



Weekly Bulletin –14th February 2020

Headteacher's Message

Many thanks to all of you who attended parents' consultation evening appointments in order to meet with your child's class teacher earlier this week. Regular contact between home and school is vital in ensuring that we are able to work in partnership to support the progress and development of your child. The staff look forward to working with you over the coming term and implementing the strategies and approaches discussed at parents' evening.

Our Norman Cornish-themed Arts Week has been a huge success. Year 2 visited the Bowes Museum and Years 5 and 6 Palace Green Library to experience Cornish's work. All classes took part in themed activities. A display of the children's work is being prepared for display in the School Hall.

I will be continuing to support Montalbo Primary School in Barnard Castle during the absence of their headteacher for 2 ½ days each week. When I am not in school at Shincliffe, the School Office staff or Mr Rumbles will be available to deal with any queries. It is important that schools continue to support one another as they are able. It is good that, as a school with our strong and dedicated team, we are able to continue to offer this support.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

Diary Dates

Friday 14th February – Final day of Spring Term 1 for Half Term break
Monday 24th February – School re-opens for Spring Term 2
Tuesday 25th February – Team and Class Photographs
Wednesday 26th February 10:00am – Ash Wednesday Eucharist – Parents Welcome
Friday 6th March – World Book Day and World Book Day Lunch
Friday 6th March – Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop
Friday 13th March – Y5 Viking Village Day
Monday 23rd March – Y2 and Y5 Dance Festival at the Gala Theatre
Wednesday 25th March – Y5 Visit to ICKSON Hindu Temple
Thursday 26th March 09:10am – Y3 and Y4 Easter Worship – Parents Welcome
Wednesday 1st April – FOSS Easter Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 2nd April 09:15am – Easter Eucharist – Parents Welcome
Friday 3rd April – Final day of Spring Term 2 - Easter holiday
Monday 20th April – School re-opens for Summer Term 1

Friday 8th May – May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 15th May – FOSS School Disco

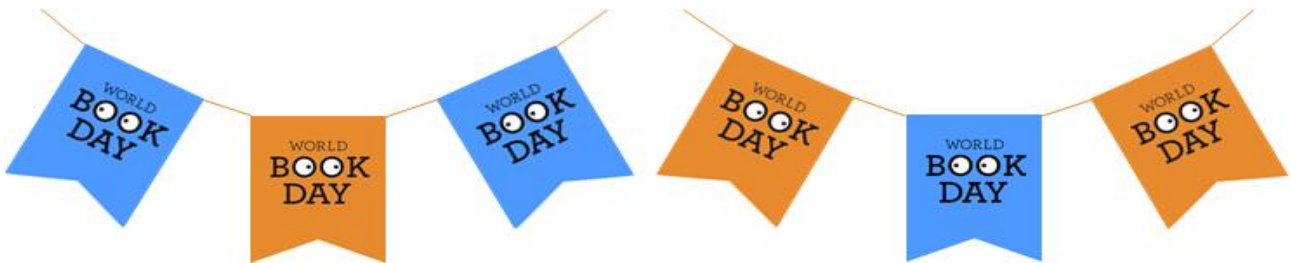
For a full list of school holiday dates please see the school website.

World Book Day – Friday 6th March

It is World Book Day on Friday the 6th of March and we would like to give the children the opportunity to come to school dressed as a character from a book. This doesn't mean that you need to go out specially and buy a costume as we would like to avoid any unnecessary expense – please re-use or up-cycle any costumes you may already have. Children should still come to school wearing appropriate footwear (no high-heels please).

During World Book Day we will be sharing favourite books, characters and authors, and taking part in a “sharing a story” session with different classes across the school.

Thank you, Mrs Short



After-School Clubs

Clubs will continue next half term. Places still available for KS1 Fit & Fun and Tatty Bumpkin Yoga. Please contact the School office if you are interested in a place. Additional ad-hoc club will be confirmed by individual letter. The Summer term clubs will be published before Easter. For further information on School clubs please go to the school website.

School Meals

- Parents and Carers wishing to pay in advance for their child's school dinners, for this half term, (6 weeks) are requested to visit ParentPay and make the online payment for the sum of £61.50 to be paid by Monday 24th February 2020. *Please note your child's balance and adjust your payment accordingly.*
- **IMPORTANT** - If your child is wishing to change to *Packed Lunches* please inform the school office with one week's notice. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need any assistance. Thank you.

Department for Education

We are extremely proud to have received the following letter from the Department for Education.

Dear Mr Tait,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high standard of achievement demonstrated in the writing Key Stage 2 assessments last year.

