



Weekly Bulletin –31st January 2020

Headteacher's Message

This week, we have celebrated Chinese New Year in school. Each class has participated in some activities to learn about the traditions and cultural celebrations.

We have worked closely with students from the University of Durham and three Chinese students have spent 3 sessions with Year 4 to teach the children about life and festivals in China.

The festivities continue in Durham and Year 4 have been invited to participate at Durham Town Hall this Saturday. All parents and children are welcome to join in the celebrations organised by the Durham International Office. There will be storytelling, Chinese language sessions, craft activities, performances and much more, as well as the traditional lion dance performances.

Can I remind you that until February half term, at the request of the Local Authority I will be supporting the leadership at Montablo Primary School in Barnard Castle during the absence of their Headteacher. When I am not in school at Shincliffe, the School Office staff or Mr Rumbles will be available to deal with any queries.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

Safeguarding

Parents are reminded that they must carefully supervise their children at drop off and pick up times. We have been concerned by children playing unsupervised in the carpark. Children are to use only the waiting area and not the school carpark.

Diary Dates

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.

Packed Lunches

In order to ensure that packed lunches are suitably healthy and meet the guidelines set by Durham County Council, parents are reminded that they **should not contain** any of the following:

- Fizzy / sugary drinks in cartons, bottles or cans
- Chocolate-coated products / sweets / confectionary
- Chocolate spread as a filling for sandwiches
- Chewing gum
- Sugared / toffee and salted popcorn

Please also remember that we are a nut-free school- your supporting in keeping all children safe is appreciated.

Christian Values

We are continuing to explore the value of peace and worship will be led by Mr Tait, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

We will be thinking about how the prophets of the Old Testament spoke of a time of peace.

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

.....

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

.....

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

.....

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

.....

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

.....

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

