! The children (and staff!) are very 'egg-cited' to watch our new classmates continue to grow.



Year 5 Opera Performance - The Magic Flute

Year 5 have now completed their final rehearsal ahead of their upcoming opera performance, and we could not be prouder of their dedication and effort. They have been working *SO* hard on the art of '*acting through singing*', carefully using their body language and facial expressions to convey emotion and bring the music to life.

The children will be performing as part of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at **Warwick School on Wednesday 6th May**, and parents are warmly invited to come and watch this fantastic achievement.

To help plan numbers for Front of House, we kindly ask all parents to book **FREE tickets** in advance via the webpage below (please note there is a drop-down menu to select the correct performance day):

[Ticket booking](#)

We hope you can join us to support the children and celebrate their hard work!

SPORTS NEWS

Friendly Match vs Sydenham Primary School

On Monday, Coten End travelled to Sydenham Primary School for a friendly match. With a larger pitch available, the game was played 9-a-side, giving more members of the squad the opportunity to take part. Coten End started the match strongly, carrying on their excellent form from the previous game. Quick passing and great movement off the ball saw them score three goals within the opening five minutes. A few substitutions were made, but this did not reduce the pressure, and Coten End added two more goals before half-time.

The second half began much like the first, with high intensity, excellent teamwork and confident play causing ongoing problems for the hosts. Coten End soon extended their lead to 7-0. Further changes were made to allow players to try new positions, and all adapted to their new roles brilliantly.

The team continued to move the ball well and play positive football right up to the final whistle, finishing with an impressive 12-0 victory.

Well done to all those involved. The team played in the right spirit throughout and showed professionalism, teamwork and respect at all times.

League Match vs Heathcote Primary School

The second game of the week saw Coten End take on Heathcote Primary School in a league fixture. Played on a glorious sunny day, the match took place on a hard and uneven pitch, which meant the game was slow to get going as the team adjusted to the conditions.

Coten End soon found their rhythm and began to make good use of Harry's long throws. One such delivery caused problems for the Heathcote defence, and Theo reacted quickly, rising to head the ball over the goalkeeper and into the net to give Coten End a well-deserved lead.

Coten End continued to apply pressure with an effective high press, keeping Heathcote pinned in their own half for much of the first half. Several chances followed, including one that struck the underside of the crossbar, but unfortunately the ball bounced back out instead of over the line. The half ended with Coten End leading 1-0.

The second half started in much the same way, with Coten End maintaining their intensity and pressing high up the pitch. Once again, Harry's long throw proved dangerous, and after a good gamble by Theo, he was able to pounce on a loose ball that bounced over a defender and calmly slot it past the goalkeeper to make it 2-0.

Coten End continued to play some excellent football, moving the ball well and finding teammates in space, although not every chance could be converted. Their persistence was rewarded late on when a perfectly weighted through ball found Max, who finished confidently past the keeper.

The match finished 3-0 to Coten End, continuing their impressive run of form and setting them up well for the next game.



Coten End Girls' Team do Warwick and Leamington proud in National League Finals.

After success at both local and regional level, Coten End Girls' Football Team travelled to York on Wednesday 22nd April to represent Leamington Town Football Club at the National League Finals.

Just getting to this stage is an incredible effort and it is something we have achieved two years in a row. It may not be something we ever achieve again and it is testament to the dedication and hard work of those girls involved. A special shout out to Olivia, Genevieve, Erin T and Keziah who were involved both this year and last year.

We knew from last year's experience that this would be a significant challenge and we were not surprised to find that out very quickly in our opening match against Hartlepool. We lost 2-0, but it was a very spirited performance against the eventual winners. The two goals were outstanding and our girls had their own chances as well.

Our second match against Telford was a dominant performance but we came up against an incredible individual goalkeeping performance. We had countless shots on target but could not get the goal and it ended 0-0.

The third match against Darlington was a 3-0 loss. Again 3 fantastic goals but the girls kept their head up throughout.

In the fourth match against Marine, we knew we had to win to stay in the competition. We took an early 2-0 lead thanks to Olivia's two brilliant finishes. Marine got back into it early in the second half making it 2-1, but with some fantastic late defending we clung on to a 2-1 victory. Our first victory at National level and something for the girls to be very proud of.

The final match was a showdown for the last remaining semi-final spot against Chester. We conceded 2 early goals – incredible long distance strikes – and as we pushed to get back into it conceded a third. We had multiple chances to score a late consolation but the final score was 3-0.

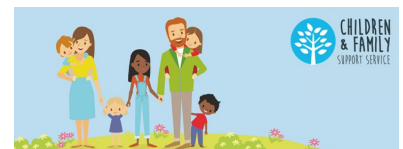
A fantastic effort by the girls and a brilliant experience. We now crack on with the league and hope to be able to win another title after a recent 5-0 win over Sydenham.



