



# NEWSLETTER

Issue..... 05/2014-15

Date..... April 2015

## Thank You

Thank you to FOSS for the fantastic Easter Coffee afternoon and the egg decorating display!

This term, FOSS will be hosting an Art Evening after-school activity in the school hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. FOSS have donated £1400 to the school to help reduce the cost of each class trip in the summer term by £200 (saving families about £6.00 per child). They also paid for the whole school to see the Image Musical Theatre production of the "Tom's Midnight Garden." FOSS also provided the Disco in March and are now busy organising the Summer Fair, to be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

### Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs)

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATs will take place during the week Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Parents are requested to avoid any absences during these five days, and to avoid any absences the week before and after as well, as assessments also take place then. Please also ensure that your child arrives promptly at school during SATs week, in order to be settled in class before tests commence.

### General Election

Reminder; the General Election will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015. As our school is used as a polling station, the whole school will be closed that day.

### Class Assemblies

Class assemblies for the next term are as follows:

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Reception**  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers'**  
**Assembly 2:15 pm in school**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Service**  
**10:00 am at St. Mary's Church**

Assemblies start at 9:15 am in the school hall. Parents/carers are welcome to come to our class assemblies!

Father Peter will be leading a Communion Service on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Sun Protection

For those sunny days, we have areas of shade from the sun in the playground and pupils are encouraged to wear sun hats (named please) for extra protection.



Parents are asked not to send sun protection creams to School with their child for application during the school day, either by the child or member of staff as we are not allowed to apply non-prescription items in school. There are protection creams on the market which will last for up to eight hours and we strongly advise that parents apply sun protection cream before the start of the school day.

### Pupils' Absences

A reminder to parents to please contact Shincliffe school office by telephone on the first day of your child's absence from school due to ill health.

Parents are requested to send a letter to school confirming the reason for the absence, on their child's return.



For a prolonged illness, or when there have been several absences due to ill health, a doctor's note may be required.

### International Events and Activities

Lots of exciting things have been taking place in school to celebrate cultures from different countries and to extend our international partnership work. Year 5 pupils have exchanged letters with our French partner school and they produced a diary of their hobbies and activities

in French. Twenty two children from Years 4 and 5 are looking forward to spending five days in May on a 'Discovery week in France' where they will have the opportunity to spend the day in our French partner school, visit the region in North East France and be able to put their French into action.

We celebrated Chinese New Year in school and each class experienced some of the Chinese culture. Children made paper lanterns, dragons and symbols and also enjoyed authentic Chinese cooking. All of their learning and activities were shared in a school assembly.

We have recently been successful in a bid to exchange work with a Brazilian school in Sao Paulo and we have enjoyed workshops to experience some Brazilian culture. All pupils experienced Capoeira, the Brazilian traditional sport incorporating martial arts, dance and music. We also had workshops for samba drumming and taster lessons in Portuguese. The children are busy preparing work about our school and surrounding area to send as the first project in this exciting new venture.

### Arts Week

We will be having a special week, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, with workshops and lessons focusing on Art.



### Sports

Summer term is always busy with sporting events and P.E sports and activities. Please ensure that suitable P.E. kit is in school: House T-shirt and dark shorts. Optional items are dark tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt (House or dark coloured), dark/navy sweat jacket or school tracksuit top.

All children need suitable footwear for outdoor P.E. in the Summer term:

Key Stage 1 – sturdy well fitting plimsolls or trainers (Velcro preferred).

Key Stage 2 – as above, but separate outdoor trainers for games on the field. Hair must be securely tied back for school and all PE lessons.

### Fundraising

The School Council has decided to hold a "Moo-vie Day" in support of Christian Aid in May. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

### Books

The Travelling Book Fair was a great success once again, with £561.00 in books sold which meant we were able to receive £227.00 worth of books for school. Thank you to FOSS volunteers for their help.

Thanks also to Mrs Stewart for her work with Scholastic leaflets – last term we were able to get over £126.00 worth of books for school.

Thanks also to Mrs Dee for her work with "The Book People" as we regularly are able to choose books for school from those purchases.

### School Uniform

In the Summer Term, sturdy well fitting sandals may be worn with socks (no "fashion" sandals or heels). Girls may wear blue check gingham dresses. Boys may wear shorts. Please remember to clearly label all items of uniform - in warmer weather jumpers tend to get misplaced!

In the warmer weather boys may wear school uniform shorts. Girls may choose blue checked school dresses – light blue check or navy check (not long shorts, or three quarter length trousers please).

May I remind you that we request hair to be tied back and secured off the face for school. This also helps prevent the spread of head lice. Please also remember earrings, jewellery and nail varnish are not allowed in school.

### Reminder

The Staff and Governors wish to remind you that the school grounds are not for recreational use when the School is closed, as it is Durham County Council property. Thank you.

### Clubs and Activities

Clubs and extra curricular activities will resume this week for the Summer Term. We will notify you if there are any changes to dates and times as the term goes on.

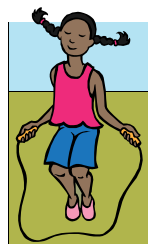
We have a wide range of clubs on offer at present – hopefully something for almost everyone's taste. May I remind you that Junior children must have a letter on file to be allowed to walk home alone.

### Collection of Children from School

**Reminder** – For safety reasons, please notify us in writing, or by a phone call if someone other than parent / carer is to collect your child.

**Key Stage 1 parents** - please come forward collect your child from his or her class teacher at the end of the school day. Again, please inform the school in writing or by telephone if someone different is collecting your child. Thank you.

**Please note** – No one other than the authorised agreed person should collect a child from school. Even if it seems helpful, please do not collect someone else's child without letting the



school know and without prior arrangement. Junior children who are not collected should wait with the Duty Teacher, who will then take them to the school office until collected by a parent/carer.

