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

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 1-2015-2016 Date…… September 2015

Welcome from FOSS

Parents of all pupils, new starters and all classes are invited to the Friends of Shincliffe School FOSS coffee afternoon in the school hall from 3:00 pm on Tuesday 8th September.

Park & Stride

We are always keen to promote safe and healthy ways for children to come to school and ease traffic near the school. We ask those parents who drive to school to park a bit further away and walk up to the school. Please ease congestion nearby school by supporting this.

Please do not park in front of the school gates at any time. Access for deliveries and emergency vehicles is needed.

Access to Shincliffe School

Parents are politely reminded that the entrances for pedestrians into School are from Beal Walk and Heathways. Please respect this and use Beal Walk/Heathways for collection after clubs as well. There is no pedestrian access via the metal gates at the rear of the premises. This access is for vehicles and should not be used to ensure safety at all times.

Please do not drive into the car park at any time to collect or drop off children for safety reasons.

The Staff and Governors wish to draw parents' attention to the fact that the school grounds are not for recreational use when the school is closed, as it is Durham County Council property.

Please note that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds at any time, including after school and collecting children from clubs

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.**

Copies of letters sent out will be uploaded to the website each Friday.

SHINCLIFFE SHOW – Saturday 19th September, Shincliffe School

It's great news that the Shincliffe Show will return to the community this September. There are 5 children's categories and we hope that you will have fun over the summer holidays creating your entries. The categories are open to children in Y6 and under and each entry is 50p. You can enter as many categories as you like and a rosette will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Entry forms will be available in due course in St Mary's Newsletter, on the Community Association website (www.**shincliffe**.org.uk) and from Shincliffe School at the beginning of September. ***The children's categories are:***

Decorate a Shoe
Vegetable Vehicle
Hand-made Jewellery
Painting / drawing
Selfie Photography

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.

Our Governing Body members are:

Mrs Susan Hopps – Chair Local Authority
Cllr Jan Blakey – Local Authority
Fr Peter Kashouris – Diocese
Mrs Anne Stark – Diocese
Mr Michael Stewart – Community
Mr Wayne Harrison – Parent
Mrs Sam Black - Parent
Mr Alex Young – Parent
Dr Kit Erlebach – Parent
Mrs Philippa Lythgoe – Community
Mr Philip Rumbles – Staff
Mr David Tait – Staff

Accident Forms

If a child suffers an injury is 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.

Punctuality

It is vitally important that pupils' arrive at school on time in order to begin that day's learning in a prompt manner. Lateness is not only disruptive for individual pupils but also for their classmates. Cases of repeated lateness may be passed to the Educational Welfare Officer. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Leave of Absence during Term Time

Academic Year 2015/2016

In July 20012. Charlie Taylor (the Government's expert advisor on behaviour at that time) was asked by Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Education) to conduct a review of school attendance. Mr Taylor stated in his report that if children are taken away for a two week holiday every year and have an average number of days off for sickness and appointment, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school.

There was since a change in the law concerning term time leave of absence for 1st September 2013, Head Teachers **are not able** to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances.** Where leave is granted, Head Teachers must decide the number of school days a child can be away from school.

If you wish to make an application for your child's term time leave of absence, you must fill out an application form, which can be found on the school's website. The application form asks you to outline the reasons why you feel your request for leave of absence during term time should be regarded as 'exceptional.' Following the submission of your application, you will be notified as soon as possible of the school's decision.

Parents/carers should be aware that if you take leave of absence during term time without making a prior application to the school, or if you make an application but your requested leave of absence is not authorised and you still take your child out of school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised

Medication

Shincliffe School is able to administer prescribed medication only to pupils, provided that a consent form has been signed by the pupil's parent/carer. The medication is to be handed to and collected from an adult, via the school office. If possible, please request prescriptions to be three times daily dosage, as this would eliminate the need to administer medication in school.

Shincliffe School is not allowed to administer medication not prescribed by a physician, (for example; cough mixture, paracetomol e.g. Calpol, throat lozenges, travel sickness tablets, lip salves or glosses), nor are children allowed to administer to themselves and subsequently children are not allowed to bring these to school.

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 if we do not hear from a parent of an absent pupil. The pupil will require a letter confirming their absence on their return to school.

