



Weekly Bulletin –15th November 2019

Headteacher's Message

It was good to see so many parents and friends at Monday's Remembrance Day Community Worship. It was good to join together as a school family to remember conflicts past and present and to pray for peace. Our thanks to Year 6 for leading our service.

I draw your attention to the FOSS Christmas Shopping Evening taking place this coming Thursday at school. The FOSS team have put a considerable amount of effort into preparing for, and organising, the evening and it would be good to see a high level of support on Thursday 21st November. Events such as these, together with last Friday's discos, demonstrate the high level of commitment to supporting the school demonstrated by our FOSS volunteers. We thank them.

A number of events to enrich the curriculum have taken place this week. Year 4 have enjoyed a Greek workshop and pottery making session to support their learning in History. It was good to see so many parents coming to see the children share their work on Monday. Year 5 shared their class assembly on Thursday and confidently shared their important message about recycling. Our thanks to all who came to support them. Finally, having returned from Kenya, Mrs Morgan shared her experiences with the children on Wednesday. Parents are warmly invited to come to school to hear more about the visit on Thursday 28th November at 3pm in the school hall.

I have been called for Jury Service commencing on Monday and will potentially be away from school until 27th November. The Office staff and Mr Rumbles will be available to deal with any matters for which you would usually contact me. Please remember that Mr Rumbles will be teaching during some of this time so please be aware that there may be delays in getting back to parents.

Best wishes
Mr Tait

Diary Dates

Monday 18th November – Y6 Safer Futures Live Roadshow at the Work Place
Tuesday 19th November – Y5 Architecture Workshops
Wednesday 20th November – Y4 Gymnastics Carousel
Thursday 21st November – FOSS Christmas Shopping Evening 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesday 27th November – Intra-school event delivered by SSP
Thursday 28th November- Kenya information session for parents- 3pm School Hall.
Friday 29th November – Y1 Toys Workshop at Beamish Museum
Saturday 30th November – FOSS Christmas Fair 11:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday 4th December- Advent Eucharist - 9:15am School Hall. Parents welcome.
Tuesday 10th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am

Wednesday 11th December- Infant Nativity 2:15pm
Thursday 12th December- School Closed General Election
Thursday 19th December- KS2 Christmas Singalong 2:45pm. Parents welcome.
Friday 20th December- Christmas Service 10am. Parents welcome.

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

Further dates for diary

Bags to school - Wednesday 3rd June 2020
Discos - Friday 31st January 2020, Friday 15th May 2020 . Infants 5.45-6.45 and Juniors 7-8 pm
Easter coffee afternoon - Wednesday 1st April 2020
Summer Fair - Saturday 27th June 2020

Punctuality

We continue to monitor punctuality daily. We request that all parents ensure that their children arrive promptly for the beginning of the school day. This not only means that pupils are present and ready for teaching at the beginning of the morning session but it also teaches pupils the importance of meeting deadlines and showing respect for others who may be impacted by poor time-keeping. In cases of persistent lateness the services of the Education Welfare Officer will be enlisted to support families in meeting their obligation to ensure that their children attend school on time. I thank parents for their continued support.

General Election - School Closure

Durham County Council have confirmed that they will require use of the school hall as a polling station for the General Election on Thursday 12th December. School will, therefore, be closed on 12th December as we will be unable to safely open the school. We do not take the decision to close the school lightly. We have again requested that the Council seeks alternative polling venues, but this has not been possible. As the owners of the school building, the Council have the right to request the use of the school premises. Safeguarding is our first priority. The school hall is to be used for voting and we have no way of safely opening the building in a way that can separate pupils and the voting public. The decision to close is therefore the only available option.

Newsletter

- If your child is wishing to change to *Packed Lunches* please inform the school office with one week's notice.
- Please remember that parents are responsible for supervising their children before the school gate opens each morning.
- FOSS Christmas Fair – All quality donations required for the Tombola (including cuddly toys and bottles for the mystery bottle stall). Please can you leave them at the drop-off area outside the school (under the canopy) from WC 25th November.
- Cake Donations required for the FOSS Christmas Fair – please bring into school on Friday 29th November or Saturday 30th November. If you require a cardboard cake box please collect from the School office from WC 25th November.

Leave of Absence during Term Time - a reminder

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 requested from the school office or via the school website. The application form asks you to outline the reasons why you feel your application 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 still take the child out of school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Similarly, if you keep your child away from school for longer than agreed / authorised, the excess absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of compassion. Worship will be led by Mr Tait, Fr Peter, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill and our Key Stage Two pupils. We will be thinking about the ways in which Jesus demonstrated compassion for those he met.

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

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