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

NEWSLETTER

Issue…… 4/2015-16 Date…… April 2016

Message from the Headteacher - Mr D Tait

Dear parents,

The Summer Term is always a busy one in school with various trips and activities planned. In particular this half term, we look forward to a visit from the National Police Helicopter as part of our links with the Mini-Police and a visit from the Parliamentary Outreach Service to explore the workings of British democracy with our Key Stage Two pupils. It was good to welcome so many parents into school as part of our events and assemblies during the Spring Term and we hope to see as many of you as are able at the upcoming events as detailed on the calendar on the rear of this newsletter.

- **FOSS**

We extend our thanks to the members of FOSS for organising the Easter Coffee Afternoon and supporting the Travelling Book Company during World Book Week. Thanks also to FOSS for paying for the theatre group who came into school in February to perform a very interactive production of *The Sword in the Stone*. We are most appreciative of the huge amount of hard work and time that FOSS members dedicate to events.

- **School Governance - Dr Kit Erlebach, Chair of Governors**

The governing body has had a few changes this term, I am very pleased to welcome two new members. Mrs Pat Matthews joins us as a co-opted governor who is well known to the children and staff for her assemblies and other support. Mrs Helen Kettle joins us as a parent governor after a recent election, thank you to all who stood. I also wish to thank Mrs Philippa Lythgoe as the outgoing chair of governors for her time on the committee.
Earlier this term, we had a productive full governing body meeting and have decided to ask the finance sub-committee and the 'School Life including Curriculum' committee to appoint permanent chairs to aid the spread of responsibilities.
Governors have visited the school for curriculum link meetings with staff, assemblies, educational visits and business discussions. We have also had excellent training from the school staff on monitoring in the classroom.

- **School Closures**

In the last newsletter we informed you about the school closure on **Thursday 5th May 2016** as the school will be used as a polling station for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner Elections.

We have since been informed that the school will also be closed on **Thursday 23rd June 2016.** The school will be used as a polling station for the **EU Referendum.**

- **School website**

The school has a new website. The website will hold the most up to date information about the school, letters to parents etc. Please take a look. www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk

- **Safety in school grounds**

Would all parents please ensure that they supervise their children closely at the end of the school day. In particular we request that parents ensure that no children play in the vicinity of the school car park in order to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

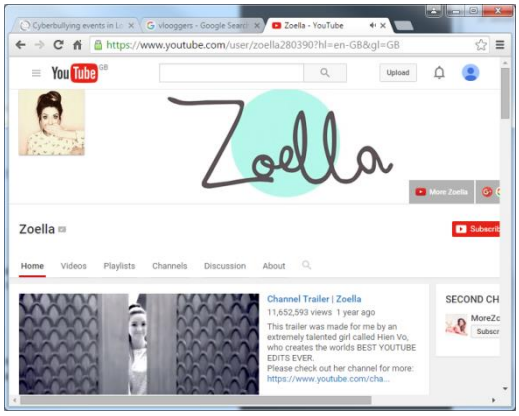
- **Provision of After School Activities - School Governing Body.**

Upon occasion, parents raise the issue of before and after school provision. This is something that has recently been considered by the Governing Body. As a school we are aware that offering 'wrap-around' before and after school care would assist many parents with their childcare arrangements. Similarly, we greatly value the current range of after school activities that we provide and the notable impact they have on both the depth and breadth of the educational experience we offer and pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. The need for teachers to use their own classrooms as spaces for planning, preparation and assessment activities both before and at the end of the school day means that the only space we have available at school is the hall and were this to be used for either before or after school care then we would be unable to offer the clubs and extra-curricular activities we currently offer. After careful consideration of the situation, therefore we intend to continue with the current provision and arrangements for before and after school clubs and activities.

- **E-safety - Youtube Risks – Uploading Video**

Many children spend a lot of time watching vloggers (Video Log) such as Zoella. (Zoella can have over 3 million hits on her uploads!)

Some children chose to emulate these Vloggers, and in doing so without careful thought can leave themselves open to bullying or online grooming by revealing personal details and making videos and comments available to anyone.



This is not illegal but the minimum age to create a Youtube account is 13. Having an account for a younger child breaks the terms and conditions of the site. It is not possible to upload videos without creating an account.
The following links provide additional information for parents and teachers:-

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802272?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=2803240

and

http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools/youtube

Extract from Youtube Website

Parent resources

We understand that parents and guardians sometimes have questions about children's behaviour online. We've put together some tools and resources to help you manage your family's experience on YouTube.