Information regarding return to school for illnesses such as sickness or diarrhoea (48 hours) and chicken pox etc. can be advised via the school office.

Absences for illnesses which fall below 92% attendance targets will be investigated and may require a medical note.

Supervision before School

Parents are reminded that pupils are not supervised by a member of staff on the school playground before 8:45 am. Shincliffe School cannot be held responsible for any accidents happening to pupils on site before that time and we ask that pupils do not come to school before that time.

The morning bell is rung at 8:55 am in order to ensure children are in class by 9:00 am. On arrival all children should go onto the school playground rather than waiting with their parents/carers. No parents are allowed on the playground before school.

Pupils arriving late are requested to enter school via the main entrance, so that their attendance can be recorded by the School Secretary as class registers are taken at 9:00 am.

Invitation to Reception Class Parents – "Teaching and Learning in Reception Class"

A meeting has been organised for the parents of Reception Class pupils in the School Hall on Wednesday 23rd September at 6:00 pm. This will be to inform parents of methods used for the teaching if Reading in Reception class and of ways in which parents can best support their children's learning.

We look forward to seeing you. Please complete and return the attached form to confirm your attendance.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival, led by Year 6 class will be held at 10:00 am in the school hall on Thursday 8th October 2015.

Pupils are asked to support the charity Durham Food Bank, which is the shared charity with St. Mary's Church. Pupils are requested to bring their 'harvest gift' of non perishable food (i.e. tins, dried food) to Shincliffe School on the morning of the service.

Families are also invited to the Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 4th October at 9:30 am.

Equality

In line with the Equality Act all schools are required to ensure equality with regard to the protected characteristics of disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy & maternity, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, age and marriage & civil partnerships. As part of our work to promote pupils' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) development we will be focussing on equalities over the course of the coming academic year.

We will be taking part in the DfE funded 'Educate and Celebrate' project to tackle homophobic and transphobic bullying, including the inappropriate use of the word 'gay', and to promote equality.

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.

School Lunches

Our kitchen staff, Mrs Snook, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Stephenson continue their wonderful work, providing healthy, varied cooked lunches which our children enjoy.

The daily lunch price of £1.95 is exceptional value for the quality, quantity and varied choice of healthy foods. In addition, pupils on school lunches learn and take part in important table and social skills. **Children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will once again be eligible for free school meals in accordance with the Governemnt's Universal Free School Meals policy.**

Please note; Payments for Junior children can be paid weekly or half termly in advance upon receipt of an invoice. If you wish to pay weekly, please forward the correct amount in a sealed envelope to school on Mondays. Parents/carers who are eligible for free school meals are kindly requested to contact the school office to update their details for this academic year.

If you choose for your child to bring a packed lunch, please ensure that this is also a nutritious, balanced meal. We encourage good table manners for all children, therefore we ask that children with packed lunches eat their food as a "meal" on a plate (i.e. savoury course, followed by dessert). We do not allow sweets, nuts or flavoured, or fizzy drinks for packed lunches and ask you to consider alternatives to crisps and chocolate type bars on a daily basis. Drinks should be water please, and we ask that children drink from cups, which are provided at school.

Gardens and Grounds

Thank you to Mr Chadwick who works hard to keep our gardens and grounds looking nice. Also to Mrs Crozier and her gardening team for their work and efforts with planters and flowers, and tidying up to make the entrance area welcoming.

CLUBS

Before and after school clubs will be starting in the next few weeks.

Please indicate any activities your child is interested in joining at this point on the enclosed form and return to school by **Monday 7th September**. Written confirmation of places, start dates and payment request, where applicable, will be sent to parents by letter. **Please do not send payment until this time.**

School Uniform

Our school uniform includes navy blue sweater, cardigan or sweatshirt, black or dark coloured school shoes, or plain, dark boots. Trainers and "fashion" or coloured boots are not part of our uniform. **All long hair must be suitably and neatly tied back at all times for school.**

Please see our school website for on-line ordering instructions.

We request that KS2 children have a change of shoes for outdoor PE – plain sturdy trainers are best. For KS2 indoor PE lessons, children should have indoor plimsolls/trainers and are asked not to wear their outside PE shoes.

