



Weekly Bulletin –23rd November 2018

Headteacher's Message

On behalf of the school, I would like to extend our thanks to the members of FOSS who worked so hard to ensure that yesterday's Christmas Shopping Evening was a huge success. The FOSS team put a considerable amount of effort into preparing for and organising the evening and we are delighted that the funds raised are able to be used to support additional activities for pupils.

We continue to monitor punctuality daily. We request that all parents ensure that their children arrive promptly for the beginning of the school day. This not only means that pupils are present and ready for teaching at the beginning of the morning session but it also teaches pupils the importance of meeting deadlines and showing respect for others who may be impacted by poor time-keeping. In cases of persistent lateness the services of the Education Welfare Officer will be enlisted to support families in meeting their obligation to ensure that their children attend school on time. I thank parents for their continued support.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

Diary Dates

Friday 30th November – Y1 Trip to Beamish

Thursday 6th December 9:10am – Advent Eucharist – All Welcome

Friday 7th December – School Christmas Tree delivery from Grange Farm

Saturday 8th December 02:00pm – 04:00pm – FOSS Christmas Fair

Tuesday 11th December 10:00am – KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 12th December 6:00pm – KS1 Nativity

Thursday 13th December – Christmas Lunch in school

Thursday 20th December 2:45pm – KS2 Christmas Singalong

Friday 21st December 10:00am – Christmas Service

Wed 16th – Fri 18th January 2019 – Y6 Visit to Robin Wood Activity Centre

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

Noticeboard

- Please remember to inform the school office if your child is being collected from school by someone else. For safeguarding, we cannot allow a child to go home with someone else without parental consent.
- *Reception Parents:* We currently have a shortage of spare boy's trousers in the Reception class. Any donation of spare/old trousers that you no longer need would be greatly appreciated.

Winter Weather

“Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents.” Department for Education

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service. As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to ‘unavoidable’ circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite. We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Shincliffe CE School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways and clearing access points.

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Durham Closures website. To determine whether Shincliffe CE School is open or closed please visit: www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures.

Search for the school in the search box. The Durham Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Durham are open or closed, such as nurseries, children’s centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for text alerts with the school. This service will send an SMS alert to let parents know if school is closed.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Durham so you can plan your journey.
- Don’t forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Shincliffe CE School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Alcohol Awareness

Durham County Council has requested that the following information be shared with parents:

A new campaign for Alcohol Awareness Week (19-25 Nov) warns parents about the risks to their children from alcohol and encourages them to delay the moment when their child first starts to drink. It comes as new figures suggest parenting tactics aimed at creating a safer relationship with alcohol and introducing drinking at a younger age could actually be giving our children a taste for booze. Balance are launching the What’s the Harm campaign in Alcohol Awareness Week (19-25 Nov) to raise awareness of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) guidance that an alcohol free childhood up to 18 is the healthiest and best option, and that if children do drink this should not be before age 15. Many parents know drinking increases the risks of accidents, injuries, smoking and drug taking. But many

are less aware of the damage alcohol can do to children's developing brains, liver, bones and hormones, affecting their mood, their mental health and risking them falling behind at school. Parents are encouraged to visit <http://whatstheharm.co.uk/> to find out about the facts and the myths about children and alcohol, and how best to have a conversation about alcohol with their child. An alcohol free childhood up to 18 is the safest and best option – but definitely not before.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of compassion and worship next week will be led by Mr Tait, Fr Peter, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill and our Key Stage Two pupils. We will be thinking about the meaning of Advent and the opportunities for demonstrating compassion that this season of the church's year offers.

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.