



Weekly Bulletin –7th February 2020

Headteacher's Message

It has been a busy week in school. We were delighted to welcome parents of Year One children to their Class assembly on Wednesday. The children were able to showcase all they have been learning and gave an excellent presentation. A huge thank you to Miss Newman and Mrs Stewart for preparing the children.

On Monday we welcomed a group of educational leaders from Australia, Canada and America who were visiting schools in the UK as part of a project organised by the National Education Office of the Church of England. It was a real privilege to be selected by the National Office and to be able to explain the workings of the English education system to our visitors.

Monday and Tuesday next week are our parent consultation evenings. Please make every effort to attend in order to have the opportunity to discuss your child's learning and progress with their class teacher during your allotted appointment time. Progress reports for Y1-6 will be sent home today and are a tool to support discussions next week.

Finally, next week is our Norman Cornish-themed Arts Week. Year 2 will be visiting the Bowes Museum and Years 5 and 6 Palace Green Library to experience Cornish's work. All classes will be taking part in themed activities. This will be an excellent opportunity to explore both artistic techniques and some of the mining history of our region.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 11th February- Safer Internet Day

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.

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

Next Tuesday, 11th February, is the annual Safer Internet Day. As a school we will be marking 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.

Y5 & Y6 Durham Johnson Gifted and Talented Sports Development Programme

Durham Johnson Comprehensive School are holding sports development camps during the Easter and Summer Holidays. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils currently in Y5 and Y6 who are passionate about sport or for those who enjoy physical activity. Your child has received an information booklet.

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 we can live as people who bring peace.

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.