Years 1 and 2 classes should have one pair of plimsolls or trainers, with slip-on or with velcro fasteners for their PE lessons, for both inside and out. **We ask that all long hair is suitably and neatly tied back at all times for PE.**

No jewellery is allowed at school except for watches. Earrings or nail varnish are not allowed at any time. Please do not get children's ears pierced during the school year.

We request that your child always has a waterproof jacket or a school coat in school every day. The British weather is very changeable at any time of year and a coat may be necessary for breaktime and lunchtime outdoor play.

Professional Development Days

PD Days for staff for academic year 2015-2016 are: Tuesday 1st September 2015, Thursday 24th March 2016, Friday 20th May 2016 and Wednesday 20th July 2016.

Class Assemblies

Parents/Carers are welcome to join us in school at 9:15 am for the following Class Assemblies:

Thursday 22nd October Y5
Thursday 26th November Y4

Reading Record Books & Homework Diaries

Parents/carers in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) please note that we use a yellow homework diary in KS2. We ask that you please check and sign these weekly to work in partnership with us.

We believe strongly that reading success and enjoyment is a vital part of academic success and we value the very important role that parents and carers play in supporting and promoting this.

Our Reading Record booklets are divided into three colour coded reading development stages for Reading Partnerships – "Reading Together" for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – "Towards Independence" for Year 3 and Year 4 and "Independent Reading" for Year 5 and Year 6. Guidance for parental support for each of these stages is given in these booklets, and we ask for your continued strong support of reading and enjoyment.

FOSS Events

We are very lucky to have such a supportive "Friends of Shincliffe School" who organise a wide variety of events and raise money for many school activities and projects. The summer Fair was a fabulous success.

They always need support and help in any/many ways, so please come to the AGM on Tuesday 15th September at 7:00 pm in school. FOSS can only carry on with lots of people helping and it is a great way to be involved with school and your child's school life! FOSS events this half term:

Tuesday 8th September – Welcome Coffee Afternoon
Tuesday 15th September – AGM in School Hall

Christian Values in Schools

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

Endurance - *is recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity.*

Jesus endured rejection, abuse and the cross, and his followers are warned that they may well have to share that pain as persecution took hold. Discipleship is depicted as 'taking up the cross daily' and following in Jesus' footsteps (Luke 9:23).

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

- How do we give pupils a better appreciation of the difficult situations that many people in the world have to endure and of the courage and resilience they show in the face of them?
- How do you help pupils understand that some things are worth working for even though they do not bring immediate results? How do we develop patience?
- What encourages and inspires you to persevere through difficult times in life?

School Library

We have excellent support from parents to help run our school library along with pupil librarians. Thank you to Mrs Morl, Mrs King, Mrs Steel, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Dee and Mrs McEwan for all their help.

Thank you also to Mrs Stewart and Mrs Dee who run the Scholastic Book Club and The Book People book sales which give us lots of extra books for school and class libraries.

Call Parents

We have a texting service in school which we can use to contact parents regarding school trips and day to day information from school.

The information will be sent to the mobile phone of the parent/carer who is dedicated first contact. Please ensure we have your up to date contact information at all times. We also use their e-mail service to send newsletters etc, please include a preferred e-mail address when you check your Data Collection Sheet in the note below.

Data Collection Sheets

Data Collection Sheet for your child/children will be sent out on Friday 4th September 2015. Please pay particular attention to telephone numbers, contact details and address information. Once you have checked your details, please sign and return to school by no later than Friday 11th September 2015.

It is very important that we have your up to date information, so please sign and return the sheet even if there are **no changes** to be made.

Starting School

Do you have a child who will be 5 on or between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017? If so, you need to complete an application for a school place so that your child can start school in September 2016. From 12 September 2015 you can apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. You will also be able to access a copy of the guide for parents "Primary School Admissions in County Durham 2016/17" which will contain essential information that will help you in making your application. If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions and Transport Team, using the details below, and you will be sent a copy of the guide for parents and an application form. Please note that the deadline for applications is midnight on 15 January 2016.

