Shincliffe C. of E. (Cont.) Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 2/2016-17 Date…… October 2016

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear parents,

Welcome back!

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing half term break.

This half term, in the run up to Christmas, is a busy one. We look forward to our Christmas celebrations and to welcoming parents into school to share in these. The partnership between home and school is an important one and is of substantial mutual benefit in allowing each child to flourish.

I thank all of those who took time to respond to our recent parental survey. Your responses are greatly appreciated and are of huge value as we continue to make improvements in the life of the school. Included later in this newsletter is a detailed response to the issues raised.

Best wishes
Mr Tait

- **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 to those in particular need in our community. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and members of the community to worship with us. Year 6 led a thoughtful act of worship based on the Parable of the Sower.

Our fundraising efforts continue. We will be once again supporting the Operation Christmas Child Christmas Shoebox Appeal. An information leaflet has been sent home. Should you wish to support this appeal, filled shoeboxes should be returned to school by 16th November.

- **Year 6 Robinwood Field Study Trip Parents' Meeting**

The meeting is Tuesday 22nd 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.

- **Parental Support**

We extend our thanks to all who help with the many aspects of the life of the school- from supporting reading to accompanying school trips. We are grateful for the many contributions parents make. Without these, the scope of our work would be much reduced. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

- **Assemblies**

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

  Year 1 – Thursday 19th January at 9:15 am
  Year 2 - Thursday 2nd February at 9:15 am

- **Community Worship**

You are warmly invited to our "Community Service" for Remembrance Day on **Friday 11th November at 10:00 am** in school. The service will last about 25 – 30 minutes and will be led by pupils and staff with a contribution from Fr. Peter Kashouris. 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 Monday 7th November, as we seek to support the work of the British Legion.

Our Eucharist to celebrate the beginning of Advent will be held on **Thursday, 1st December at 9:15am**. All are welcome to our celebration.

Worship for Christmas will be held on **Friday, 16th December at 10:00am**. All are welcome to join us as we finish the term with a reflective and uplifting Christmas service.

- **School Uniform**

School uniform is ordered online. Find the link through the school website

http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk
or
http://www.totstoteams.com

Reminder that jumpers and cardigans are navy blue; skirts are grey or navy; trousers are grey; polo shirts are white; shoes or boots are black. House T-shirts are needed for PE with black shorts or gym skirts/skorts. Key stage 1 children require plimsolls. Key stage 2 children require trainers. We request that children always have a waterproof jacket or a school coat in school every day in case it is needed for outdoor play. Thank you.

Please remember that hair is worn tied back and no jewellery is permitted except a watch. Earrings and nail varnish are not allowed at any time. Please do not get children's ears pierced during the school year.

- **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 9th November
- FOSS are also once again organising the very popular discos – first of the year is Friday 11th November
- Shopping Evening: Thursday 24th November
- The FOSS Christmas Fair: Saturday 10th December

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

- **"Jack and the Beanstalk"**

M & M Theatrical Productions will perform the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" in the School Hall on Tuesday 1st November 2015. The production is suitable for pupils aged 4-11 years. FOSS are kindly paying for this enjoyable event for the children.

Parent Information Notice Board

- **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.

- **Sickness**

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. For child safety reasons, the school office must phone a contact for the child if we do not hear from a parent of an absent pupil. The pupil will require a letter confirming their absence on return to school.

Sickness or diarrhoea requires 48 hours after the last episode before a return to school.

Absences for illnesses which fall below 95% attendance targets will be investigated and may require a medical note.

- **Medication in school**

Shincliffe School is able to administer prescribed medication to pupils, provided that a consent form has been signed by the pupil's parent/carer. **Medication is only administered in school if prescribed to be taken 4 times a day.** The medication is to be handed to and from an adult, via the school office. Please note, that anti-biotics can only be given for a period of seven days from the prescribed date.

Shincliffe School is not allowed to administer medication not prescribed by a physician, (for example; cough mixture, Calpol, throat lozenges, travel sickness tablets, lip salves or glosses, or alternative therapy) and subsequently children are not allowed to bring these to school.

- **Accident Forms**

If a child suffers an injury in school, parents are informed by one of the first aid team by telephone. For minor injuries, where immediate notification is not required, a copy of the accident form is sent home with the child.