What age does my child need to be to use YouTube?

In order to create a YouTube account, you must confirm that you're at least 13 years old. If a video is flagged and we find that the uploader inaccurately stated their age during the account creation process, we will terminate their account.

- **Fund-raising**

Sports Relief – Mrs Henderson and the School Sports Organising Committee (SSOC)
On Friday 18th March, the whole school took part in raising money for Sport Relief. Reception danced with Timmy the Sheep; KS1 hula-hooped and skipped whilst KS2 ran, jogged and walked a mile. In total we walked 232 miles for Sport Relief raising over £164. Thank you.

- **Mini-Police Helicopter Visit - Mrs Henderson and the Mini-police.**

Exciting News! On the 25th May the National Police helicopter is coming to Shincliffe School.
As part of the mini police service level agreement, whereby our continued support in volunteering for projects is rewarded, the police helicopter will be landing on our school field.
The whole school will have the opportunity to watch this amazing event.
Once landed, on our field, the crew will then give a short presentation to the children in Years 5 and 6; whilst our younger children will have the opportunity to meet the police dogs, Jet and Ben and also see the police motorbikes and cars that will be parked on our field.
As an additional treat for all those who have volunteered for the mini police, the children will have the opportunity to be shown around the helicopter by the pilot.
Finally, the whole school will wave goodbye to the helicopter as it departs – ready for duty.

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.

Worship and Assemblies

Parents, carers and grandparents are warmly welcome to attend our class assemblies which are held on Thursday mornings at **9:10 am**. Assemblies this term are:

Reception – Thursday 26th May 2016

Christian Values:

As our Christian Value this half term we will be revisiting and further exploring compassion.

Compassion

Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone.

The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others

In Colossians 3:12 Paul says:
'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'

In the Gospels we find many stories of Jesus showing compassion to the sick and the downtrodden of society. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. In the school community this means showing kindness and **respect** to each other. It is related to the way in which new people are welcomed into the school family and nurtured and supported. It is reflected in the ways in which members of the community support each other through difficult times, such as bereavement. Christians would say that God Himself is the perfect example of community—the three persons of the Trinity are bound together in the ultimate closeness which makes them one. In a church school the idea of community will always be a strong one— schools share a common life and common goals—we aim to nurture and sustain all our members.

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

Some things to think about:

- In what ways do we encourage members of the school community to show kindness and respect to one another?
- How do we foster links with charities for those in need?
- How are new members of the school community nurtured and supported?
- How does the school help, and encourage pupils to understand and empathise with members of their community who have suffered traumatic experiences, e.g. bereavement?

Parent Information Notice Board

- **School Uniform – Ear-rings**

Ear-rings are not permitted to be worn in school. This is for safety reasons. If your child is considering having ears pierced please do so at the beginning of the summer holidays. Ear-rings worn at school must be with consent and covered with sticking plasters or micro-pore tape. The appropriate form can be downloaded from the website or collected from the school office.

- **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 4 times a day.** 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 subsequently children are not allowed to bring these to school.

- **Sunscreen and Hats**

As we move into the summer term please remember sunhats and sunscreen. Please apply long-lasting sunscreen at the beginning of the day.

- **Home / School Office Communication**

Paperwork/ Payments etc.: Parents are reminded to check school bags for letters etc. All replies, acknowledgements, letters, forms, payments etc. are to be returned to school via school book bags for transfer to the school office via class baskets. This ensures that the appropriate systems are followed and avoids the need for parents to come to the office with routine queries. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Call parents texting service: This service is very immediate and effective and is used as a quick method for communication. For the service to work effectively contacts do need to have immediate access to text messages. For texting purposes we use the mobile contact number for the person identified as the pupil's 'priority 1' contact (unless you have informed us differently). If this is not the best contact to use for this service please inform the school in writing of a change to your emergency or priority contact person or numbers. **Thank you.**

Sports Round-up

- **School Football**

Congratulations to the **school football team** for winning the Ruby Football League. The team played matches every Wednesday for 4 weeks against seven other local school teams and were joint top going into the final week. 5 wins and 3 draws meant that Shincliffe School Football Team came out as overall winners. Well done.
The Y5 and Y6 Girls Football Team took part in the Girls County Trophy on 22nd March and made it all the way to the final. Well done. The mixed school football team participated in the Mixed Cup and Shield on 23rd March 2016. The Y4 Football Cup takes place on 15th April 2016 and the Girls Football League starts on the 27th April for 4 weeks.

