Weekly Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

Welcome back to a new half term. We have marked two important events in school this week. On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, it was good to welcome so many parents and friends to our Community Worship. A thoughtful service was led by Fr. Peter and Fr. Bill. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day. It was wonderful to see so many impressive costumes and the effort that had gone into preparing them. The day was an excellent opportunity to promote the love of reading and we are grateful for the many donations (£136 to date) which our Pupil Librarians will use towards purchasing new books for the school library. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the Home-School links sheet you will have received by today. This details the ways in which home and school can work together to support learning both in and beyond the classroom. Please do make use of this resource.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

Diary Dates

Friday 10th March 2017	– Y4 Football Trophy
Tuesday 7th March 2017	- KS2 Holy Communion Group starts
Thursday 9th March 2017	- Razzamataz Spring Term 2 club starts (Y1,Y2)
Monday 13th March 2017	– Dance Festival (Y2 and Y5)
Tuesday 14th March 2017	- Y2 School Trip to Durham Cathedral.
Tuesday 21st March 2017	- Y6 SATS Parent's Information Evening
Tuesday 21st March 2017	- Infant Agility Sports visit (Reception)
Tuesday 21st March 2017	- Y5/6 Girls' County Football Trophy
Friday 7th April 2017	– School closes for Easter Holidays
Monday 24th April 2017	– School re-opens for Summer Term 1
Monday 1st May 2017	– May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 4th May 2017	– School Closure, Parish and County Council Elections

For a full list of school holiday dates please see the school website.

Christian Values

We continue to explore the value of humility and worship will be led by Mr Tait, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill and our Key Stage Two pupils. We will thinking about how humility and generosity are linked.

Fruit

Please look out for the letter sent out earlier this week from the School Council regarding their ideas for a school fruit-based tuck shop.

Attendance and Punctuality

We continue to monitor the attendance and punctuality of all pupils. This is in order to ensure that pupils are regularly attending school and so are able to make the progress they are capable of.

Where either attendance or punctuality give cause for concern we may enlist the support of the Attendance Improvement Team at the Local Authority to support families in meeting their obligations regarding school attendance.

The following questions and answers give a useful synopsis of procedures and guidelines surrounding attendance and punctuality:

1. When does my child need to be in School?

Your child should be at school in good time for registration. The morning register will be called promptly at 8.55am and the afternoon register at 1.00pm for KS2 and 1:15pm for KS1.

2. What happens if my child is late?

- *Registration finishes 15 minutes after the start of a school session*
- *If your child arrives in that 15 minutes (by 9.10am in a morning) he/she will be marked late*
- *If your child arrives after the 15 minutes (after 9.10 am in a morning) he/she will be given an unauthorised absence for that session*

3. Does the School need letters explaining my child's absence or will a phone call do?

We would expect a parent to telephone the school on the first day of absence, before 9.30am preferably. If we do not receive an explanation, or if the explanation is unsatisfactory, we will not authorise the absence, and this will be shown on your child's end of year report.

4. What reasons will the school accept for absences?

- *Illness*
- *Emergency dental / medical appointment (please make routine appointments after school or during the holidays)*
- *Day of religious observance*
- *Family bereavement*

Except in the case of illness, you should ask for permission for your child to miss school well in advance, giving full details. In cases of recurring absences through illness you may be asked to produce a medical certificate.

5. What is unacceptable?

The school will not authorise absence for day trips, visiting relatives, shopping, birthdays or looking after brothers or sisters or any other family members.

6. Will the School contact me if my child is absent?

We will phone or text you if we have not heard from you. This is because we believe it is our responsibility to ensure your child's safety as well as their regular school attendance.

If we are concerned about aspects of your child's attendance or punctuality we will contact you to discuss the best way forward.

In some cases you may find it helpful to discuss the circumstances of your child's difficulties with an Education Welfare Officer. The school may also refer you to an Education Welfare Officer who works with staff and families if difficulties with attendance arise.

Should any parent require any further clarification then please do not hesitate to contact the school. We thank you for your co-operation in ensuring that all pupils attend school regularly and punctually.

Car Park

A reminder that the carpark is for staff use only. In the interests of safety the car park gates are locked at drop off and pick up times: 8:40am-9:00am and 3:15pm-3:45pm. Pedestrian access is by footpath routes only.

Sport

The Y5/Y6 football league started on Wednesday 1st March. The team are in the top league, the Pearl League, playing at Durham Johnston School for 4 weeks. The first week resulted in a win and a draw. Well done to the team.

Forty-four of our children from across Key Stage 2 participated in the Zambia Fun Run at Maiden Castle on Thursday 2nd March 2017. Everyone ran well and two children received medals for coming in the top 3 in their year group category. Well done.

Next week we have the Y5/Y6 football league, the Y4 football trophy, and the following week the Dance Festival for Y2 and Y5.

Weekly Bulletin

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net

The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the parents' section of the website.

We have now been publishing the weekly bulletin for half a term and are interested in parents' experiences of this as a method of communication from school. We will today issue a short survey via pupil post and value your feedback. Please respond if you are able.