



Weekly Bulletin 17th September 2021

Headteacher's Message

We have enjoyed a busy week in school and term is well under way. It was great to welcome Fr Peter back into school to lead worship and we look forward to Mrs Matthews and Fr Bill joining us over the coming weeks as we start to return to our regular programme of collective worship. I again thank parents for working with us to keep school as Covid-secure as possible. This is especially important given the continuing rise in cases. I would again encourage parents to leave the school site as soon as they have collected their children. This helps to prevent congestion and supports good social distancing.

Each week I want to include a 'snapshot' of some of the things that the children are doing in school. For example, news from our ECO team, Worship group, V.I.P. (Very International People) and SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group). This week our focus is on our new starters and what they have been doing in school and this is included below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

Reception Class news

This week we have been completing some pencil control activities to help strengthen our fingers ready for writing. We have been tracing over wavy lines and thinking carefully about using our '**froggy fingers**'. We have loved learning our first three letter sounds - **s**, **a** and **t** – along with doing the actions and listening to the songs to accompany each of them. We tried **strawberries** for **s**, **apples** for **a**, along with **tomatoes** for **t**...mmm! We have also been learning about **King One** during our visit to "**Ten Town**". We have listened to his story and his song too. We have been learning about our sense of smell and how we use our noses to smell. We talked about our favourite smells too - Mrs Short's is pine trees because their smell reminds her of Christmas!

Harvest

We will be celebrating Harvest in school again this year with the children and Fr Peter will be leading our collective worship. As part of our celebrations we are collecting for the County Durham Foodbank this year in liaison with Durham Christian Partnership. Please send your donations to school on the morning of Monday 27th September.

School Extra-Curricular Activities

Now that we are in Step 4 of the government's Covid recovery plans we are beginning to resume some of our 'traditional' school activities and this includes after school clubs. You will have received a letter explaining what we are currently able to offer. If your child is interested in taking up a place please do return your form promptly showing your interest and we will seek to allocate your child a place in

their chosen after school club. As the school year progresses it is hoped that we will be able to increase our range of clubs.

Dates

For a full list of school holiday dates please see the school website.

Thursday 23rd September – Y6 Visit to Eden Camp
Monday 27th September - County Durham Foodbank Donations
Tuesday 19th October – Y5 ISKON Temple Visit
Thursday 21st October – School Photographer
Friday 22nd October – School closes for Autumn half term holidays
Tuesday 2nd November – School re-opens for Autumn Term 2

Covid-19 Step 4 Guidance - Key messages

COVID-19 guidance

As part of the *Step 4 Guidance for Schools*, from Monday 16th August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. If you haven't already been vaccinated then you can book online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

Pupils who are experiencing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, will not attend the school and are advised to self-isolate and arrange a PCR test where symptoms are presented.

Primary age pupils **will not be** tested with LFDs. PHE have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Staff in primary schools, will continue to test themselves using LFD twice a week at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Although social distancing is no longer a legal requirement for staff and pupils, we still have a legal duty to ensure the health and safety of staff and pupils and measures previously put in place (e.g., one-way systems/dedicated access/egress points into the building) to ease congestion when staff and pupils are entering/exiting and moving about the building will continue. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but it is recommended that face coverings are worn in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet and therefore we ask that you follow, where possible, this recommendation when dropping off and picking up your children.

School will continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated, and follow public health advice on testing and managing

confirmed cases of COVID-19. Handwashing and application of hand sanitiser will be part of the daily routines in school.

Medical

- A reminder that we are only able to administer prescribed medications at school once parents have completed the required consent form. All medication must be delivered to and collected from the office by an adult.
- Packed Lunch Children – please ensure your child’s packed lunch is **NUT FREE** as we have children in the school who have an allergy to nuts.

Music Lessons with Durham Music Service - September 2021

Durham Music Service are delighted to offer Year 4 children the opportunity to start learning a musical instrument this term, as well as this, Year 3 will be given the opportunity to learn the violin. Instruments available are Violin with Mr Hartley and Brass (Trumpet, Cornet, Baritone, Trombone or French Horn) with Mr Senior.

Due to Covid-19, the process for signing up for lessons is done electronically. If you would like your child to start music lessons, please visit the Durham Music Service website and register your interest.

This the link: <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>

The number of available spaces may be limited, so please register your interest as soon as possible. Durham Music Service have made stringent risk assessments allowing face to face lessons to proceed at present in an environment which is as safe as possible. Instruments are not shared and would be used in school on the day of your child’s lesson, and then brought home the same day.

Thank you

Mr C Hartley (Upper Strings Teacher – Durham Music Service)

Mr C Senior (Brass teacher – Durham Music Service)

Current Year 6 Pupils procedure to apply for a Secondary School in 2022

The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2021 Intake began on Monday 6th September 2021. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application facility will be available to parents from Monday the 6th of September 2021.

The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2021. If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available to print from our website (same website address as above) from Monday the 6th September 2020. Alternatively, these application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Copies of the Parent’s guide “Primary and Secondary School Admissions in County Durham 2021/2022” will also be available from our website or on request from Monday the 6th September 2021. www.durham.gov.uk

Year 6 Secondary School Open Days

- **Durham Johnston** -Tuesday 21st September 4.15pm – for parents and carers at Bearpark, Shincliffe, Silvertree and St. Oswald’s primary schools and Browney Academy. Parents need to visit the website to fill out an online survey. Final details of the event are also available on the website, along with additional virtual for prospective parents in the New Starter section.

- **Belmont School** - Open Evenings will be by appointment only, 4th October - 7th October. Appointments will be able to be made between 4pm - 7pm. Details are available on the school website.
- **Framwellgate School** – brochure and letter sent out earlier this week.

School Admissions 2022 – Will your child turn 5 between September 2022 and 31st August 2023?

If so, you need to complete an application online to tell Durham County Council which school you would like your child to attend from September 2022. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. We encourage you to apply online wherever possible as although restrictions have been lifted, staff will be in the main working from home due to the Coronavirus pandemic. If you are unable to apply online, paper application forms and available on request.

You still need to apply even if your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school, or already has a sibling at the school. Applications open 6 September and close midnight 15 January 2022. For more information please contact: School Places and Admissions Team: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions Tel: 03000 2658966.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of endurance this half term and worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Fr. Peter, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill and our Key Stage Two pupils.

Further information on the value of endurance:

Endurance - is recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity.

Jesus endured rejection, abuse and the cross, and his followers are warned that they may well have to share that pain as persecution took hold. Discipleship is depicted as 'taking up the cross daily' and following in Jesus' footsteps (Luke 9:23).

We would like our children to continue their reflection and experience at home.

Some things to think about:

- How do we give pupils a better appreciation of the difficult situations that many people in the world have to endure and of the courage and resilience they show in the face of them?
- How do you help pupils understand that some things are worth working for even though they do not bring immediate results? How do we develop patience?
- What encourages and inspires you to persevere through difficult times in life?

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net

The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the parents' section of the website.