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

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 3/2016-17 Date…… January 2017

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back and a very happy new year to all our school community!

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break.

I, together with all of the staff, would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who were so generous in sending Christmas greetings, cards and gifts into school. This, whilst entirely unnecessary, is greatly appreciated.

This half term is, once again a busy one, and we look forward to welcoming parents into school to support assemblies, FOSS events and other activities. Parents' Consultation Evenings will be held in February and we look forward to the opportunity to work together with parents in supporting your children's learning.

Best wishes
Mr Tait

- **Fundraising**

Thank you for the excellent response for the "Operation Christmas Child" appeal as part of our Advent preparations. We were able with the generous support of families, children and staff to send 44 boxes to those in need. This was a really practical and generous help to those who need our help at Christmas time.

Our fundraising efforts continue. The School Council have decided that during the spring term they would like to support £201. More information will follow once the children have finalised their fundraising plans.

- **Christmas Thanks**

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Laing of Grange Farm, High Shincliffe for the donation of our Christmas tree. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

- **Robinwood**

Year 6 pupils will be going to their outdoor adventure pursuits at Robinwood Centre, Alston, Cumbria from 18th to 20th January 2017. 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. Please note that we are unable to leave a phone message if the ansaphone message is not personalised by you. This is for safeguarding purposes. In particular, ensure that your text phone number is up to date for our texting service.

- **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 **School Eucharist for Ash Wednesday** on **Wednesday 1st March at 10:00 am** in school. The service will last about 30 minutes and will be led by pupils and 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.

Our **Easter Worship** led by Years 3 and 4 will be held on **Thursday, 6th April at 9:15am** in the School Hall

Our Easter Service will be held on **Friday, 7th April at 10:00am**. All are welcome to join us at St. Mary's Church as we finish the term with a reflective and uplifting Eucharist.

- **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 term:

- School Disco Friday 3rd February
- Science Evening: Thursday 23rd March
- The FOSS Easter Coffee Afternoon 6th April

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

- **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.

Parent Information Notice Board

- **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 assist families. Should lateness not improve, then enforcement action may be taken.

- **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 detailing the reasons for absence.

- **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 3 times a day. Please note this change in Local Authority Policy, adopted from 1st January.** 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 therefore children are not allowed to bring these to school.

- **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 includes from after-school clubs. 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.

- **Pick-up**

A reminder that parents and carers of Key Stage 1 children must come forward to collect their children from the teaching staff at the end of the day.

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.

- **School Ethos Statement**

This Ethos Statement guides everything that we do as a school:

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.

Safer Internet Day

Schools across the UK will be getting involved in Safer Internet Day 2017 on the 7th 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 'Be the change: unite 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

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/

- **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 Hope as our whole school Christian Value.

Christian Values- *Hope*

The Christian understanding of hope is much deeper than our everyday use of the word can be. We hope that it will not rain for the picnic, or that the car will start or that the plumber will come tomorrow.
Hope is a universal human phenomenon. People hope for peace in time of war; food in time of famine; justice in time of oppression. Where hope is lost there is despair and disintegration.

Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times.

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

Some things to think about:

- What do you hope for?
- How do you offer the opportunity of a new start to those who need a second chance?
- Which areas of life encourage you to form a vision of a better future?
- How do you help people to rise above difficult situations within school or local community and take positive steps to overcome despair?

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
- meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- providing first aid
- educational visits
- 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 Female Genital Mutilation, Domestic Violence, Alcohol Misuse 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 regarding the next step is then made and recorded in liaison with the '*First Contact'* safeguarding children's team at Durham County Council
- 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 on the website

Operation Encompass

The safety and wellbeing of young people is our greatest priority. Our school is one of many in County Durham that will be taking part in a new project aimed at providing extra support to young people who are affected by or witness domestic abuse in their home lives.

Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a young person. They can often see the abuse, hear it

from another room, see a parent's injuries and distress afterwards, or be physically hurt themselves.

A new project, called Operation Encompass, aims to support children affected in any way by domestic abuse. The project is a joint initiative involving Durham County Council, Durham Police and schools across the county.

