

SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 21st January

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. A huge thank you for all of your hard work in supporting your children with their learning. I want to say once again that we are aware of how much pressure families are under as they balance their own work commitments and supporting their children. We are really impressed with some of the work we have been receiving via DB Primary- well done to our children. Please remember that you can contact us if you are having any difficulties and we will do our very best to help. We have been delighted by the positive feedback and many lovely messages received. In a situation in which so many areas of life are under extreme pressure it is good to be kind to one another.

Home Learning Updates

It is vitally important that we all stay safe online. The school website contains useful support and guidance on Online Safety. Please do make use of this.

<http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/online-safety-information/>

We are aware that access to data can be an issue for some families. If anyone meets the following criteria we are able to request mobile data increases for use by your children:

- You do not have fixed broadband at home
- You cannot afford additional data for your children's devices
- This is interrupting the delivery of home learning for your children.

If this applies to you, then please contact the School Office for support.

Key Workers

I extend my thanks to parents for only using this provision if necessary and on the day(s) you require. **Children should only be educated in school if you have no alternative childcare.** This helps us to keep everyone safe by keeping numbers accessing the school site, and in turn the risk of the virus spreading, to a minimum.

Staff Testing

Starting week beginning 25th January, all primary school staff will be tested twice weekly for Coronavirus using self-administered lateral flow tests. Staff will self-administer these tests first thing on a morning and report the results after 30 minutes. This clearly presents a logistical challenge for parents and schools as any positive test result would lead to a bubble or bubbles closing until a second PCR test (the type of test taken at a testing centre) is undertaken. We will inform parents by text message as soon as we are able if your children are attending the school site, their bubble is

closing and the children are required to self-isolate. We are, of course, hopeful that we will not have to take this action.

Kenya Solar Lamps update

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your generous contributions to raise money for buying solar lamps for children in our Kenyan partner school. Bongu Primary School is in a very rural area and as such the houses have no facilities or electricity. The solar lamps greatly help children to be able to do their school work after it gets dark. The money collected before Christmas means we have been able to donate a further 24 lamps! Thank you again.

I thank parents for your continued support at this time.

Stay safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Tait