The School Admissions and Transport Team.
Telephone 03000 265 896.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 2nd September	First Day of Autumn Term 2015-16
Friday 4th September	Year 3 Swimming commences
Tuesday 8th September	FOSS Welcome Coffee afternoon 3:00 – 4:30 pm,
Wednesday 9th September	Netball Club Year 5 & 6 (Girls)3:30 pm – 4:30 pm commences
Thursday 10th September	Nick Pickering Football Club Year 3-6 commences
Friday 11th September	Simply Sport am Club Years 3-6, Football Club Y4-Y6 commences
Monday 14th September	Brazilian Partner School Visitors in school. Chess Club Year 5 & 6 commences 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Tuesday 15th September	FOSS AGM 7:00 pm School Hall
Wednesday 16th September	Before school Gymnastics Club Y3 & Y4 commences
Thursday 17th September	Year 1 Nature Rangers,
Saturday 19th September	Shincliffe Show
Wednesday 23rd September	Teaching and Learning in Reception Class meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm school hall
Friday 25th September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 1st October	Year 6 Assessment Information Meeting 6:00 pm school hall
Thursday 8th October	School Harvest Festival 10:00 am school hall, presented by Year 6. Parents, carers & friends welcome! Donations for Durham Foodbank
Monday 12th October	Consultation Evening 3:40 – 6:30 pm
Tuesday 13th October	Consultation Evening 3:40 – 6:30 pm
Thursday 15th October	Impressions Photography, pupils and family
Thursday 22nd October	Year 5 Class Assembly 9:15 am.
Friday 23rd October	Final day of half term for children
Future Dates for Your Diary	
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2015	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2nd November	PD Day for Staff
Tuesday 3rd November	Start of second half of Autumn term for children
Wednesday 11th November	Community Service for Remembrance Day 10:00 am
Wednesday 11th November	Year 6 Robinwood Visit – Parents meeting 6:00 pm
16th – 20th November	Inter-Faith Week
Thursday 26th November	Year 4 Class Assembly 9:15 am
Thursday 3rd December	Eucharist Service in School 9:15 am
Tuesday 8th December	KS1 Nativity school hall 10:00 am
Wednesday 9th December	KS1 Nativity school hall 6:00 pm
Thursday 10th December	School Christmas Lunch
Monday 14th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15th December	Y5 and Y6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December	Y3 and Y4 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Sing-A-Long 2:30 pm school hall, parents/carers welcome
Friday 18th December	Christmas Service 10:00 am
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January 2016	Christmas Holiday
Monday 4th January 2016	PD Day for Staff
Tuesday 5th January 2016	First Day of Spring Term 2016

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Shincliffe C. of E. (Controlled) Primary School

Teaching and Learning in Reception Class – Invitation to Reception Class Parents
6:00 pm – 7:0 0 pm in the School Hall, Wednesday 23rd September 2015

I / We* will attend / be unable to attend * the organised meeting.

Signature of parent / carer : .....
Please print name : .....*please delete as appropriate

	Activity	Club Leader	Age Group Eligible	Charge per Session	Timing of Activity	Starting Date	**Parental Interest** Please write your child's/children's names against the activity they are interested in joining. Return form by 7th Sept.
Monday	Fit and Fun	Simply Sport	Year 1- 2	£2.00 per session	3.30 - 4.30 pm	14th September x 10 weeks	
	Chess	Mr Smith	Year 5 & Year 6	N/A	3.30 – 4.30 pm	14th September x 8 weeks	
Wednesday	Gymnastics	GW Gymnastics	Year 3 & Year 4	N/A	8:00 – 8:50 am	16th September 6 weeks	
	Netball	Mrs J Morgan	Year 5 & Year 6 (Girls)	N/A	3.30 – 4.30 pm	9th September x 7 weeks	
Thursday	Football	Mr N Pickering	Year 3 – Year 6	£3.00 (£21.00 for half term)	3.30 – 4.30 pm	11th September (to half term) X 7 wks	
	Nature Rangers	Mrs J Foster	Year 1	£3.00 per session	3:30 -4:30 pm	18th September X 6 weeks	
Friday	Simply Sport	Simply Sport	Years 3-6	£2.00 per session	8:00 am – 8:50 am	11th September X 11 weeks	
	Football Club	Mr Gowan	Year 4, 5 and 6	N/A	3:30 – 4:30 pm	11th September X 7 weeks	
	Fencing	Mr C Morton	Year 5 & Year 6	£15.00 (for 2nd half term)	3.30 – 4.45 pm	6th November X 5 weeks	

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY CASH OR CHEQUES UNTIL WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF PLACE ON ACTIVITY IS SENT TO YOU