A major part of the project is the training of school staff, known as a 'key adults' in each school to liaise with police and work with the young people affected. Starting from January 2017, following any serious domestic abuse incident being reported into Durham Police, specialist staff will identify which school that child attends, make contact with the school and communicate relevant and necessary information. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and they can subsequently provide support in a way that means the child feels safe and supported.

Our school's involvement in this project demonstrates our commitment to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

You can find out more information at www.operationencompass.org/

Sports Round-up

We have enjoyed a number of sporting successes and attended various sporting events during the past half term. The school achieved the SCHOOL GAMES GOLD MARK this term.

September: The mixed football team (Y5 and Y6) participated in the Grimes Trophy and O'Hare Trophy, being beaten in the final of the Grimes Trophy in a penalty shoot-out.

October: The mixed football team were in action again winning the Football league. 40 children from Y3-Y6 attended the KS2 Cross-country at Meadowfield with 2 children qualifying for the County. 60 children from Y2 and Y3 attended New College, a new venue for us with great facilities, activities and participation. A team of Y6 pupils attended the Tag Rugby festival coming 3rd.

November: The Y5 and Y6 Sportshall Athletics team came 3rd at Durham Johnston School. The netball team won the High5 league at Framwellgatemoor School and our other team got 3rd place. The Girls Football team got to the final of the ESFA Trophy. The Sports Organising Crew attended training with the School Sports Partnership.

Follow our sporting achievements as they happen on Twitter.

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 2:

- Y1 Beamish Museum
- Y5 Destination Space
- Y6 Safety Carousel
- Y3 and Y4 Pantomime, Theatre Royal

Further educational visits are planned for this half term.

- Y6 Robinwood

Extra-curricular Clubs

The following clubs will take place during this half term:

- Chess- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage One Fit and Fun
- Key Stage Two Fit and Fun Breakfast Club
- Gymnastics Club (Y3 and Y4)
- Brick Club- KS2
- Razzmatazz- Y1&2
- French Club Reception – Y2
- Drama Club Y5 and Y6

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.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 1 2017	Activity
Tuesday 3rd January 2017	PD Day for Staff
Wednesday 4th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term 2017
Friday 6th January 2017	Y3 / Y4 Sports Hall Athletics (AM)
Tuesday 10th January 2017	Road Safety Day
Wednesday 11th January 2017	KS2 Swimming Gala (PM)
Tuesday 17th January 2017	Indoor 5-aside Trophy (PM)
Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th January 2017	Y6 Robinwood
Thursday 19th January 2017	Y1 Class Assembly School Hall 9:15am
Friday 27th January 2017	Chinese New Year Day
Thursday 2nd February 2017	Y2 Class Assembly School Hall 9:15am
Friday 3rd February 2017	FOSS School Disco
Monday 6th February 2017	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 7th February 2017	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 7th February 2017	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 14th February 2017	Key Steps Gymnastic Competition (PM)
Friday 17th February 2017	School Closes for Half Term

Future Dates 2017	Activity
Monday 27th February 2017	School reopens for Spring Term 2
Wednesday 1st March 2017	10:00am School Eucharist for Ash Wednesday
Thursday 2nd March 2017	Zambia Fun Run (PM)
Friday 10th March 2017	Y4 Football Trophy (PM)
Monday 13th March 2017	Dance Festival
Tuesday 21st March 2017	5:30pm Y6 SATS Parent's Information Evening
Tuesday 21st March 2017	Infant Agility- Reception Class (AM)
Tuesday 21st March 2017	Y5/6 Girls' County Football Trophy
Thursday 23rd March 2017	FOSS Science Evening
Thursday 23rd March 2017	Y4 Multi-Sports Festival
Thursday 23rd March 2017	Off the Page Drama Rehearsal
Friday 24th March 2017	Off the Page Drama Rehearsal and Performances
Friday 31st March 2017	Go Ride Festival (PM)
Friday 31st March 2017	Y3 Football Festival (PM)
Monday 3rd April 2017	Mixed Football Cup and Shield (PM)
Tuesday 4th April 2017	KS1 OAA (PM)
Thursday 6th April 2017	9:15am Y3 and 4 Easter Worship (School Hall)
Thursday 6th April 2017	3:00pm FOSS Easter Coffee Afternoon
Friday 7th April 2017	10:00am Easter Service- St. Mary's Church
Friday 7th April 2017	School closes for Easter Holidays