



Weekly Bulletin 8th October 2021

Headteacher's Message

I hope you are all keeping well and that the weekend again brings the opportunity for time with family and relaxation.

This week has seen some of our classes return to a number of protective measures and so I thank parents again for working with us to prevent the spread of the virus as far as is possible. This is especially important given the rise in cases.

As we enter into the cold Autumnal months and runny noses and coughs become more commonplace please continue to refer to the guidance from Durham County Council found below relating to Covid-19.

In response to feedback from last year's Parents' evenings and to keep parents and staff safe and free from Covid we will be using video calls this term to conduct our parents' evenings. From today the online booking system will go live and you will be sent a link with instructions to book an appointment. Progress reports will be sent home on Friday 15th October and consultations will take place on the 18th and 19th October 2021. Please ensure your contact details are up-to-date with the School office. If you have any queries about the online booking system then contact the school office and they will be able to help you through the process.

Each week I want to include a 'snapshot' of some of the things going on 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 the work of FOSS (Friends of Shincliffe School) and they have an update on this below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

FOSS - Update

Uniform Sale - Last Friday's school uniform recycling sale after school went really well. Thank you to all those who donated clothes and shoes for it. The total amount made from the uniform sale was £67.30 a great start to our fundraising efforts for this school year as well as helping the environment at the same time. We feel that another one later in the school year around May would possibly be even more beneficial to parents so watch this space and FOSS Facebook page for updates. Also we are running a Christmas jumper stall towards the end of this term. We hope this will be the start of a range of activities and initiatives over the next school year to enhance the experience of school for the pupils as well as contributing to the fundraising goal of providing raised flower beds for each class.

Volunteers Required - Can you spare some time to volunteer for the Friends of Shincliffe School and volunteer at some of the events. We are looking for people to join the FOSS team or help at events. Get in touch with FOSS via Facebook messenger or email Foss.shincliffe@gmail.com.

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.

Dates

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

Tuesday 19th October – SSP Cross-Country (Running club members)

Friday 15th October – Progress reports (Year 1-6)

Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th October – Parents' Consultation Evening

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
Tuesday 9th November – Y5 ISKON Temple Visit (Amended date)

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 School Grounds

It has been noticed a number of children are not using the paths around school and walking on the grassed areas. These are often very muddy and this is then being brought into school. We want our school to be cared for and respected and so I ask parents to carefully supervise their children during drop off and pick up times.

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.
- School Uniform Reminder - No jewellery except for a watch is allowed in school. Earrings and nail varnish must be removed for school.

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 are 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. Shincliffe@durhamlearning.net

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