



## **Weekly Bulletin – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **Headteacher's Message**

Mr Gowan, our PE & Sports Lead, is currently undertaking a considerable amount of work in conjunction with the Active Durham Hub. This Durham County Council led initiative aims to give children across the county the best start in life in terms of access to physical activity. The thinking is that this plays a key part in children's physical, mental and emotional well-being and their academic learning. At Shincliffe we have committed to an 'Active 20' pledge for this academic year. This means that we will ensure each child is physically active for at least 20 minutes each day as part of the activities provided during playtime, lunchtimes and PE lessons. Our Playground Leaders are already providing a range of activities for their fellow pupils and we are providing opportunities for all to be active. Over the next few weeks do look out for resources which will support you in enabling your child to be active. They will be available via the school website.

Best wishes  
Mr Tait

### **Diary Dates**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 09:10am – Y1 Class Assembly (Parents welcome)  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 09:10am – Y5 Class Assembly – Chinese New Year (Parents welcome)  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Progress Reports sent home (Years 1-6)  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – FOSS School Disco  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Y5 Chinese New Year celebrations – Durham Town Hall  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Parents' Consultation Evening  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February – School closes for half-term holiday  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – School re-opens  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop (In-school event)  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10:00am – Eucharist for Lent (Parents welcome)  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Reception Zoolab

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

### **Noticeboard**

- Young Photographer and Young Writer competition – closing date Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- School holidays for 2019/2020 now available on the School website.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

We continue to monitor the attendance and punctuality of all pupils. This is in order to ensure that pupils are regularly attending school and so are able to make the progress they are capable of.

Where either attendance or punctuality give cause for concern we may enlist the support of the Educational Welfare Officer to support families in meeting their obligations regarding school attendance.

The following questions and answers give a useful synopsis of procedures and guidelines surrounding attendance and punctuality:

**1. When does my child need to be in School?**

*Your child should be at school in good time for registration. The morning register will be called promptly at 8.55am and the afternoon register at 1.00pm for KS2 and 1:15pm for KS1.*

**2. What happens if my child is late?**

- *Registration finishes 15 minutes after the start of a school session*
- *If your child arrives in that 15 minutes (by 9.10am in a morning) he/she will be marked late*
- *If your child arrives after the 15 minutes (after 9.10 am in a morning) he/she will be given an unauthorised absence for that session*

**3. Does the School need letters explaining my child's absence or will a phone call do?**

*We would expect a parent to telephone the school on the first day of absence, before 9.30am preferably. If we do not receive an explanation, or if the explanation is unsatisfactory, we will not authorise the absence, and this will be shown on your child's end of year report.*

**4. What reasons will the school accept for absences?**

- *Illness*
- *Emergency dental / medical appointment (please make routine appointments after school or during the holidays)*
- *Day of religious observance*
- *Family bereavement*

*Except in the case of illness, you should ask for permission for your child to miss school well in advance, giving full details. In cases of recurring absences through illness you may be asked to produce a medical certificate.*

**5. What is unacceptable?**

*The school will not authorise absence for day trips, visiting relatives, shopping, birthdays or looking after brothers or sisters or any other family members.*

**6. Will the School contact me if my child is absent?**

*We will phone or text you if we have not heard from you. This is because we believe it is our responsibility to ensure your child's safety as well as their regular school attendance.*

*If we are concerned about aspects of your child's attendance or punctuality we will contact you to discuss the best way forward.*

### **7. What can I do to encourage my child to attend School?**

*Make sure your child gets enough sleep and gets up in plenty of time each morning. Ensure that he /she leaves home in the correct clothes and properly equipped. Show your child, by your interest, that you value his / her education.*

### **8. My child is reluctant go to School. What should I do?**

*Contact your child's class teacher immediately and openly discuss your worries. Your child could be avoiding school for a number of reasons – difficulties with school work, friendship problems, family difficulties. It is important that we identify the reason for your child's reluctance to attend school and work together to tackle the problem.*

*In some cases you may find it helpful to discuss the circumstances of your child's difficulties with an Education Welfare Officer. The school may also refer you to an Education Welfare Officer who works with staff and families if difficulties with attendance arise.*

Should any parent require any further clarification then please do not hesitate to contact the school. We thank you for your co-operation in ensuring that all pupils attend school regularly and punctually.

## **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](http://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](http://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.

### **Christian Values**

We are continuing to explore the value of hope and worship will be led by Mr Tait, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

We will be thinking about the story of the Healing of the Blind Man.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. [Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net)

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