Your school's results, as published on 13 December, show that 100 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in writing at the end of Key Stage 2. This means that for achievement in writing, Shincliffe CofE Primary School is in the top 1 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The Government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in writing necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your hard work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With Best Wishes.

*Yours sincerely,
Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards*

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day and Online Safety

Tuesday, 11th February, was the annual Safer Internet Day. As a school we marked the day with information and awareness-raising class-based activities for the children. Staying safe online is everyone's responsibility. It might be helpful to think about:

- Where you keep devices – Keep them in public areas of the house!
- What is being shared- checking the settings carefully.
- Who are your child's online friends?

Further information to support parents:

The school will help children to learn about staying safe online, but recognises that the primary responsibility for online safety at home lies with parents and carers. Your help is needed to help your children adopt safe use of the digital technologies at home.

It is important that we are all vigilant when children are using devices and act to ensure they are protected from people who may pose a risk to them. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content, comments or activity online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

We know that new apps and sites appear daily online and it would be unrealistic to ask parents and carers to understand all of them. The sites and services that your child likes to use may change regularly, but the messages they need to keep themselves safe will remain the same – think before you post, be kind online and ask for help if something makes you feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.

If your child wishes to download a new app then we would recommend considering some of the following points:

Listen

- Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk with them about how they use technology.
 - Ask your child why they want to use the app? How did they hear about it?
- Discuss with them how they will keep themselves safe and make sure they know:
 - How to block and report other users and content
 - To speak to a trusted adult if they see anything or something happens online that makes them feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.
 - About websites such as Child Line and CEOP? www.childline.org.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Functionality

- Make sure that you understand how the app works so you can decide if you are happy for your child to use it. You may even wish to set up an account yourself first.
- Consider:
 - Does it allow video chat or the sharing of images?
 - Does it allow user to communicate with 'random' strangers?
 - Does it allow anonymous chat?
 - Does it allow in-app purchases?
 - Can you restrict access to the content that your child shares?
 - How will your child's personal data be used by the app?

Reviews

- What do other people (i.e. other parents and carers) have to say about the app?
 - Ask your friends and family members or take a look online. You may be able to find reviews via search engines or using tools such as www.net-aware.org.uk and www.commonsemmedia.org

Age Restrictions

- You can usually find age restrictions within the apps terms and conditions. This is not the same as the app/google store rating.
- The age limit for many popular social networking sites is thirteen. This is due to American Legislation called COPPA. The age limit is not based on suitability of content and instead applies to any website, app or online service which collects, stores or uses children's personal information. Some apps will have age limits of 18+ as they are exclusively designed for use by adults.
- If children use apps that are aimed at an older age group then this may leave them vulnerable to being exposed to unsuitable content (including advertising), as well as being contacted by strangers.

Safety

- Many popular apps will have 'help' and 'safety' sections, either within the app itself or via its website. Some apps will even have content specifically designed for parents and carers.
 - www.saferinternet.org.uk has some useful parent guides which highlight safety tools on popular devices, and signpost to report mechanisms.
- Does the app have any privacy settings? If so then help your child to apply them appropriately – for example is it possible to set the app so that only trusted friends can see information they post?
- Explore the block and report features. Can your child block or report concerning users or inappropriate behaviour?

- If the app doesn't have safety or help sections or doesn't provide the ability to report and block then you may wish to consider if it is safe for your child to use.

Boundaries

- Talk to your child about safe and appropriate online behaviour.
- Consider setting up a family agreement regarding how their internet use will be supervised and how long they can spend online. Resources to help can be found at www.childnet.com and www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/
- Apply appropriate parental controls to all devices: www.saferinternet.org.uk and www.internetmatters.org
- Discuss your expectations about the types of content and information they should share online, rules relating to adding friends and meeting people in real life.
- Do they understand:
 - That content posted online should never be considered to be private and may be copied and shared?
 - That they should behave online the same as they would in "the real world" and be kind?
 - How to be secure online such as by using safe and strong passwords. You can visit www.getsafeonline.org.uk for more advice

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or criminal offence has been committed then you can report your concerns to the Police or First Contact (Durham County Council). Please do not notify suspicious profiles of your actions, as this could enable them to delete material which might be required for any Police investigations. You can contact the Police via 101 or via 999 if there is an immediate risk to a child's safety or First Contact (Durham County Council) on 03000 26 79 79. You can also report online sexual abuse to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the "Click CEOP" reporting button.

If the school can be of any further assistance, then please contact Mr Tait or Mr Rumbles via the School Office. Additional information and resources are available via the school website.

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.