Shincliffe C. of E. Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 2-2015/2016 Date…… November 2015

Fundraising

Thank you for the excellent response for the "Durham Food Bank" for our Harvest Festival celebration. This was a really practical and generous help, and we are hoping that you will help us support this charity throughout the year.

This half term we will be supporting 'Children In Need' on 13th November and also the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The return date for the Shoebox Appeal is the morning of Wednesday 18th November. Please do not return your shoeboxes before this time, thank you.

Call Parents

Please ensure that all your contact and emergency contact details are kept up to date, especially changes to mobile contact numbers.

Year 6 Robinwood Field Study Trip Parents' Meeting

The meeting is Thursday 12th November at 6:00 pm in the school hall. Parents, carers and Year 6 children are welcome to attend to find out more about the planned residential trip to Robinwood. Please note the change of

Thank You

We extend our thanks to all who help with the life of the school. We are grateful for the many contributions parents make- to support our book clubs as Parent Librarians and to those who run the School Library on Wednesdays. In addition we thank all members of FOSS for their continued support.

Class Assemblies

Parents, carers and grandparents are always welcome to attend class assemblies:

Year 1 – Thursday 21st January at 9:15 am
Year 2 - Thursday 4th February at 9:15 am

Community Service

You are warmly invited to our "Community Service" for Remembrance Day on **Wednesday 11th November at 10:00 am** in school. The service will last about 25 – 30 minutes and will be led by Fr. Peter Kashouris and school pupils and staff. We encourage parents, members of St Mary's Parish and the local community to come and join us for these termly services in school. It is an opportunity for school, parish and the community to join together. Poppies will be on sale daily in school from Tuesday 3rd November, as we seek to support the work of the British Legion.

F.O.S.S.

As always we are grateful for the excellent work and support given by FOSS. Please support our fundraising events coming up this half term:

- Bags2School Collection: Wednesday 4th November
- FOSS are also once again organising the very popular discos – first of the year is this Friday 6th November
- Shopping Evening: Thursday 19th November
- The FOSS Christmas Fair: Saturday 5th December 2015

Please contact our FOSS representatives directly, rather than the school office should you have any queries with regards to events, activities and information. Claire Ketley is our FOSS Chairperson.

"Peter Pan"

M & M Theatrical Productions will perform the pantomime "Peter Pan" in the School Hall on Tuesday 3rd November 2015. The production is suitable for pupils aged 4-11 years. FOSS are kindly paying for this enjoyable event for the children.

Dinner Money

We really appreciate your help with prompt payment of School Dinner Money for KS2 children. As you

can imagine, this is a huge task to administer on behalf of Durham County Council. If possible we would encourage parents/carers to pay for their child or children's lunches half-termly in advance (on receipt of an invoice) – cheques are to be made payable to "Durham County Council." If you wish to pay weekly, then Dinner Money is collected weekly on **Monday mornings.** Please ensure you send the correct amount.

Parents who may be eligible for Free School Meals are requested to contact the school office for further information.

Supervision before School

Parents are reminded that pupils are not supervised by a member of staff on the school playground before 8:45 am. The morning bell is rung at 8:55 am in order to ensure children are in class by 9:00 am.

Holidays during Term Time

The Governing Body request that parents do not to remove their child from Shincliffe School for a family holiday during term time. This can cause considerable disruption to classroom teaching and children's learning.

If parents request to remove their child from school for holiday, then this will be recorded as unauthorised. All requests for absence, where parents believe there are **exceptional** circumstances, should be made using the form available on the school website or via the school office. Each request will be considered individually by the governing body.

Lateness

Prompt arrival at school in a morning ensures that pupils are ready, together with their peers, for the day's learning activities. Lateness is monitored and recorded and in cases of repeated lateness the support of the Educational Welfare Officer will be enlisted to support families.

