



## **Weekly Bulletin 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

### **Headteacher's Message**

It's September and that means one thing - the start of the school year - welcome back! I hope you have managed to have a restful break and some enjoyable family time.

We are delighted to welcome our new starters and returning pupils and look forward to working together in partnership during the course of the coming academic year. As we move forward with the government's Step 4 Guidance it will be good to meet again as a community and start to resume some of our 'normal' school activities.

I draw your attention to the attendance information shared with parents. Excellent attendance and punctuality are vitally important to success at school. Please do read this.

Below is information we have been asked to share by Durham County Council in relation to the current Step 4 Guidelines. It is a useful reminder of key messages. I thank parents for working with us to put into place the necessary measures to try to prevent, as far as we are able, the spread of Coronavirus within school.

We want to keep the school as Covid-secure as possible by strictly observing drop off and pick up times, sending the children with the requested equipment and leaving the school site as soon as they have collected their children. I remind parents that they must supervise their children if they are waiting to collect/drop off a sibling(s) if they are in different Key Stages. Please ensure your children stand with you and are not running around the waiting area.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

### **Covid-19 Step 4 Guidance - Key messages**

#### **COVID-19 guidance**

As part of the *Step 4 Guidance for Schools*, from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Staffing Updates**

During the summer holidays Mrs Morgan left to pursue her dream of travelling and Mrs Claydon was appointed in her place. She will, however, be unable to take up her post for the first half term at least. Mrs Todd from the Local Authority's Supply Partnership will cover her work and Mrs Herriot, also from the Local Authority's Supply Partnership, is teaching Y4 in September until this teaching vacancy is filled.

Mrs Richardson has taken up her role as Deputy Head. As well as continuing to teach in Y6 she will also be taking responsibility for SEN and she can be contacted, if necessary, via the School Office.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Crowder who is training to be a teacher. She will be working with Mr Gowan in Year 3.

### **Diary Dates**

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

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Y6 Trip to Eden Camp

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – School closes for Autumn half term holiday

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – School re-opens after half term holiday

### **PE**

The children are required to wear their PE kit on the day they have PE. Please note: there may be ad-hoc PE days for which you will be informed via letter or SMS text message. Please see class PE days below:

Reception	Tuesday
Year 1	Monday & Tuesday
Year 2	Wednesday & Friday
Year 3	Monday & Friday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday & Friday

**Year 4** will be going Swimming this term – Further details to follow.

### School Extra-Curricular Activities

Due to restrictions lifting after the school closed for the summer holidays providers of extra-curricular activities were not in a position to offer provision. However, now that we are in Step 4, it is hoped that we will be able to begin to offer extra-curricular activities during the Autumn Term. We will update you when these are in place.

### Noticeboard

- Updated photographic consent forms have been sent out to all pupils today. Please return them to school as soon as possible.
- **Please inform the school office if there are any changes to personal contact details - for example addresses, phone numbers or emergency contacts.**
- Dinner Money - Parents and Carers wishing to pay in advance for their child's school dinners, for this half term, (7 weeks 2 days) are requested to visit ParentPay and make the online payment for the sum of **£79.55 to be paid by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**. From September 2021 the price for a pupil School meal will increase to £2.15. *Please note your child's balance and adjust your payment accordingly.*
- Packed Lunch- If your child is wishing to change to *Packed Lunches* please inform the school office with one week's notice.

### 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.

### 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. [Shincliffe@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Shincliffe@durhamlearning.net)

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