- **School Gymnastics – Mrs Silvester**

On Thursday 17th March 6 gymnasts went to Spennymoor to compete in the county finals which they had qualified for 5 weeks previously. They completed their routines on the floor and the vault and despite some very stiff competition the team came third, winning the bronze medal. Congratulations!

- **School Cross-country**

In the autumn term Key Stage 2 (KS2) pupils participated in a very wet inter-school cross –country competition at Meadowfield. Fifteen of our pupils qualified from that event to participate in the County cross-country finals at Parkside Sports College on 11th March 2016. Our representatives were the Y3/Y4 girls team, Y5/Y6 girls team and 3 boys who qualified as individual entrants. Congratulations to all of our runners, everyone performed wonderfully well and our **Y3/4 girls team won the third place medal**. Very well done.

- **Zambia Fun-Run**

Congratulations to the 38 pupils from Y3, Y4 and Y6 who participated in the Zambia Fun Run on 3rd March at Maiden Castle. Everyone ran well and we raised money for a great cause.

Parent and Community Voice

- **Traffic on Beal Walk**

Once again it has been brought to our attention that traffic on Beal Walk is hazardous to car users, pedestrians and residents. In this instance it is a parent who has asked us to remind other parents of the dangers of using Beal Walk as a drop off point for the school. The school continues to monitor this issue along with the police and Parish Council. Our pupils will again be working with the police to address the issue of inconsiderate parking during the summer term.

The Arts

- **Gala Theatre Dance Festival**

Well done to the pupils of Y2 and Y5 who performed at the Gala Theatre on 7th March with seven other school dance groups. The performances were superb: Y2 performed to the 'Circle of Life' from the Lion King and Y5 to 'Uptown Funk'. Y2 won an award for the best outfits.

African Drumming Workshop – Mr Rumbles

We welcomed Victor and Mark for a day of African Drumming before half term. The children learnt how to perform different beats and create different sounds such as slap and tone on a Djembe just by changing the position of their fingers. It was enjoyed by all children from Reception to Year 6 and gave them a greater appreciation of music and instruments from different cultures

- **Music in school**

As part of our school agreement with Durham Music Service Y4 are currently learning the **ukulele.** Mrs Diment comes into school on a Tuesday afternoon to teach the pupils. Y5 recently performed a fabulous ukulele assembly for parents.

Durham Music Service and Music Works provide extra-curricular music lessons to pupils in Y4-Y6 for brass and violin and from Y3 – Y6 for guitar. We have over 40 pupils learning to play instruments in school. **Congratulations to two of our Y6 girls who performed with *Strings United* at the Durham Music Service Sage Showcase in March**.

- **Extra-curricular Drama Club**

The *Off the Page* drama club performed their production 'Rainbow's End' just before the end of term at the Assembly Rooms, Durham. This was a great opportunity for Y4-Y6 pupils to work with a writer, producer and director and perform in a theatre. There was a matinee and an evening performance. Both performances were excellent.

School Trips and Visits:

- **Spring Term 2**

-Y5 visited Jorvik to support their Viking studies. Although the museum was closed because of the heavy flooding in December 2015 Y5 had great fun at the DIG site and also learnt about battle tactics and Viking medicines.
-Y2 enjoyed their visit to Durham Cathedral. Mr Harry Morgan (former School Governor) told the story of St. Cuthbert. Pupils dressed up as Vikings, monks, animals and the saint himself at different times of his life. They had a wonderful tour. Thank you to Mrs Anne Stark (Foundation Governor) for helping with the visit.

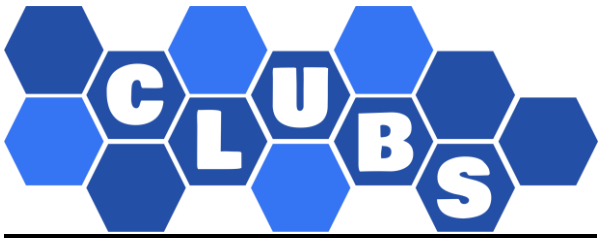
-**Y5** enjoyed a school visit from **poet, musician and historian Keith Gregson**, Wharton Park out-reach service and also visited **North Road Methodist Church** as part of their RE studies, an Easter Journey.