Information for Parents/Carers

A half-termly newsletter is sent to all families during the first week of term, following a holiday. Any subsequent information to be forwarded to parents will be sent out on a **Friday.** Please regularly check your child/children's school bags so that you don't miss any important information or communication from school. Please return any responses for trips, lunch money, forms etc. to school with your child for placing in the classroom baskets. This procedure encourages children to be responsible and avoids any unnecessary journeys to the school office. Newsletters can also be found on our website – www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk.

Sickness Absence

Parents are requested to inform the school office by telephone on the first day of their child's absence from school due to ill health. The pupil will require a letter confirming their absence on their return to school.

We request that they return to school **no sooner** than 48 hours for both sickness and Diarrhoea. Thank you.

School Uniform

Thank you again for the support with school uniform. Shincliffe CE pupils look very smart. We would like to remind you that school shoes should be black or dark coloured, not trainers. Wearing trainers or boots is not part of our school uniform. Girls may wear boots in the winter months, but should be plain, sturdy black leather – not furry, fleece, buckled "fashion" boots or heels.

Medical Appointments

We ask all parents to ensure that medical and dental appointments are taken out of school time wherever possible. This reduces the disruption to pupils' learning.

Year One

Mrs Banks will be leaving us at the end of the autumn term to take up a lecturing post at the University of Sunderland. We thank her for the substantial contribution she has made during her time at Shincliffe School and wish her every success for the future. Following a rigorous selection process, the Governors have appointed Mrs Vicky Short to the post of Year One Class Teacher from January 2015. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Short to the teaching team.

Useful Numbers

Please keep a note of our school contact details:

E-mail: shincliffece@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk

School and School Office:
Tel: 0191 3843739 Fax: 0191 386 3090

E-Safety

As always, the staff will be delivering half termly lessons to all pupils on an e-safety theme. A range of resources to support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online is available on the school website. Do make yourself aware of these.

Christian Values- *Compassion*

Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone.

The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others.

This half term we are focussing on Compassion as our whole school Christian Value.

In Colossians 3:12 Paul says:
'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'

In the Gospels we find many stories of Jesus showing compassion to the sick and the downtrodden of society. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. In the school community this means showing kindness and **respect** to each other. It is related to the way in which new people are welcomed into the school family and nurtured and supported. It is reflected in the ways in which members of the community support each other through difficult times, such as bereavement. Christians would say that God Himself is the perfect example of community—the three persons of the Trinity are bound together in the ultimate closeness which makes them one. In a church school the idea of community will always be a strong one— schools share a common life and common goals—we aim to nurture and sustain all our members.

We would like our children to continue their reflection and experience at home. Please look at our home school value sheet for compassion. This will give you lots of ideas of activities you can do at home.

Some things to think about:

- In what ways do we encourage members of the school community to show kindness and respect to one another?
- How do we foster links with charities for those in need?
- How are new members of the school community nurtured and supported?
- How does the school help, and encourage pupils to understand and empathise with members of their community who have suffered traumatic experiences, e.g. bereavement?

Sports Premium and PE

Sport Premium is an amount of money which the government has agreed to allocate to schools for the development of sports related activities. The funding amount schools receive is based upon the number of children of primary age the school has. The sport premium is to be used to increase the quality & breadth of PE & Sport provision, and increasing participation in PE & Sport. Mr Gowan is our PE and Sports Premium co-ordinator.

At Shincliffe CE Primary School, we strive to promote healthy and active lifestyles and aim to provide sporting opportunities for all our pupils.

