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

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 4/2015-16 Date…… February 2016

FOSS

We extend our thanks to the members of FOSS who organised the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 School Disco. We are most appreciative of the huge amount of hard work and time that FOSS members dedicate to events.

School Governors

There have been some recent changes to the Governing Body. The Governing Body is made up of local residents and parents who have been elected for a four year term to work closely with the Head Teacher and school to support the management and business of the school. The Governing Body welcomes new members Mrs Pat Matthews and Mrs Helen Kettle.

Our Governing Body members are:
Dr Kit Erlebach – Chair - Community
Cllr Jan Blakey – Local Authority
Fr Peter Kashouris – Diocese
Mrs Anne Stark – Diocese
Mr Michael Stewart – Community
Mrs Pat Matthews - Community
Mrs Sam Black – Parent
Mrs Helen Kettle - Parent
Mr Wayne Harrison – Parent
Mr Alex Young – Parent
Mr Philip Rumbles – Staff
Mr David Tait – Staff

Year 6 trip to Robinwood in January

Year 6 packed up their warmest socks and woolly hats and travelled up to Barnaugh Hall near Alston for the annual trip to Robinwood Activity Centre. From the moment they stepped off the bus, they were taken on a moorland challenge and for the next three days took part in a jam-packed timetable of activities, including an obstacle course, canoeing and the terrifying trapeze! Year 6 had a fantastic time and faced their challenges with determination and positivity! A fabulous experience!

Key Year 6 Dates

This is an important year for Y6 and there are some dates that parents may wish to add to their diaries**.**

9th – 13th May 2016 – **SATS Week**
6th June 2016 – **Y6 Leavers' Photographs**
TBC - Leavers Service – Durham Cathedral (pupils only)
19th July 2016 – **Y6 Leavers' Assembly**, School (14:45pm)
20th July 2016 – **Leavers' Service at St. Mary's Church** (10am)

Chinese New Year and International Activities

During the last week of term the school participated in Chinese New Year activities, learning about Chinese traditions and culture. Thanks are expressed to Mrs Li, Mrs Geng and Mrs Mitchell who have children at our school and who worked in the classrooms sharing the traditions and culture. Earlier in the term the VIP Committee and Mrs Morgan held an assembly for parents to share information on other international activities including the Brazilian visit and the Discovery Week in France.

Data Collection

It is essential that we hold up to date contact details for all children in school. Please ensure that you notify us in writing as soon as possible if a telephone number or contact changes. In particular ensure that your text phone number is up to date for our texting service.

School Closed Thursday 5th May 2016

Please note that the school will be closed on Thursday 5th may 2016. The school will be used as a polling station for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner Elections.

Worship and Assemblies

Parents, carers and grandparents are warmly welcome to attend our class assemblies which are held on Thursday mornings at **9:15 am**. Assemblies this term are:

Thursday 17th March – Y3/Y4 Easter Assembly 9:15 am
Tuesday 22nd March – Easter Communion Service at 10:00 am (in church)*****

** We always value your help with walking to and from church for our church services.*

Church Services at St. Mary's Church:

- Good Friday Service, **25th March 2016 at 10:30am**
- Easter Sunday Parish Eucharist Service, **27th March 2016 at 09:30 am.** This service will be followed by Easter activities for the children.

Office Reminder

Parents are reminded to liaise with the School Office by putting reply slips and forms into pupils' school book bags for transfer to the school office via class baskets. This avoids the need for parents to come to the office

with routine queries. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Safer Internet Day

Schools across the UK got involved in Safer Internet Day 2016 on the 9th February. At Shincliffe we held a special assembly designed and led by the School Council and undertook classroom-based activities based on safe use of the internet.

This year's theme was 'Play your part for a better internet!' and provided an opportunity for us to make the most of the positive opportunities offered online, whilst having the resilience, skills, knowledge and support we need to navigate any online risks we may come across.

You may find the following information for Parents and carers useful:

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. We know it can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, so we hope that the following advice helps.

Four steps:

1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online

2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, e.g. Facebook privacy settings

3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet

4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology

A range of resources can be found online at: www.saferinternet.org.uk

E-Safety

We have been asked to share the following information by the e-safety lead at the Local Authority:

There have been some issues reported by youngsters using the ooVoo app, who have received offensive and sexually explicit contacts from strangers.

Children and parents should be advised that the app is not suitable for children under the age of 13 and that the default privacy settings (which allow complete strangers to videoconference with the user) can render it quite hazardous even to older children.

ooVoo's terms and conditions limit the use of the app to children over 13. However this does not make its use illegal, just in breach of their agreement with ooVoo.

We would like to remind parents to regularly check their children's devices, discuss the use of social media apps with their children and to ensure parental controls are enabled on devices.

For older children it would be wise to change the privacy settings so that they set them so no strangers can contact them. In the settings section, go to 'Privacy & Security' and it asks 'When people search ooVoo, who can find me?' They should then either select 'People who know my email address or ooVoo ID' or 'No one'.

If a child reports either receiving or being asked to share sexually explicit images this should be regarded as a safeguarding concern, the device should not be used (to preserve any evidence) and your local police should be informed in the usual way.

Medication

Shincliffe School is able to administer prescribed medication to pupils, provided that a consent form has been signed by the pupil's parent/carer. 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 form 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.

School Football

The Mixed Football League restarts on Thursday 25th February 2016 for 4 weeks at Meadowfield. The school football team will be contacted.

Mr Gowan is restarting his football club on a Wednesday from 24th February 2016 until 23rd March 2016. This is a popular club for Y4, Y5 and Y6. Letters have gone out to club members however new members are always welcome. Please contact the office.

Punctuality

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 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.

School Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that children look smart in their uniforms and school shoes. May we remind parents and carers that our school uniform is navy sweatshirt or cardigan, grey trousers, grey or navy skirt/pinafore, white polo shirt, dark plain school shoes. Girls may wear dark plain boots. Fashion or "fur" boots are not part of our uniform.

Please ensure that long hair is securely fastened back at all times and that long fringes are held back off the face with hair bands or slides for school. This is also for health and safety reasons and to help reduce the spread of head lice. Thank you.

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.

Christian Values: Justice

Justice is . . . . . .

Looking after each other so that everyone has a fair share of what they need.

Justice and mercy are key themes of the writings of the Old Testament prophets. Biblical justice is **more** than fairness and equality, it is a strong bias towards the weak, the poor and the socially disadvantaged are cared for, *whether they 'deserve' it or not.* In God's eyes every person is precious and oppression or discrimination, on any grounds, has no place. God's justice is gracious—He always acts justly and he calls on people to do the same.

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

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

Some things to think about:

- How can we take responsibility for one another?
- How can we ensure all are treated fairly?
- How and why do we support charities in our school?
- How can we be inspired to recognise injustice in the world and think about our own role in fighting it?

'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ethos Statement

The Staff and Governors have recently reviewed the School Ethos Statement in light of guidance received from the Diocese. The following has been adopted as our 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.

School Trips and Visits:

Y4 had a fabulous day in February 2016 when they visited Billingham Forum Theatre for a performance by the Groovy Greeks!

Y5- Jorvik Viking Activities, York – 3rd March 2016
Y2 – Durham Cathedral – 8th March 2016
Y5 – Wharton Park Workshop – 10th March 2016
Y5 – Easter Journey – 15th March 2016
Y6 – Barnabus RE Day (in school) – 26th May 2016
Y4 – Durham Cathedral – 9th June 2016
Y1 – Seven Stories – 14th June 2016
Y5/Y6 – Discovery Week in France – 13th-17th June 2016
Y4 – Vindolanda – 22nd June 2016
Y3 Eqyptian Potter – 22nd June 2016
Y4- Roman Potter – 23rd June 2016
Y3 – Hancock Museum - 23rd June 2016

Dates for your Diary

Monday 22nd February 2016	First Day of Term for children
Monday 22nd February 2016	KS1 Fit & Fun Club resumes
Monday 22nd February 2016	Year 5 & 6 Chess Club resumes
Tuesday 23rd February 2016	KS1 French Club commences
Wednesday 24th February 2016	Football Club and Netball Club recommence for Spring Term
Thursday 25th February 2016	Nick Pickering Football Club starts
Thursday 25th February 2016	Brass lessons resume
Thursday 25th February 2016	Off The Page Drama Club continues
Wednesday 24th and Friday 26th February 2016	Violin lessons and Guitar lessons resume.
Friday 26th February 2016	Brick Club continues
Friday 26th February 2016	KS2 Simply Sport before-school club continues
Thursday 3rd March 2016	Zambia Fun Run
Thursday 3rd March 2016	Y5 Jorvik Viking Activities
Friday 4th March 2016	Image Musical Theatre Company – Sword in the Stone (FOSS)
Monday 7th March 2016	Y2 and Y5 Gala Theatre Dance Festival
Monday 7th March to Friday 11th March	Travelling Book Company in school hall 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Tuesday 8th March 2016	Y2 Trip to Durham Cathedral
Thursday 10th March 2016	Y5 Wharton Park Workshop
Friday 11th March 2016	KS2 Cross–Country County Finals
Tuesday 15th March 2016	Y5 Easter Journey
Thursday 17th March 2016	Year 3 & 4 Class Easter Assembly school hall 9:15 am, FOSS Coffee Afternoon in school hall
Friday 18th March 2016	Last Brick Club
Monday 21st March 2016	Last Chess Club session
Monday 21st March 2016	Drama Club full day rehearsal
Tuesday 22nd March 2016	Drama Club Performances, Rainbow's End.
Tuesday 22nd March 2016	Last KS1 French Club session
Tuesday 22nd March 2016	Easter Communion Service in Church 10:00 am, volunteer walkers welcome!
Wednesday 23rd March 2016	Last Football Session this term
Wednesday 23rd March 2016	Final Day of Term before Easter holidays
Thursday 24th March 2016	PD Day for Staff
Monday 11th April 2016	School re-opens for Summer Term

Future dates for your diary:	
Monday 2nd May	May Day – school closed
Thursday 5th May 2016	School Closed – Police and Crime Commissioner Elections – polling station
Monday 9th May – Friday 13th May 2016	Assessment Week
Thursday 19th May 2016	Last Nick Pickering session
Thursday 26th May 2016	Last day of half-term
Thursday 26th May 2016	Barnabus RE Day – Y6 in school
Monday 6th June 2016	School re-opens for Summer Term
Monday 6th June 2016	Y6 Leavers' Photographs
Thursday 9th June 2016	Y4 – Pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral
Monday 13th June – Friday 17th June 2016	Y4 & Y5 visit to France
Tuesday 14th June 2016	Y1 – Seven Stories
Sunday 19th June 2016	Confirmation Class - confirmation at St. Oswald's Church
Wednesday 22nd June 2016	Y4 – Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum
Wednesday 22nd June 2016	Y3 – Egyptian Potter
Thursday 23rd June 2016	Y4 Roman Potter
Thursday 23rd June 2016	Y3 Hancock Museum
Tuesday 19th July 2016	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Wednesday 20th July 2016	Leavers' Service, St. Mary's Church
Wednesday 20th July 2016	Last Day of term
Tuesday 6th September 2016	New School Academic Year

****** Please note that Assessment may also take place for pupils the week before and the week after Assessment week.