- **Summer Term**

KS2 – Parliamentary Education Service Outreach Visit (in school) – 14th April 2016
Reception – Hall Hill Farm – 10th May 2016
Y3 – Oriental Museum – 25th May 2016
Whole school – National Police Helicopter (in school) – 25th May 2016
Y6 – Barnabus RE Day (in school) – 26th May 2016
Y5 - WW1 Real Life Stories, Palace Green Library – 26th May 2016
Reception – House of Objects – 7th June 2016
Y4 – Durham Cathedral – 9th June 2016
Y1 – Seven Stories – 14th June 2016
Y5/Y6–Discovery Week in France – 13th-17th June 2016
Y3 – Hancock Museum – 21st June 2016
Y4- Roman Potter – 21st June 2016
Y5 – Beamish Museum - 21st June 2016
Y4 – Vindolanda – 22nd June 2016
Y3 - Egyptian Potter – 22nd June 2016
Y2 – St. Mary's Lighthouse – 27th June 2016

Thank you to FOSS for the donation of £1400 (£200 per class) to support class visits. This contribution is gratefully received.

Extra-curricular Clubs



- **African Drumming**

The children loved the African drumming workshops held in school and so we thought we would 'trial' a drumming after-school club. Y3-Y6 pupils and parents are welcome to join the club, Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 at school starting Monday 18th April, 25th, 9th May, 16th and finishing on 23rd May. The number of members will be restricted to 20. The cost is £15 per person (£3.00 per session). Please complete the attached form if you are interested in joining this Club.

We will consider a KS1 club if there is enough interest. To note your interest please complete the attached form.

- **Nick Pickering Football Club**

Nick Pickering Football Club runs on a Thursday 3:30 – 4:40 for Y3-Y6. There are places available to join this club from Thursday 14th April 2016. There are 6 sessions left until the Club finishes on Thursday 26th May 2016. The cost is £18.00. Please complete the attached form and return it to the school office with payment.

- **Le Club Francais**

This Club runs on a Tuesday 3:30-4:30 for Reception – Y2 pupils. There may be a few places available at the start of the new term for new members. Please complete and return the form if you are interested and you will be contacted with further details. Thank you.

- **Brick Club**

The Brick Club has been a great success and will re-start on 15th April 2016. At the Brick Club children are read a Bible story and then interpret the story by building with Lego bricks. The Lego creations are photographed and dismantled ready for the next story the following week. The Club will run for 4 weeks. If you are interested in joining, then please indicate on the attached form. Please note that parents / carers are asked to accompany the children.

- **KS2 Breakfast Club**

The KS2 Breakfast Club runs on a Friday morning 0800-0850. Simply Sport will be running the 10 week programme of sports activities starting Friday 15th April 2016. This club is open to children in Y3-Y6. There are spaces available. Please contact the school office.

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.

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 1	Activity
Monday 11th April 2016	School re-starts for Summer Term 1
Monday 11th April 2016	KS1 Fit and Fun re-commences
Wednesday 13th April 2016	Netball Club re-commences
Thursday 14th April 2016	Parliamentary Education Service Outreach – KS2
Thursday 14th April 2016	Nick Pickering Football Club re-commences
Friday 15th April 2016	Brick Club restarts
Friday 15th April 2016	KS2 Simply Sports breakfast Club re-commences
Friday 15th April 2016	Y3 swimming re-starts
Friday 15th April 2016	Y4 Football Cup
Monday 18th April 2016	Discovery Week in France Parents' Meeting
Tuesday 19th April 2016	Le Club Francais re-starts
Wednesday 27th April 2016	Girls Football Team – League Starts at DCBC
Monday 2nd May 2016	**May Day Bank Holiday – school closed**
Tuesday 3rd May 2016	School re-starts
Thursday 5th May 2016	**School Closed – Police and Crime Commissioner Elections – polling station**
Friday 6th May 2016	School open as usual
Monday 9th May – Friday 13th May 2016	Assessment Week*
Tuesday 10th May 2016	Reception at Hall Hill Farm
Wednesday 18th May 2016	Last netball session
Wednesday 25th May 2016	National Police Helicopter landing at school
Wednesday 25th May 2016	Y3 Oriental Museum - Egyptians
Thursday 26th May 2016	Barnabus RE Day – Y6 in school
Thursday 26th May 2016	Y5 – WW1 Real Stories, Palace Green Library
Thursday 26th May 2016	Last Nick Pickering session
Thursday 26th May 2016	Last day of half-term

