



## Weekly Bulletin 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Headteacher's Message

I thank all of you who took the time to respond to our recent parental survey. The views of our parents are vitally important to us and the information gathered from the surveys will enable us to continue to work successfully with parents and carers for the benefit of your children. It is by working in partnership that we can fulfil our Ethos Statement to encourage all to 'use their gifts and talents' and 'develop the highest levels of academic achievement and personal well-being within a loving Christian context'.

The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive, with over 95% of responses in all categories either strongly agreeing or agreeing with the statements. This is testament to the strong partnership between home and school. It is heartening to see that the efforts and dedication of the staff combined with strong parental support is bearing much fruit.

A number of issues were raised in the survey and we respond to these below:

*The School supports my child's wider personal development.* The 'strongly agree' responses were lower in this category than in others. There are many areas that we are working on across school that will help with the personal development of your child. These include our Christian values which are thankfulness, compassion, endurance, creativity, humility, justice, peace, wisdom and hope, and they are used as the basis for our work to support pupils' character development. As well as this, the children have worked with the Durham OASES team to consider climate change and how we save energy. Our ECO club has considered how we travel to school, use of cars and the issue of idling. Children have had the opportunity to celebrate the Lunar New Year and take part in the Festival of Languages as well as think about how they connect with one another during Mental Health week. More recently, we have enjoyed Adam Bushnell, local author, who has worked with all of our children, talking about how to write stories, how to be an author and a possible career path in writing. We have also sought to ensure there are a range of opportunities provided to stretch and develop pupils' skills and talents. This includes sports provision (specialist coaches), enrichment PE days, leadership opportunities, educational visits and residential visits. Should any parent wish to discuss their child's personal development then please speak to the class teacher.

*My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.* The 'strongly agree' responses were lower in this category than in others. We understand that offering both before and after school care would assist many parents with their childcare arrangements. However, the only space we have available at school is the hall and were this to be used for either before or after school care then we would be unable to offer the clubs and extra-curricular activities we currently offer. Our view is that after school clubs are to provide *enrichment* and *opportunity* rather than simply childcare. \*This may have to change in the coming months/years in light of the budget announcement from the government regarding childcare provision but we will await further guidance regarding this.

The Governing Body has in the past considered these issues and the statement outlining the provision the school makes and the rationale behind this is on the website and copied below:

‘Upon occasion, parents raise the issue of before and after school provision. This is something that has been considered by the Governing Body. As a school we are aware that offering ‘wrap-around’ before and after school care would assist many parents with their childcare arrangements. Similarly, we greatly value the current range of after school activities that we provide and the notable impact they have on both the depth and breadth of the educational experience we offer and pupils’ social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

The need for teachers to use their own classrooms as spaces for planning, preparation and assessment activities both before and at the end of the school day means that the only space we have available at school is the hall and were this to be used for either before or after school care then we would be unable to offer the clubs and extra-curricular activities we currently offer. After careful consideration of the situation, therefore we intend to continue with the current provision and arrangements for before and after school clubs and activities.’

As part of the commitment detailed above, we constantly look towards offering additional clubs. This is something we are currently looking into, especially with regard to the range of clubs offered.

*The school lets me know how my child is doing.* The ‘strongly agree’ responses were lower in this category than in others. Some parents indicated that they would like to be more regularly informed about their child’s progress. Government guidelines indicate that schools should provide a written report to parents on a yearly basis. In addition to this we provide a termly report to summarise pupil progress and inform the discussion at the subsequent parents’ evening. Children who need additional support are identified by staff and placed on the SEN register and details of their targets are shared with parents at termly SEN meetings. If at any time a parent has a concern regarding their child’s progress, then teachers are more than willing to meet with parents. Please make an appointment to see your child’s class teacher.

*The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.* The ‘strongly agree’ responses were lower in this category than in others. Some parents indicated that they were unclear what their child was learning and that communication between school could be improved. We continue to add content to our website and our learning platform on DB Primary which is where information about what your child is learning each half term is shared. In the coming months we will provide a link to the home school links via our weekly bulletin. This gives details of the wide range of subjects taught and the content. We also communicate through email and text and the school office is able to answer any queries you may have.

At Shincliffe we aim to work in partnership with parents for the benefit and well-being of your children. If parents are concerned about any matter then please do make an appointment and I will be more than happy to meet with you.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

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 and they have shared an update on this below.

## **FOSS Update**

### **Tuck Shop**

Thanks to everyone who supported the tuck shop held after school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We had a number of pupils and parents purchase sweet treats and we raised £60 to go towards the school which is fantastic! We'll look to hold another tuck shop soon.

### **Easter Coffee Afternoon – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 3-4.30**

Come and join us for the annual Easter Coffee Afternoon on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 3 – 4.30pm in the school hall. There will be an Easter Treasure Hunt, puzzles and colouring, cakes to buy, and the big Easter Egg Raffle!

