



Weekly Bulletin – 13th March 2020

Headteacher's Message

As a school we are committed to helping children to learn about staying safe online. Similarly, we recognise 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.

A good place to start is our school website which has a number of useful links for parents and carers: <http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/online-safety-information/> I hope these are of use to you.

The School Online Safety Lead, Mr Rumbles, and I are available to discuss any help you may need or concerns regarding online safety that you may have.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

Coronavirus

A number of parents have asked about the school's response to the ongoing outbreak. We receive daily updates from the Department for Education. These detail the current advice to schools which we follow. The current advice is that schools should continue to remain open and operate as normal whilst advising that the virus can be stopped from spreading by handwashing. We are ensuring that the children wash their hands regularly and have reemphasised the importance of good hand hygiene. We will undertake further work next week on hand hygiene. We have ample supplies of hand soap in school and, therefore, children do not need to bring hand sanitiser into school.

Parents are referred to the latest government advice regarding coronavirus and self-isolation. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Diary Dates

Monday 23rd March (12:30pm – 2:45pm) – 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

Monday 30th March 09:00-10:00am – Reception Zoolab

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

Monday 27th April – Y4 Geography Field Trip to Seaham

Thursday 7th May – **SCHOOL CLOSURE** - Police and Crime Commissioner Election

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.

Reading

Following on from World Book Day, don't forget that our children have been busy selecting their favourite books to recommend to others. The completed class book suggestion lists can be found at:

<http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-curriculum/reading-and-phonics/>

In this section of the school website you will also find further information about how reading is taught in school and resources for you to support your child in developing their reading skills.

Smart Watches

Following advice from the Local Authority, we are not permitting the use of smart watches in school. Children may continue to use fitness trackers that count steps and tell the time, but we cannot permit any internet-enabled devices. This is for safeguarding reasons.

Traffic in the Vicinity of the School

As you will be aware, we work in partnership with the Parish Council and Durham Police to address issues of parking and access to the school by car. We have received a number of complaints from residents and parents that cars are driving along the pavements. I ask all parents to consider the safety of our children and drive responsibly when using the roads within Shincliffe. This is in order to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Noticeboard

- 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.
- Lip Balm should not be sent into school with the children. If your child needs to use lip balm, please pass this to the School Office.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of justice and worship will be led by Mr Tait, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

We will be thinking about examples of people and organisations that work for justice in the world.

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.