Summer Term 2	Activity
Monday 6th June 2016	School re-opens for Summer Term 2
Monday 6th June 2016	Y6 Leavers' Photographs
Monday 6th June 2016	KS1 Fit and Fun continues
Tuesday 7th June 2016	Reception - House of Objects
Tuesday 7th June 2016	Le Club Francais continues
Thursday 9th June 2016	Y4 – Pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral
Friday 10th June 2016	KS2 Simply Sports breakfast Club continues
Monday 13th June – Friday 17th June 2016	Y5 & Y6 visit to France
Tuesday 14th June 2016	Y1 – Seven Stories
Thursday 16th June 2016	Y6 School Leavers' Service Durham Cathedral – pupils only.
Sunday 19th June 2016	Confirmation Class - confirmation at St. Oswald's Church
Tuesday 21st June 2016	Y3 Hancock Museum
Tuesday 21st June 2016	Y5 – Beamish Museum
Tuesday 21st June 2016	Y4 Roman Potter
Wednesday 22nd June 2016	Y4 – Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum
Wednesday 22nd June 2016	Y3 – Egyptian Potter
Thursday 23rd June 2016	**School Closed –EU Referendum – polling station**
Monday 27th June 2016	Y2 – St Mary's Lighthouse
Monday 27th June 2016	Last KS1 Fit and Fun
Tuesday 28th June 2016	Le Club Francais – last one
Friday 1st July 2016	Last KS2 Breakfast Club
Tuesday 19th July 2016	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Wednesday 20th July 2016	Y6 Leavers' Service, St. Mary's Church
Wednesday 20th July 2016	Last Day of term
Tuesday 6th September 2016	New School Academic Year

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

Nick Pickering Football Club

The football club, led by Nick Pickering, runs on a Thursday 3:30-4:40pm. There are places available from Thursday 14th April 2016. There are 6 sessions left for this club. The sessions will run on 14th April, 21st April, 28th April, 12th May, 19th May, 26th May 2016. The cost is £18.00

Please return this slip with payment if your child wishes to join the club.

Child's Name: Year:

Payment: £18:00 (cheques payable to Mr N Pickering)

Parent / carer name: **Signature:**

Le Club Francais

This Club runs on a Tuesday 3:30-4:30 for Reception – Y2 pupils. There are a few places available at the start of the new term for new members. Please complete and return this slip if you are interested and you will be contacted with further details. The French Club costs £45 (£40 for siblings). New memebrs also pay a membership fee of £11.00 for which they receive a booklet and CD. There are 10 sessions from 19th April – 28th June 2016.

Child's Name: Year:

My child is interested in the French Club.

Parent / carer name: **Signature:**

The Brick Club

The Brick Club has been a great success and will re-start on 15th April 2016. The Club will run for 4 weeks. If you are interested in joining, then please compete this slip and return it to the school office. There is no cost associated with the Brick Club. Please note that parents / carers are asked to accompany their children. If you are already a member you do not need to return this slip.

Child's Name: Year:

My child is interested in the Brick Club.

Parent / carer name: **Signature:**

African Drumming Club

Y3-Y6 pupils and parents are invited to join the African Drumming club, Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 at school starting Monday 18th April, 25th, 9th May, 16th and finishing on 23rd May. The number of members will be restricted to 20. The cost is £15 per person (£3.00 per session). Please complete the attached form if you are interested in joining this Club. Please do not send money at this stage. You will be contacted.

Child's Name: Year:

My child is interested in the African Drumming Club. ☐
I am interested in the African Drumming Club. ☐
My KS1 child would be interested in an African Drumming Club. ☐
I am interested in an African Drumming Club. ☐

Parent / carer name: **Signature:**

KS2 Breakfast Club

The KS2 Breakfast Club runs on a Friday morning 0800-0850. Simply Sport will be running the 10 week programme of sports activities starting Friday 15th April 2016. This club is open to children in Y3-Y6. There are spaces available.

Child's Name: Year:

My child is interested in the KS2 Breakfast Club.

Parent / carer name: **Signature:**