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

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 3/2015-16 Date…… January 2016

Our best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

FOSS

We extend our thanks to the members of FOSS who organised our Christmas fundraising events. Both the Christmas Shopping Evening and Christmas Fayre were very well-received and attended. We are most appreciative of the huge amount of hard work and time that went into planning and running these events.

During last term FOSS contributions enabled us to invite a travelling theatre company to school to perform Peter Pan for the benefit of all of the children and provided Christmas crackers and presents at the children's parties. As well as these fundraising activities, FOSS also provided refreshments at our Remembrance Day and Christmas Community Worship.

Christmas Thanks

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Laing of Grange Farm, High Shinclifffe for the donation of our Christmas tree.

We extend our thanks to the many pupils and families for the good wishes, Christmas cards and presents received. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is very much appreciated.

Robinwood

Year 6 pupils will be going to their outdoor adventure pursuits at Robinwood Centre, Alston, Cumbria from 13th to 15th January 2016. We're sure that they will have a very exciting and enjoyable time. The visit will offer the opportunity to learn new skills and working together in group activities!

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.

PD Days for Staff

Please note an amendment to PD days on our school Holiday List attached. Wednesday 20th July 2016 is no longer a PD day for staff and will now be the final day of term for children. Our Holiday List can be found on the school website and also on the Durham County Council website.

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 21st January – Year 1
Thursday 4th February – Year 2
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.*

In addition there will be a School Eucharist for Ash Wednesday on 10th February at 10:00am.

Inclement 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.

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. Please send 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/or diarrhoea. This is important in ensuring the well-being of pupils and preventing the spread of infectious illnesses. Thank you.

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.

Charities

The School Council's Christmas Jumper Day raised a fantastic £179.00 for the Sunderland Royal Hospital's "Chilly for Tilly" campaign for their Neo-Natal Unit.

Remembrance Service

We held our community Worship for Remembrance Day on 11th November. Anne Stark, one of our Foundation Governors, has written the following reflection:

As a Foundation Governor at the school I try to get to as a many of the Community Worship Services as possible and once again the Remembrance Service at school, led by the School Year 6 Worship Committee, was a moving and reflective experience. Services had been held at our local Church and in the community on Remembrance Sunday. However, this service was special as it was our community ***Armistice Day*** *Service, 11th November. Members of the Church, local community and school (children, families, staff and Governors) gathered together in remembrance. We sang together, prayed together and remembered together. Two Year 6 children who recently visited the World War I trenches and war memorials in Northern France as part of their school trip reminded us, in their own words, of the sacrifice made by others for us. It was a poignant service bringing young and old together, Church, community and school in the simple act of remembrance.*

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.

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 will be getting involved in Safer Internet Day 2016 on the 9th February. At Shincliffe we will be holding a special assembly and undertaking classroom-based activities based on safe use of the internet.

This year's theme is 'Play your part for a better internet!' and provides an opportunity for us to make the most of the positive opportunities offered online, whilst giving young people the resilience, skills, knowledge and support they need to navigate any online risks they 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

Sewing Club

Mrs. Morgan, our PPA Cover Teacher, has been assisting one of our grandparents, Mrs. Jopling, to run a Sewing Club for our Year Six pupils. The children have had an enjoyable time preparing designs and needlework for our new piano back cover. We look forward to the final design being displayed for all to see in the School Hall. We extend our thanks to Mrs. Jopling for her hard work and support.

Singing Club

Mrs Richardson and Mrs Henderson ran the Singing Club in the Autumn term. The Club performed at the NSPCC Christmas Carol Concert on 12th December and also performed at the Christmas Service in school. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning the Christmas songs and spreading the Christmas spirit.

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.

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Jackie Foster retired at the end of the Autumn Term following years of outstanding service to our school. We are grateful to Mrs. Foster for all of her hard work and dedication to the children during this time and wish her a long, happy and fulfilled retirement. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Philippa Lythgoe to our office team. Mrs Lythgoe will be working with Mrs. Hopper in order to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the School Office.

E-Safety- Parental Controls

Many children will have received new electronic toys and gadgets over Christmas – and it important to help them use them safely.

