



Weekly Bulletin –17th January 2020

Headteacher's Message

Together with Mrs Richardson, Mrs Marsden and our Year 6 children I am currently enjoying 3 days at the Robinwood Outdoor Activity Centre in Alston as part of our Year 6 class residential visit. It might be cold and rather windy, but the children (and staff too!) have engaged in various activities including climbing, canoeing, problem solving, climbing and a piranha pool! The children are developing new skills and independence. I know that the younger children in school look forward to their opportunity to visit once they are in Year 6.

We are continuing to closely monitor punctuality each morning and I draw your attention to the information below. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is on time for school so that they are ready to begin learning promptly.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

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 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.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15th January - Y6 Visit to Robinwood Activity Centre – Alston, Cumbria
Tuesday 21st January – Y3 Pre-historic Workshop in school
Friday 24th January – Chinese New Year Celebration Lunch in school
Tuesday 28th January – Y1 Gymnastics Carousel at Durham City Gymnastics Centre
Friday 31st January – FOSS Disco
Saturday 1st February – Chinese New Year Celebrations at the Town Hall
Wednesday 5th February – Y1 Class Assembly 9:10am
Friday 7th February – Progress Reports
Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th February – Parents' Consultation Evenings
Monday 10th February – Friday 14th February – Norman Cornish Arts Week in School
Monday 10th February – Y2 visit to the Norman Cornish Exhibition at Bowes Museum
Tuesday 11th February – Y5 & 6 visit to the Norman Cornish Exhibition at Palace Green Library
Friday 14th February – Final day of Spring Term 1 for Half Term break
Monday 24th February – School re-opens for Spring Term 2

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

Winter Weather

“Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents.” Department for Education

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service. As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to ‘unavoidable’ circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite. We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Shincliffe CE School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways and clearing access points.

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Durham Closures website. To determine whether Shincliffe CE School is open or closed please visit: www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures.

Search for the school in the search box. The Durham Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Durham are open or closed, such as nurseries, children’s centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for text alerts with the school. This service will send an SMS alert to let parents know if school is closed.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Durham so you can plan your journey.
- Don’t forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Shincliffe CE School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of peace this half term.

Worship will be led by Mr Tait, Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

Some further information about this half term’s value:

The biblical concept of peace is not just the absence of war. It includes peace with God, positive harmony and healthy relationships between people. It involves spiritual as well as material security. Peace, in the sense of total well-being for the whole of creation, is the ultimate goal.

Matthew 5:9 says “**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God**”.

In the school context peace-making actions can include everything from conflict resolution to creating times and places for stillness and reflection.

We would like our children to continue their reflection and experience at home.

Some things to think about:

- How do you feel when you are peaceful?
- What sort of things make you feel peaceful?
- How important is peace in your life?
- Do you have a special place where you feel peaceful?

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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2020

THE YEAR OF THE RAT

**Welcome the Chinese New Year
at venues across Durham City**

**Saturday 1 February
10.30am - 4.00pm**

Programme subject to change – full details at
www.durham.gov.uk/chinesenewyear

Free entry

With support from





Join us to celebrate The Year of the Rat

Clayport Library between 11.00am and 2.00pm for Chinese storytelling, arts and crafts and language taster sessions

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Durham Town Hall between 10.30am and 4.00pm for a fantastic programme of dance and music provided by local schools, Chinese university students and members of the Durham Chinese School community

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Try your hand at **calligraphy and origami in the Town Hall**

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Take part in a **Chinese tea tasting ceremony at 2.30pm** in the **Town Hall's Burlison Gallery**

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Learn more about China and the **Lunar Festival** with colleagues from the **Oriental Museum**

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Lion dance performance will begin in **Millennium Place** at **12.30pm** and wind its way across the city centre