Family Information Service

The latest edition of the Family Information Service newsletter is available to read at:

[FIS Newsletter](#)








ORDER SCHOOL LUNCHES – THE EASY WAY

All meals must be ordered via ParentPay

To help our school run lunchtime smoothly and reduce waste, **all school lunches must be ordered in advance using ParentPay.**

👉 **If you are choosing to provide your child with a packed lunch, it is very helpful if you indicate this via ParentPay.** This helps us with accurate planning and supervision.

★ Why order through ParentPay?

-  Quick & convenient – order anytime, anywhere
 -  Secure payments – safe and trusted system
 -  Choose meals in advance – no last-minute stress
 -  Supports the school – helps with accurate planning
 -  Free School Meals covered – no cost, but meals still need to be ordered
-

What you need to do

1. Log in to **ParentPay**
 2. Select your child's **lunch choice** or *packed lunch option*
 3. Orders must be placed by 8.00am each day, or you can order as many lunches in advance as you wish – these can then be amended by 8.00am
-

Important Payment Information

- You must have **enough money in your ParentPay account** to cover the lunches ordered
- **Each school meal costs £2.70**

This charge does not apply to pupils who receive Free School Meals; however, their meals must still be ordered via ParentPay.

ORDER TODAY – DON'T MISS OUT!

Thank you for your continued support.



LATEST NEWS

Great News!



Coten End Primary School is proud to announce that we have achieved the OPAL Platinum Award, the highest level of accreditation from the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme.

This award recognises schools that have made a sustained, whole-school commitment to improving the quality of play for children. It puts us in the top 2% of schools in the country for quality play and confirms to us that we have transformed playtimes into inclusive, enriching and joyful experiences for every child.

Before beginning our OPAL journey, playtimes looked very different. Play was limited in choice and space. It was either tarmac or, if you were lucky, your turn on the clamber or the ball game rota. Many pupils struggled to find things to do and to feel included.

Today, the difference is nothing short of remarkable.

Our playgrounds are now vibrant, dynamic spaces filled with creativity, collaboration and imagination. Children direct their own play, take managed risks, build dens, climb trees, dance to music, invent games, negotiate rules and problem-solve together. There is visibly less conflict and a much stronger sense of belonging for children of all ages and abilities.

Staff have noticed significant benefits beyond the playground. Pupils return to lessons calmer, more focused and more ready to learn. Relationships between children have strengthened, resilience has grown, and confidence has flourished - particularly for those who previously found playtimes challenging.



Our OPAL Working Party



Our OPAL Ambassadors

Achieving Platinum status reflects two years of commitment, reflection and collaboration across the whole school community. We are incredibly proud of our pupils, staff and families for embracing this journey and helping to create a culture where play is valued, protected and celebrated.

OPAL Platinum is not an endpoint, but a sign of how deeply embedded this approach has become. We remain committed to continually listening, evolving and ensuring that every child experiences the joy, freedom and opportunity that high-quality play can offer.

Learning for everyone, learning from everyone.

	Morning		Afternoon/Evening	After School Clubs
Monday 27th April				Football (Y2-4) Spanish (Y1-6) Dance (Y3—6) Boys' Football Squad
Tuesday 28th April				Football (Y1) Netball (Y5 & 6) Multi-Sports (R-Y2) Mandarin (Y1-6) Drama (Y3-6) Cookery (Y2-6) Advanced Sewing (Y3-6)
Wednesday 29th April			6.00pm—Year 4 Parents meeting re Blackwell	Judo (Y2—6) Arts & Crafts (R, Y1 & 2) Football (Y5 & 6) Spanish Sewing (Y3-6)
Thursday 30th April				Multi-Sports (Y2—4) 11+ Maths & English (Y5) Multi-Sports (Rec & Y1) Puzzle Club (Y3) Basketball (Y3/4)
Friday 1st May	Cash 4 Clothes collection		6WS Science visit to Warwick School	Dance (Rec—2) Rounders (R- Y2) Chess (Y3-6) Girls' Football Squad
Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY			
Tuesday 5th May				Football (Y1) Netball (Y5 & 6) Hockey (Y3 & 4) Drama (Y3-6) Cookery (Y2-6) Advanced Sewing (Y3-6)
Wednesday 6th May	Year 5 Opera Day at Warwick Hall			Judo (Y2—6) Arts & Crafts (YR, 1 & 2) Football (Y5 & 6) Spanish Sewing (Y3-6)
Thursday 7th May	Year 5/6 Author Visit			Multi-Sports (Y2—4) 11+ Maths & English (Y5) Puzzle Club (Y3)
Friday 8th May			6AJ Science visit to Warwick School	Dance (Rec—2) Chess (Y3-6) Rounders (R-Y2) Girls' Football Squad






☕ NEURODIVERSITY COFFEE MORNING ☕

Supporting Children. Supporting Families. Supporting Each Other.