- **Collection from school and Walking home alone**

Collection: All children are expected to be picked up after-school by a parent or guardian detailed on the data collection sheet. If another adult will regularly be picking up your child, please inform the school office in writing. This includes grandparents, child-minders, after-school club staff etc. This is a safeguarding issue.

If your child is being picked up by another adult please contact the school office. This is logged and the information passed on to the child's teacher and the child. Please note that if we do not have this information we will need to contact the parent to get authorisation to let the child go with the adult. This is a safeguarding issue.

Walking Home: Children in upper key stage 2 (Y5 and Y6) can walk home from school or after-school clubs on their own if parents give their prior consent. This needs to be given in writing or a form can be downloaded from the website or collected from the school office.

- **Christmas Cards and Parties**

The Christmas post box will be available from *12th December* in order to allow the children to send Christmas cards to other members of the school community.

Dates for the Children's Christmas parties are detailed on the calendar on the back of the Newsletter.

- **Durham Music Service Lessons**

We are often approached by parents with regard to arrangements regarding music tuition. In all cases parents wishing to stop music tuition must contact the Music service directly. The school has no involvement in this process.

- **School Ethos Statement**

Every member of the school community is valued as a child of God, made in his image and likeness. All are welcome and are encouraged to use their gifts and talents to contribute to the happy and caring environment we strive to create. We seek to develop the highest levels of academic achievement and personal well-being within a loving Christian context. We aim to provide a stimulating learning atmosphere in which the potential of all can be realised. We recognise and cherish our role within the wider community and seek to build strong links between home, school and local community.

- **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.

We have been asked to share the following information by the Local Authority E-Safety lead:

YouNow is a fairly new app that allows users over the age of 13 to stream live video and receive comments from viewers. Broadcasters (the children using the app) are encouraged to become popular and to create content that will attract more viewers. There is also a system for buying a currency to virtually tip broadcasters. Videos created could be copied and stored. Durham Police have been made aware as a result of an ongoing case that paedophiles may be encouraging children to expose themselves, and are then involved in swopping images generated.
Further advice is available at http://parentinfo.org/article/a-parents-guide-to-younow
Parents of primary aged children will want to ensure that their children do not have access to this app and that older children are aware of the possible dangers.

- **Parental Survey**

First of all can 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 gleaned 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.
In response to last year's feedback when we identified the provision of after school activities as an area for action, we are delighted that there has been a rise in parents' satisfaction with the work of the school. We continue to audit both the range of clubs on offer and analyse the ages and groups of pupils who are accessing the provision. We amend and adapt provision as necessary. During the course of the past year, you will have seen both an increase in the range of clubs offered and in the age ranges to which these are available. During the course of the coming year, it is our intention to continue to enhance this provision.

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

1. A number of parents again raised the issue of before and after school provision. This is an on-going issue. I 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 (including the enhanced provision detailed above) we currently offer. The Governing Body has considered this issue and the statement outlining the provision the school makes and the rationale behind this is on the website.

2. Provision of healthy lifestyle advice was raised by a number of parents. As part of our use of the dedicated Sports Premium Grant, we enable all pupils to participate in a range of sports and have made considerable investment in improving our provision. This is in order to encourage participation in sports and healthy lifestyles. We recognise that the promotion of healthy habits in diet in childhood is of huge importance to maintaining good health in adulthood. To that end, we will be reviewing the elements of our PSHCE curriculum related to healthy lifestyles and enhancing our provision in order to provide our pupils with further opportunities to explore healthy lifestyles.

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.

Mr. Tait

- **DB Primary – Learning Library**

The school website has a link to the **DB primary** site which the children have been using for homework, self-led study and to communicate with one another. Please remind your children about the learning library.

Christian Values In School

Our Collective Worship will continue to be led by a variety of school staff, Fr. Peter and Mrs. Matthews from St. Mary's Church and visitors from local Churches, organisations and charities as appropriate. An exploration of the values and their application both in school and beyond are the central focus of our Collective Worship.

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

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?

The Arts

Durham Music Service and Music Works provide extracurricular music lessons to pupils in Y4-Y6 for brass and violin and Y3-Y6 for guitar.

African drumming after-school club will continue this half term for Key Stage 2.