There will be an Easter Egg and Easter Bonnet competitions. Any design is welcome, we look forward to seeing the children's wonderful ideas, anything goes! Entries are 50p each. Please bring your creations to school on the morning of the fair clearly labelled with your child's name and year group along with the entry fee. There will be prizes for the most creative designs!

If you are able to support the fair, donations of the following would be fantastic

- Cakes
- Easter eggs or Easter sweets
- Any unwanted books for the pre-loved book sale

Any donations can be brought into school week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> March

### **Volunteers**

FOSS is made up of a group of parents who volunteer time to help with the events. We really would love some new members to join our group, any help is hugely appreciated. You don't have to help at every event, any time at all that you can offer, would be a huge help. We are also looking for volunteers to help at the Easter Fair and any other FOSS events. If you would like to help please get in touch with Clare on 07704968946.

### **Reading Café**

Our Reading Café is returning from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March taking place from 2.45pm until the end of the school day. The Reading Café provides the perfect opportunity to share stories with your child in school, visit the school and browse the books in the Scholastic Book Fair. Below are the days you can attend for your child's class:

Reception & Year 1 Reading Café – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Year 4,5 & 6 Reading Café – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Year 2 & 3 Reading Café – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

### **Old Bridge Memory Book**

We are collecting short messages of thanks & memories for the Old Bridge staff, as the nursery is sadly shutting later this month. Huge thanks to everyone who has contributed so far! We are extending our initiative by a few days, so you can still collect a form from reception if you had children there and would like to contribute your own message. The absolutely final deadline to return forms to reception is Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Any questions, please ask Dorothy Nardini or Laura Wood. Thank you!

## Noticeboard

- Miss Winchester will be joining us from Durham University for her PGCE Student Teaching Placement – 20<sup>th</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Y4 & Y5 Dance Festival** - Tickets can be purchased from the Gala Theatre box office by telephone (03000 266 600), in person or online.

## Dates

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

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Book Fayre and Reading Café

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Y4 Visit to Seaham Beach

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Y2 Visit to Shildon Museum

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Y3 and Y4 Class assembly

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Reception Zoolab workshop

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 3.00-4.30pm – FOSS Easter Coffee Afternoon

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Eucharist – All welcome

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School closes for Easter holidays

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – School re-opens

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – School closed for May bank holiday

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Y6 SATS week

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Y3 Visit to the Oriental Museum

## St. Mary's Church Notice

### Wild Church

4.00 pm Sat 18<sup>th</sup> March, Wild Church: Celebrating St. Patrick and the Trinity (to start, Meet in the Church Hall) - Meet in the Hall for a Green Feast Party and storytelling, refreshments, then outside for bean bag game, prayer station, parade of limericks, shamrock decoration, fire pit and mallows, find the four-leaf clover and short service.

4.00 pm Sat 1<sup>st</sup> April Wild Church: A Celebration for Palm Sunday Eve (Outside St. Mary's)

### The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Shincliffe - St Mary's celebrates...

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday Parish Eucharist</b>
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>
<b>Sunday 11th June 9.30am</b>	<b>St Barnabas Day and picnic</b>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 9.30am</b>	<b>Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am</b>	<b>Creationtide – Harvest Festival</b>

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am</b>	<b>All Saints' Day</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm</b>	<b>Christingle</b>

### **Christian Values**

We are exploring the value of humility and worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

*Some further information on this half term's value:*

Humility has a central place in Christ's teaching. It is contrasted with pride.

Jesus taught his followers that if they wished to enter the Kingdom of Heaven they must be like children. Jesus is challenging people to become like those who have no legal or social standing, to become like servants. Throughout his teaching, Jesus uses a series of images and examples to encourage his disciples to 'take the lower place', or 'to wash each other's feet.'

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.

# EASTER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS



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Member and  
recieve  
reduced rates!



Simply Sport



**MULTISPORTS  
CLUB**



**FOOTBALL CLUB**

Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April

**FROM ONLY £12 A DAY  
OPEN 9AM - 4PM**

**BOOK AT [WWW.SIMPLYSPORTLTD.CO.UK](http://WWW.SIMPLYSPORTLTD.CO.UK)**

**BASED AT NEW FERENS PARK NEXT  
TO INFINITE AIR DH1 1GG**



**LEGO CLUB  
CLUB**



# **GIRLS FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CLUB**

**MONDAY 3RD APRIL  
@ NEW FERENS  
PARK, DURHAM**



**For girls aged  
6-11 Years Old**

A Mixture of technical activities  
and games.

**9am - 4pm**

**New Ferens Park Stadium**

DH1 1GG @ Infinite Durham Activity Park

To book head to:  
[www.simplysportltd.co.uk](http://www.simplysportltd.co.uk)

More info: [info@simplysportltd.co.uk](mailto:info@simplysportltd.co.uk)