May I remind you that, as for clubs, Junior aged children should have a letter on file giving permission to walk home alone.

### **British Values**

You may have heard lots in the media recently about 'British Values' in schools. The Department for Education state that there is a need ***"to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."***

At Shincliffe CE Primary School we are committed to these values. The following gives a little more detail about each of the values and how we regularly reinforce them in school:

#### **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded at school. Children are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Children also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires. The elections of the School Council members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. In the coming weeks, as the General election approaches, we will focus on the significance of democracy in action.

#### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has rules, which are embedded in our work every day. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our children are taught the value and reasons behind laws. They understand that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws or rules are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. During the coming term our Year 5 class will be taking part in the Junior Neighbourhood Watch project with Durham

Constabulary. As well as this, a group of Year 6 pupils are involved in the 'Mini-Police' project.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and P.S.H.C.E. lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; of how they record; of participation in our numerous extra- curricular activities; our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is one of the core values of our school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. The core value of Respect at Shincliffe CE Primary School underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom. Our school is committed to developing respect for other cultures. We believe that this respect is fostered through our international curriculum. As well as developing intercultural understanding through the vehicle of Primary Languages, our international curriculum incorporates a range of cross-curricular opportunities to learn about, and thereby develop greater tolerance of, and respect for, other cultures.

### **Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs**

Our core value of Respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. Shincliffe CE Primary School enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education, P.S.H.E. work and visits to other places of worship to deepen understanding of different celebrations and beliefs. During regular termly International Days the whole school focuses on a different country, exploring its culture and traditions. These are studied in depth, with visitors being invited in to our school to enrich and extend understanding. Our recent Chinese New Year Week was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by the children.

### **Christian Values in Schools**

This half term we are focussing on 'Thankfulness' as our whole school Christian Value. This will form the basis of our Collective Worship in school. We will be looking at why being thankful is important and discussing what the children are thankful for in their lives.

We will learn about the importance of saying Grace before a meal, reflect on occasions when we may want to express love and thanks to God, think about creation and also consider being thankful for the good things that happen each day in our community.

We would like our children to continue their reflection and experience at home. Please look at our Home School Value sheet for thankfulness which is attached to this newsletter. This will give you lots of ideas of activities you can do at home.

*Some things to think about:*

- How can we express our appreciation and thankfulness in the life of the school?
- How can we demonstrate that we see the good things of life as a blessing and a gift rather than a right?
- How can we be thankful for more than just material possessions?

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.



## Relationships and Sex Education

Recently at school we have been reviewing our Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum and have been working with the Local Authority Adviser to update our policy.

We are aware that parents are the primary educators for their children when it comes to relationships and sex education and we want to work in partnership with you to ensure that we meet the needs of our young people. We value your input and opinions and therefore on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 5:30 pm, we will be holding a Parent/ Carer Consultation Meeting to view the resources that we base our programme of relationships and sex education on. More information to follow

Good relationship and sex education is essential if we are to equip our children for the modern world, enabling them to make informed, healthy decisions and stay safe.

Below is an outline of what we intend to cover in school:

|            |                                                              |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reception: | We are all different                                         |
| Year 1     | Exploring friendship and trust                               |
| Year 2     | Personal hygiene                                             |
| Year 3     | Personal safety and decision making                          |
| Year 4     | Keeping safe - dealing with peer pressure.                   |
| Year 5     | Growing and changing – puberty                               |
| Year 6     | Growing and changing – changing relationships, reproduction. |

All topic areas will be dealt with at an age appropriate level.

## Netball Club

The netball club has once again been popular and for the first time we entered two squads into the Primary High 5 league. The two teams played extremely well and displayed good attitude and team spirit. They did well in the matches against St Margaret's and Neville's Cross Primary schools and finished second and fifth in the league. The after school club will finish at Easter, although we are hopeful and may get some friendly matches before the start of next season.



## Dates for your Diary



|                                                       |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April                         | First day of Summer Term 2015, Reception & Y1 Fit & Fun Club commences, KS1 French Club recommences |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April                      | Reception & Year 1 before school Gymnastics Club                                                    |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April                       | Brass and Violin lessons recommence. Y6 Drama Club commences                                        |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April                         | KS2 Simply Sport Breakfast club recommences. Guitar Lessons recommence                              |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April                        | KS2 Change for Life Fit club commences                                                              |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April                       | KS1 Nature Rangers Club (session 1) commences, Nick Pickering Football Club recommences.            |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May                            | FOSS Arts Evening – school hall 3:30 pm                                                             |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May                            | May Day Bank Holiday                                                                                |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May                          | General Election – school closed                                                                    |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May | SATs Assessment Week                                                                                |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May                        | New Reception Class Parents' Meeting                                                                |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May                           | Final Year 3 swimming session. Final Day of Half Term                                               |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May                         | Reception Class Assembly 9:10 am school hall                                                        |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June                           | School re-opens for second half of Summer term. Richard of Impressions to take Y6 Year Book photos  |

|                                          |                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Future dates for your diary:</b>      |                                                                             |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June            | Communion Service 9:15 am school hall, all welcome                          |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June           | Year 5 Class Assembly school hall 9:15 am                                   |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June             | Arts Week in School                                                         |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July            | School "Open Night" 3:30 – 5:30 pm                                          |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July              | "Let Us Entertain You"                                                      |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July              | Reports sent home                                                           |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July             | Sport Day 1:30 pm school field                                              |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July            | Y6 Drama Group performance                                                  |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July          | Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 2:45 pm school hall                                |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July           | Final Day of Summer term. End of Year Service at St. Mary's Church 10:00 am |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2015 | Start of Autumn term – Academic Year 2015-2016                              |