The Key Stage 1 drama club, Razzamataz, has been a huge success and is continuing this half term.

Sports Round-up

We are delighted to announce that the school has successfully secured the School Games Gold Mark. This is a huge achievement and our thanks go to our Sports Lead, Mr Gowan, who has coordinated this work.

We have enjoyed a number of sporting successes and attended various sporting events during the past half term.

- We were successful in winning the Mixed Football League. We played 6 matches, winning all 6- an excellent achievement.
- Over 40 pupils from KS2 attended the Cross country Competition and 2 qualified for the County Finals.
- Years 2 and 3 attended the Multi Skills event at New College.
- 10 children from Year 6 attended the Tag Rugby Festival at Maiden Castle.
- Year 3 continue to enjoy weekly swimming lessons at Brandon Pool.

Twitter

The school has a Twitter account which we currently use to inform parents of our sporting events. Please take a look and follow us **@Shincliffesport.** A link can be found on the school website

School Trips and Visits:

Pupils enjoyed the following trips in Autumn term 1:
- Y6 Eden Camp
- Y2 Book Festival
- Y2 Beamish
- Y4 Sikh Temple

Further educational visits are planned for this half term.

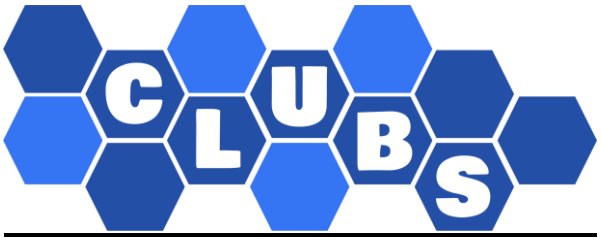
Mini-police - Mrs Henderson

The Mini Police have had a fantastic start to the year, welcoming Durham University Students at Fresher's Week. Thank you to all that volunteered – PC Craig was full of praise for how polite you all were! Well done.

On the 5th November, the Mini Police will be at the Arnison Centre, helping to sell Poppies. This is a fantastic cause and I would welcome as many volunteers as possible. Even if you can't manage to volunteer, please pop along and give us your support.

Finally, don't forget the 3rd December is the Christmas Lantern parade, a very popular event for the Mini Police and a letter will come home after half term with more details.

Extra-curricular Clubs



The following clubs will take place during this half term:
- Chess- Y5&6
- Key Stage One Fit and Fun (full)
- Key Stage Two Breakfast Club
- Confirmation Group
- Singing Club (full)
- Fencing Club- Y4-6
- Brick Club- KS2
- Razzmatazz- Y1&2 (full)
- French Club

French Club has been opened to Reception Children. Due to current high demand other clubs have not been opened to Reception children. They will open in January 2017.

Please note that children will leave school from the side door of the School Hall after school clubs. This is for safety reasons to avoid children and adults having to wait where staff park their cars.

Eco Club

Our Eco Club, supported by our School Caretaker Mrs Irwin, take responsibility for the co-ordination of paper recycling throughout school. They are ensuring that we are as eco-friendly as possible and are constantly looking to reduce our waste levels.

- **Pumpkin Rescue**

In school we will be doing a project called 'Pumpkin Rescue'. We would like you to bring in all your pumpkin waste (the shells and the left over insides). This will take place on Thursday the 3rd of November so we can use it and recycle it instead of it all going to waste. Please see the information leaflet for more information.
Thank you- *The Eco Group*

SCHOOL CARPARK REMINDER: The School Carpark is for the use of staff and visitors only. Parents are reminded not to use the School Carpark.

