



Weekly Bulletin 24th September 2021

Headteacher's Message

Next week we will enjoy our Harvest Service for pupils and staff in school. It will be led by our Year 6 pupils, Worship Group and Fr. Peter. Gifts of food received will be used for the work of the Durham Foodbank to support families in need. They speak of the generosity of our school to those living in the communities the school serves and I thank you in advance for your generosity.

With regard to staying safe online, I would urge all parents to be alert to both the opportunities and potential dangers online so that you are able to support your children in staying safe. This will complement our ongoing online safety work in school. For further information, please familiarise yourselves with the online safety resources available via the links on the school website, internetmatters.org and the information below.

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 reading and some of our pupils from Year 6 have shared what happens in their class below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

Reading at Shincliffe

In Year 6 we have started reading *My Friend the Enemy*. It is about a boy in World War 2. This is our class text, which we read in English lessons. At the end of each day we listen to a story called *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. So far, this is about a boy who is determined to be friends with a new boy who has just started at his school but nobody seems to know anything about him apart from his name!

In Year 6 we have a reading area called 'Bookflix' which is found at the back of the classroom. Bookflix has suggestions for you, new trending books and new releases. It has lots of different types of books to encourage us to read different things that we might not have read before. *The Boy at the Back of the Class* is one of these.

Nancy and Arthur Y6

Harvest Festival

This harvest we are collecting food items for 'Durham Foodbank.' We hope that you and your child/children would like to help support our 2021 Harvest Appeal in liaison with Durham Christian Partnership.

The Foodbank provides short term emergency food to people in crisis locally. Food is given as an intervention strategy which allows professionals to put longer term measures in place. We want to support our local Foodbank in helping those less fortunate, in particular families and children.

If you wish to contribute, please send donations of **non-perishable food** (see list) on **Monday 27th September** with your child and this will be collected from their class.

A TYPICAL FOOD PARCEL INCLUDES:

Breakfast cereals - Soup - Pasta

Rice - Pasta sauce - Tinned bean

Tinned meat - Tinned vegetables - Tinned fruit

Tea or coffee - Sugar - Biscuits

Snacks

For further information regarding Durham Foodbank you may visit: www.durhamfoodbank.org.uk

Dates

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

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

Online Safety

We would like to remind parents that we do not allow pupils to bring mobile phones, tablets or cameras into the school as they can distract pupils from their learning and damage children's privacy. If, in exceptional circumstances, a child needs to bring a phone into school they must hand the phone to the school office for safekeeping during the school day. Parents will also want to help ensure that their children are safe when using their phone or tablet at home, and will want to know about what they are sharing online. Any Social Media site used by children will have inherent risks; the website net-aware.org.uk provides advice on many popular sites along with a suggested minimum age. If our pupils see unpleasant or hurtful comments they have been taught to take a screenshot and show a trusted adult. We will treat cyberbullying seriously and may impose sanctions on pupils.

Packed Lunches

In order to ensure that packed lunches are suitably healthy and meet the guidelines set by Durham County Council, parents are reminded that they **should not contain** any of the following:

- Fizzy / sugary drinks in cartons, bottles or cans
- Chocolate-coated products / sweets / confectionary
- Chocolate spread as a filling for sandwiches
- Chewing gum
- Sugared / toffee and salted popcorn

Please also remember that we are a nut-free school- your supporting in keeping all children safe is appreciated.

Caring for Our Community

I have been made aware of the concerns of some residents about the behaviour of some children in the park after school. There is a fear that some behaviour may cause hurt to others. I ask parents to carefully supervise their children.

'Friend of Shincliffe School' (FOSS) - Update

The FOSS Committee are currently underway with the School Uniform recycling project and the clothes sale will be available after school on the Friday 8th October. Quick reminder to please drop off your donations of uniform under the canopy outside of school for the FOSS pre-loved stall at either drop off or pick up on Monday 27th or Tuesday 28th September.

As well as this the Christmas card project will be available again this year. Available to order will be cards, wrapping paper/tags and mugs. Further information to follow from of the FOSS Committee.

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.

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.