You're warmly invited!


Join us for a friendly and relaxed coffee morning for parents and carers of children with neurodiverse needs (including autism, ADHD, sensory differences, anxiety, and other learning profiles).

This is a welcoming space to:

-  Meet other parents
-  Share experiences
-  Learn practical strategies
-  Connect with our wellbeing team
-  Celebrate your child's strengths



 **Date: Friday 15th May 2026**

 **Time: 9am - 10am**

 **Location: Coten End Primary School**

Who is it for?

Parents and carers of children who:

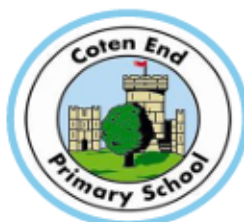
- Are neurodivergent
- Are on the pathway for assessment
- Show traits of neurodiversity

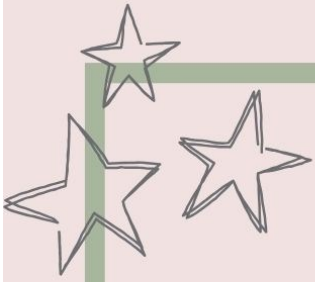
Everyone is welcome - no diagnosis needed.



Hosted by: The Wellbeing Team

If you can, please let us know you're coming, but drop-ins are welcome too.





Help Us; Help You!

Cash FOR Clothes

Looking to create some space in your home? Having a clear out? We'll happily accept your old clothes!

**Friday 1st May by
9am**

~ outside the school office ~



Cash for Clothes are collecting and will take your old, clean clothes including swimsuits, jackets and baby wear; paired shoes; handbags, belts, hats and ties; and accessories such as jewellery and watches.

Please put them in a tied bin bag outside the school office on the date above, and they will be taken in exchange for cash for the school!



Thank you for supporting our school!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



COMMITTEE MEETING

WHERE?

School staff room

WHEN?

**Friday 8th May
9am**

WHY?

**Planning for upcoming events but
also looking to meet new people
and get new suggestions.**





FRIDAY 22nd May 2026

Friends are holding a rainbow hamper raffle. In exchange for wearing non uniform, please can each pupil donate an item corresponding to the colour their year group has been allocated.

Please hand into your class teacher on non-uniform day.

RECEPTION : BLUE

YEAR 1 : RED

YEAR 2 : PINK

YEAR 3 : GREEN

YEAR 4 : YELLOW

YEAR 5 : PURPLE

YEAR 6 : ORANGE

IDEAS

Bombay sapphire gin, Roses chocolates, walnut whips, chocolate orange, part rings, haribo, Oreo, milky bar, chocolate hobnobs, doritos, Heinz beans, Blue Dragon foods, salt and vinegar crisps, bounty

Red wine, Maltesers, mcvities digestives, ready salted crisps, family circle biscuits, raspberry gin, Kit Kat's, skittles, celebrations, bournville choc, pimms, pom bears, foxs biscuits, munchies, coke

Pink fizz, rose wine, Lindt Lindo champagne chocolates, marshmallows, pink gin, rose lemonade, raseberry laces, pink wafers, strawberry fruitellas, pink candles, percy pig sweets

Gordon's Gin, peroni, mint chocolates, matchmakers, After Eight, appletizer, rowntrees sweets, mint Aero, apple juice, fruit pastilles, cheese and onion crisps, bottled lager, sour cream pringles, mint shower gel

Gordon's lemon gin, barefoot Pinot Grigio, Cadbury's flakes, Cadbury caramel, post it notes, jelly tots, toberone, custard creams, twix, jelly babies, quavers, skips, lemon fanta

quality street, dairy milk, cadbury's hot chocolate, choc fingers, red wine, ribena, Hendricks summer solstice gin, bubble bath, nail varnish, vimto, purple toys

Chocolae Orange, Sipsmith orange gin, revels, haribo tangtastics, fudge, toffee crisps, orange clubs, orange shower gel, mini cheddars, Buck's Fizz, Fanta, J20



OPEN THIS FRIDAY!

mary's



merry-go-round

a free-to-use library of
preloved quality children's clothes,
12 months to 12 years

supporting a sustainable, sharing economy
in the heart of Warwick

Come and take a look, term-time Fridays, 9:30-11am,
The Collegiate Church of St Mary

If you have clean, good-quality children's clothes to donate,
please email: community@stmaryswarwick.org.uk



May Half Term

Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th May

May Half Term

**Football &
Active Kids**

Fun, active and flexible
holiday childcare for ages 5 -11

At **Stratford School**
and **Aylesford School**

TIMES 9.30am to 3.30pm

Early Drop off and late pick up available +£3.50 each

NOW ONLY

£18

per day

4 days for **£68**

Childcare vouchers accepted

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