The 2015-2016 Sport Premium funding for **Shincliffe CE Primary School** is **£9075.** The money will used for:

1) Investing in the Durham & Chester-Le Street School Sport Partnership (www.durhamclsssp.org.uk) Basic Service Level Agreement to provide the school with the following:

- A full organised annual programme of competitions/tournaments/festivals
- Access to a set amount of transport to festivals/competitions
- Participation, inclusion and excellence opportunities

- Access to the gifted & talented multi-skill academy for Year 5 & 6 children
- CPD for curriculum physical education for staff.
- Provision of a minimum of 4 x 6 week blocks of curriculum and/or after-school activity in a variety of sports.
- SSP Network meetings to support PE Co-ordinators / PLTs in their role developing PE & sport within
- Promotion and development of links to local sports club
- Access to Team Durham (Durham University) assemblies
- Central co-ordination of school sport programmes in SSP area

2) Investing in the Durham & Chester-Le Street School Sport Partnership (www.durhamclsssp.org.uk) Enhanced Service Level Agreement to provide the school with the following:

- 30 hours of High Quality PE Teaching support
- 60 hours of High Quality coaching support
- Bespoke menu of CPD opportunities for staff
- Quality assurance of sports coaching

The additional ways we will be using our Sport Premium Funding this year:

- Fund a gymnast specialist to continue to work alongside the teachers to demonstrate how to teach gymnastics effectively - upskilling our teachers and also delivering extra-curricular sessions for children
- Providing CPD for staff
- Funding an active-fitness programme for KS2 children
- Investing in new equipment to deliver playground activities

International Schools Award

Shincliffe CofE (Controlled) Primary School has been successful in being re-accredited for the International School Award and is accredited for three years from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2018**.**

The assessors made the following comments on the Impact Evaluation Form, to highlight where the application was particularly impressive and points to take note of as we continue to develop the international dimension in our school:

This is an absolutely outstanding Impact Evaluation and even through the application itself, it is easy to see and feel clear evidence of a curriculum and a school ethos that is thoroughly permeated by the global dimension. The positive effects of your international learning programme on all stakeholders in the process are also palpable. This application satisfies all the success criteria for the ISA and it is our pleasure, therefore, to recommend Shincliffe CE (Controlled) Primary School for the Re-accreditation level of the International School Award. Your relationships with your various international partner schools are interesting and have worked very well. They show much promise in terms of delivering mutually beneficial collaborations as you progress with your international learning programme.

We are delighted that French teaching and learning is fully embedded into our curriculum and that our international partnerships further our already globally enriched curriculum. All pupils are involved in our international work and introduced to global themes such as 'identity and belonging' and 'rights and responsibilities', as well as embedding and consolidating British values, namely mutual respect, rules of law, individual liberty and tolerance of other religions and beliefs into the ethos of our teaching and learning.

Mrs Morgan is our International Co-ordinator and we are grateful for all of her hard work in securing this prestigious award.

Governing Body Update
(October 2015)

The School's Governing Body meets as a full Governing Body every term. We would like to share with you what we do.
As a Governing Body in a Local Authority school we hold the school to account in line with the School Governance Regulations for England. As a voluntary controlled school within the Diocese we also have an Instrument of Governance.
The Governing Body is made up of eleven members.

- Two Foundation governors who represent the Diocese and local Church.
- Four parent governors (with children across both key stages).
- A Local Authority governor
- Two community governors

- Two staff governors (Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher)

Members have specific responsibilities within the Governing Body for the curriculum and statutory requirements. There are also sub-committees. A list of the governors with details of the membership of committees and responsibilities can be found on the school website.

Full Governing Body Meeting

(8th October 2015)

This was the first meeting of the new academic year:

- Two new members were welcomed to the Governing Body, Mr Wayne Harrison and Mr Alex Young who are both parent governors.
- Mrs Susan Hopps, Mrs Pat Hudson and Ms Gail McArdle stepped down at the end of their terms of office. Mrs Hopps and Mrs Hudson had served for three terms (twelve years) with Mrs Hopps taking the role of Chairperson for many of those years. Ms McArdle had served two terms (eight years). We thank Mrs Hopps, Mrs Hudson and Ms McArdle for those years of commitment and dedication to the children at Shincliffe C.of E. (Controlled) Primary School.
- Mrs Philippa Lythgoe agreed to take the role of the Chair and Mr Kit Erlebach agreed to continue as the Vice-Chair.
- Full Governing Body Meetings are clerked by a Local Authority clerk who minutes the meetings and provides the documentation required.
- The Governing Body agreed their Code of Conduct and responsibilities.
- The minutes from the previous Full Governing Body Meeting, the Finance Committee Meeting and the School Life and Curriculum Committee Meeting were reviewed and matters arising discussed (including Health and Safety updates on school maintenance, fire drills).
- The Chair reported on the recent School Safeguarding Self-assessment and the adoption of the new Equality Policy and the new Data Protection Policy.
- The Head Teacher's report was reviewed including pupil attainment and progress, school self-evaluation, school improvement planning, sports premium, pupil premium, the life of the School, safeguarding, H&S and the statutory policies and documents review.
- The school budget was reviewed as was the annual report from the Education Development Partner.
- Governors reported on their monitoring visits to the school.
- The meeting concluded with an update on National and Local Authority issues including the new Ofsted Framework and admission arrangements for 2016.
- The next full Governing Body Meeting is in the Spring Term.

Finance Committee Meeting

(20th October 2015)

The Finance Committee met to review the budget, pay review and the Service Level Agreements for 2015 – 2016.

Other meetings / training this term:

- School Life and Curriculum Committee Meeting.
- Safeguarding Training
- Monitoring Teaching and Learning Training.

If you have any questions about the Governing Body please contact Philippa Lythgoe vis the school office.

Digital Literacy

In Year 3 we have been learning about how to stay safe online. We have been finding out how important it is to keep any passwords we use safe and secure. We have been making up our own "tricky" passwords and seeing how long it would take a PC to crack them. It has been great fun! Remember, never share your passwords with anyone and change them regularly!

Dates for your Diary – Autumn 2 2015

Monday 2nd November 2015	PD Day for Staff, school closed
Tuesday 3rd November 2015	M&M Musical Theatre pm – Peter Pan
Wednesday 4th November 2015	Bags2School collection
Friday 6th November 2015	Simply Sport Breakfast Club resumes, Year 3 Swimming recommences. Y4-6 Fencing Club commences. FOSS Disco
Wednesday 11th November 2015	Community Worship Service Remembrance Day 10:00 am
Thursday 12th November 2015	Robinwood Meeting – Year 6 Parents 6:00 pm
Friday 13th November 2015	Children in Need Day Shoeboxes to school
Thursday 19th November 2015	FOSS Christmas Shopping Evening
Wednesday 25th November 2015	Final Y2 & Y3 before-school Gymnastics Club
Thursday 26th November 2015	Y6 visit to the Safety Carousel
Friday 27th November 2015	Final before-school KS2 Simply Sports Club
Monday 30th November 2015	Final KS1 Fit & Fun for this term
Tuesday 1st December 2015	Y1 visit to Bowes Museum
Thursday 3rd December 2015	Advent Eucharist Community Service 9:15 am
Friday 4th December 2015	
Saturday 5th December 2015	FOSS Christmas Fair 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – school hall
Tuesday 8th December 2015	Infants' Nativity 10:00 am in the school hall
Wednesday 9th December 2015	Infants' Nativity 6:00 pm in the school hall
Thursday 10th December 2015	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 11th December 2015	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party. Final Year 3 swimming session for this term
Monday 14th December 2015	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15th December 2015	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December 2015	Juniors Carol "Sing-a-Long" 2:30 pm
Friday 18th December 2015	Christmas Service – 10:00 am school hall – all welcome! Last day of term for pupils
Monday 21st December 2015 – Monday 4th January 2016	Christmas Holidays (2 weeks, 1 day) PD Day for staff
Tuesday 5th January 2016	First day of Spring Term for children
Future Dates for your Diary:	
Friday 8th January 2016	Year 3 swimming commences
13th – 15th January 2016	Year 6 visit to Robinwood Activity Centre
Thursday 21st January 2016	Year 1 Assembly 9:15 am in the school hall
Thursday 4th February 2016	Year 2 Assembly 9:15 am in the school hall
10th – 14th May 2016	Year 6 Assessment Week