



## **Weekly Bulletin –8<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### **Headteacher's Message**

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful half term.

By today, you will have received a home-school links sheet from your child's class teacher. This details the ways in which you can support your child with their studies as well as informing you of the curriculum content to be covered during this half term in each subject area. I encourage you to read it and to use it as a basis for discussing with your child what they are learning about in school.

Next Monday we mark Remembrance Day in school with Community Worship at 10am. All are welcome to come and share in our act of remembrance as we join together as a school family. As we commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day earlier this year and approach the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, this year's remembrance commemorations will have a particular significance. Poppies are available in school.

Best wishes  
Mr Tait

### **Diary Dates**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November- Remembrance Worship- 10:00am School Hall. Parents welcome.  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Y4 Greek Workshop – full day  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Y4 Greek Presentation Workshop – Parents' Assembly 3:00 pm  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November- Flu Immunisations (NHS)  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 5:00pm – Y6 Robinwood Parents' Meeting  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Y5 Class Assembly 9.10am  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Y6 Safer Futures Live Roadshow at the Work Place  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Y5 Architecture Workshops  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Y4 Gymnastics Carousel  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November – FOSS Christmas Shopping Evening  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Intra-school event delivered by SSP  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Y1 Toys Workshop at Beamish Museum  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November – FOSS Christmas Fair  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December- Advent Eucharist - 9:15am School Hall. Parents welcome.  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December- Infant Nativity 10:00am  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December- Infant Nativity 2:15pm  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December- School Closed General Election  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December- KS2 Christmas Singalong 2:45pm. Parents welcome.  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> December. School will, therefore, be closed on 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

- REMINDER - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Y4 Greek Presentation Workshop – Parents' Assembly 3:00 pm
- 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.

### **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.

### **Advent Windows 2019 in Shincliffe**

***A message from Fr. Bill:***

Can you help to create a trail of windows round High Shincliffe or Shincliffe village? As last year one window will be lit each evening towards Christmas. A map will be made so that families can walk round the village to see stars, angels and other Christmas scenes.

Families outside of Shincliffe can create their own window display to help their community feel the Christmas meaning and spirit.

To be part of this venture please let (Fr) Bill Rigby know by text to 07734 068668 or by email to bill.rigby1@btopenworld.com for High Shincliffe.

For Shincliffe village contact Julie Goodhart via email, juliannegoodhart@hotmail.co.uk.

To take part it would help our planning if you could respond as soon as possible before Friday 15th November.

With best wishes and thanks for all the wonderful contributions last year.

Bill Rigby

### **Nativity Dates**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December- Infant Nativity 10am

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December- Infant Nativity 2:15pm

We have reviewed arrangements and this year will present a morning and afternoon performance. There will be no evening performance. This is in response to parental feedback that returning to school for the performance is tiring and has a negative impact. It is also in recognition of the fact that increasing numbers of children did not return for the evening performance over the last few years. Information regarding ticketing will be shared after half term.

### **Earring Reminder**

Parents are reminded that earrings are not permitted in school. Earrings should be removed before the school day. Where parents wish to have their children's ears pierced, we recommend that this is done at the start of the long summer break. Where earrings cannot be removed during to recent piercing, it is parents' responsibility to cover the earrings using medical tape before their child comes to school. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### **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.

*Some further information:*

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. 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.

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?

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. [Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net)

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