Dates for your diary

Autumn Term 2016	Activity
Monday 31st October 2016	School restarts for Autumn 2 Term. KS1 Fit and Fun and Chess Club restarts. Anti-bullying week.
Tuesday 1st November 2016	Jack and the Beanstalk, M&M Theatricals Productions Le Club Francais restarts
Thursday 3rd November 2016	Razzamataz restarts.
Friday 4th November 2016	Y3 Swimming recommences
Saturday 5th November	Poppy Appeal- Mini Police
Wednesday 9th November	Bags to School
Wednesday 9th November	ESFA Girls' Football Meadowfield
Friday 11th November 2016	Community Service for Remembrance Day 10:00 School Hall.
Friday 11th November 2016	School Disco
Monday 14th November 2016	Inter-Faith Week
Wednesday 16th November	Deadline for return of operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
Thursday 17th November	High 5 Netball League starts
Monday 21st November 2016	Y1 Beamish Museum
Tuesday 22nd November	Robinwood parents' Meeting 6:00pm School Hall
Thursday 24th November	FOSS Christmas Shopping Evening
Thursday 24th November	Y3 Stone Age Workshop
Tuesday 29th November	Y1 Christmas Journey
Wednesday 30th November	Y6 Safety Carousel
Thursday 1st December 2016	Eucharist Service in School 9:10 am
Thursday 1st December 2016	Cinderella, Theatre Royal – Y3 and Y4
Saturday 3rd December 2016	Christmas Lantern Parade, Durham City
Tuesday 6th December 2016	KS1 Nativity School Hall 10:00 am
Wednesday 7th December 2016	KS1 Nativity School Hall 6:00 pm
Friday 9th December	European Christmas Day
Saturday 10th December	FOSS School Christmas Fair
Saturday 10th December	NSPCC Carol Service Durham Cathedral 11:00am
Monday 12th December 2016	Christmas post box available
Monday 12th December 2016	Y3 and Y4 Christmas Party
Tuesday 13th December 2016	Y5 and Y6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14th December 2016	KS1 Christmas Party
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Sing-A-Long 2:30 pm School Hall, parents/carers welcome
Friday 16th December	Christmas Service 10:00 am. Last Day of Term.
Monday 19th December–Tuesday 3rd January'17	Christmas Holiday

Future Dates 2016/7	Activity
Tuesday 3rd January 2017	PD Day for Staff
Wednesday 4th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term 2016
Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th January 2017	Y6 Robinwood
Thursday 19th January	Y1 Class Assembly School Hall 9:15am
Friday 27th January	Chinese New Year Day
Thursday 2nd February	Y2 Class Assembly School Hall 9:15am
Wednesday 1st March	School Eucharist for Ash Wednesday 9:15am School Hall
Friday 3rd February	School Disco
Thursday 6th April	Easter Worship led by Y3&4 9:15am school Hall
Thursday 6th April	Easter Coffee Afternoon
Friday 7th April	Easter service 10:00am Church

Shincliffe C.of E. (Controlled) Primary School
Extra-curricular Activities – Autumn 2 2016

(Subject to alteration and amendment)

Day	Activity	Eligible	Before or After school	Time	Start Date	End date	Group Leader	Venue	Comments
Monday	**Fit and Fun Club**	Y1 and Y2	After	3:30-4:30	31st October 2016	12th Dec. 2016	Simply Sports	School Hall	7 weeks
	African Drumming	KS2	After	3:30-4:30	7th November 2016	12th Dec. 2016	Mark Barfoot	School Hall or Y3	5 weeks
	Chess Club	Y5 & Y6	After	3:30–4 :30	31st October 2016	12th Dec. 2016	Mr Smith	Y5 classroom	7 weeks
Tuesday	**French Club**	KS1	After	3:30-4:30	1st November 2016	13th Dec. 2016	Le Club Francais	Y4	7 weeks
	Singing Club	Y5&Y6	After	3:30-4:30	1st November 2016	6th Dec. 2016	Mrs Richardson	Hall	5 weeks
Thursday	**Razzamataz**	Y1 and Y2	After	3:30-4:30	3rd November 2016	8th Dec. 2016	Razzamataz	Hall	6 weeks
	Confirmation Class	Y6	Lunch-time	12:30-13:00	10th November 2016	8th Dec. 2016	Father Peter, Judith Duell	Y2 Classroom	5 weeks
Friday	**Breakfast Sport Club**	KS2	Before	0800-0850	4th Nov. 2016	9th Dec. 2016	Simply Sports	School Hall or outside	6 weeks
	Brick Club	KS2	After	3:30-4:30	4th Nov. 2016	9th Dec. 2016	Mrs Latham	Y5 Classroom	6 weeks
	Fencing Club	Y4, Y5, Y6	After	3:30-4:45	4th Nov. 2016	9th Dec.2016	Mr Morton	School hall	6 weeks