The best way of protecting children is to play alongside them and help them learn safely, but setting up Parental Controls on new devices will provide additional safety. This website provides guidance on how to set this up on a wide range of devices.

http://www.internetmatters.org/controls/interactive-guide/

Music Lessons in School

Music tuition in school will resume the first week in January;
Brass – Mr Chris Senior - Thursday pm
Violin – Mr Chris Hartley - Friday am
Guitar – Mr Steve Mulherne – Friday pm

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.

St. Mary's Shincliffe

The all age Eucharist services this term will be on:
Sunday, 7th February for Candlemas,
Sunday, 6th March for Mothering Sunday,
In addition there is a Good Friday Liturgy for all ages at 10:30am on 25th March

All are welcome at these services.

Christian Values: Peace

The biblical concept of peace is not just the absence of war. It includes peace with God, positive harmony and healthy relationships between people. It involves spiritual as well as material security. Peace, in the sense of total well-being for the whole of creation, is the ultimate goal.

Matthew 5:9 says **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God".**

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

In the school context peace–making actions can include everything from conflict resolution to creating times and places for stillness and reflection.

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

Some things to think about:

- How do you feel when you are peaceful?
- What sort of things make you feel peaceful?
- How important is peace in your life?
- Do you have a special place where you feel peaceful?

‘Peace begins with a smile.’ *Mother Teresa*

Safeguarding

Definition of safeguarding

The definition used in the Children Act 2004 and in ‘Working together to safeguard children’. This can be summarised as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children’s health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to aspects of school life including:

- pupils’ health and safety
- the use of reasonable force
- meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- providing first aid
- educational visits
- intimate care
- internet or e-safety
- appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.

Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:

- bullying, including cyberbullying (by text message, on social networking sites, and so on) and prejudice-based bullying
- racist, disability, and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- radicalisation and extremist behaviour
- child sexual exploitation
- sexting
- substance misuse
- issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence
- particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and forced marriage

Information about Safeguarding at School

Training

2 members of staff are trained in Level 2 safeguarding and child protection

- Mr D Tait (Headteacher)
- Mr P Rumbles (Deputy Headteacher)

All other staff and governors have been trained in Level 1 safeguarding and child protection

Mr Tait and Mr Rumbles regularly access additional training, for example in FGM and the Prevent anti-radicalisation strategy.

Procedure

- If a concern is raised regarding a child a 'Note of Concern' is completed - this is then given to one of the safeguarding leads named above. The decision of the next step is then made and recorded.
- If a concern is raised regarding a member of staff this must be given to the Headteacher
- If a concern is raised regarding the Headteacher this must be given to the Chair of Governors
- All of these concerns are taken very seriously and correct procedures are followed as stated in our Safeguarding Policy which can be found on our Policies page

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th January	PD Day for Teachers
Tuesday 5th January	First Day of Spring Term for children
Thursday 7th January	Brass lessons resume, Off The Page Drama Club commences
Friday 8th January	Violin lessons and Guitar lessons resume. Y3 swimming lessons at Brandon Pool resume
Wednesday 13th January – Friday 15th January	Year 6 visit to Robinwood Outdoor Activities Centre, Alston
Friday 15th January	KS2 Simply Sport before-school club resumes
Monday 18th January	KS1 Fit & Fun Club resumes
Tuesday 19th January	KS1 French Club commences
Thursday 21st January	Year 1 Class Assembly 9:15 am school hall
Friday 22nd January	Impressions Photography to take class and team photographs
Monday 25th January	Year 5 & 6 Chess Club resumes
Thursday 4th February	Year 2 Class Assembly 9:15 school hall
Wednesday 10th February	Eucharist Service for Ash Wednesday 10:00 am. All welcome
Friday 12th February	Final Day of Half Term
Monday 22nd February	School re-opens for second half of Spring Term

Future dates for your diary:	
Monday 8th February and Tuesday 9th February	Parent Teacher Consultation Evenings
Monday 7th March to Friday 11th March	Travelling Book Company in school hall 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Thursday 17th March	Year 3 & 4 Class Easter Assembly school hall 9:15 am, FOSS Coffee Afternoon in school hall
Tuesday 22nd March	Easter Communion Service in Church 10:00 am, volunteer walkers welcome! Final day of term for children
Thursday 24th March	PD Day for Staff
Monday 11th April	School re-opens for Summer Term
Monday 9th May – Friday 13th May 2016	Assessment Week
Monday 13th June – Friday 17th June	Y4 & Y5 visit to France

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