



## **Weekly Bulletin –4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

### **Headteacher's Message**

Welcome back to the new school year! We are delighted to welcome our new starters and returning pupils and look forward to working together in partnership during the course of the coming academic year. School is, of course, very different due to the current restrictions, but it is good to be able to be together again as a community.

I draw your attention to the attendance information shared with parents this week. Excellent attendance and punctuality are vitally important to success at school. Please do read this.

Below is information we have been asked to share by Durham County Council in relation to Coronavirus. It is a useful reminder of key messages. I thank parents for working with us to put into place the necessary measures to try to prevent, as far as we are able, the spread of Coronavirus within school.

I thank parents for working with us to keep school as Covid-secure as possible by strictly observing drop off and pick up times, sending the children with the requested equipment and leaving the school site as soon as they have collected their children. I remind parents that they must supervise their children if they are waiting to collect/drop off a sibling at later staggered time. Please ensure your children stand with you and are not running around the waiting area.

Best wishes and stay safe

Mr Tait

### **Covid-19 key messages from Durham County Council**

*Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*

Good regular hand washing is one of the most important prevention and protective measures anyone can take. The more you do it and the better you do it, the more protected you are. The coronavirus is covered in fatty particles and these are attracted to soap particles and will attach themselves to the soap particles any chance they get. In turn, soap particles are more attracted to water molecules and attach to them. This means that as the soap and water are washed away down the sink, they take the virus with it. Remember to wash your hands after you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, before you eat or handle food and after using the toilet. Often used on the go, hand sanitizers containing alcohol can kill bacteria, viruses and germs by breaking down and dissolving their membrane and proteins. Hand sanitiser must have an alcohol content of 61% or more to be useful and is not a replacement for good handwashing.

*Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*

Hands can pick up lots of dirt, bacteria and a whole host of other things in a short space of time. If your hands come into contact with a coronavirus infected surface, the virus will be transferred onto your hands. This will not infect you; the virus still needs to make its way into your body. The easiest way in is through your eyes, nose, and mouth. Keeping your hands off your eyes, nose, and mouth is another simple way to protect yourself. If you need to touch your face, wash your hands first.

*Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.*

If someone is infected with Coronavirus, then the moisture in their breath and saliva will contain the virus. These droplets don't travel very far which is why two metres social distancing rules are in place. However, when you cough or sneeze droplets from your mouth and nose can travel much further. To stop this from happening use a tissue to catch the droplets. The tissue will now be covered in germs so throw the tissue in a bin. If you don't have a tissue use the crook of your arm. Remember to wash your hands after you blow your nose, sneeze or cough.

*If you have a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in your sense of smell or taste, get a test.*

Did you know that not everyone knows all the symptoms of Coronavirus? It's important to know the symptoms, that way you can protect yourself and your family. Do you know them? They are; a new continuous cough, where you cough a lot for more than an hour, or have three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours; a high temperature, where your temperature is above 37.8°C; or a change in your sense of smell or taste. Did you also know that if you, or someone you live with, has any of these symptoms the advice is stay at home to stop the risk of giving coronavirus to others, and arrange to get a coronavirus test. There are two ways to arrange a test – you can [book a coronavirus test online](#) or call 119 if you have no internet access.

*If you have symptoms you must arrange a test and self-isolate.*

As soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, you should stay home and self-isolate for at least ten days. Anyone else in your household should also stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. By doing this you will be automatically protecting your family and friends and the wider community. The virus needs to be passed between people for it to survive. Self-isolation stops any contact with others and limits the virus' opportunity to pass between people. This is a very important step if we want to reduce the chances of spreading the virus and having a local outbreak like the one in Leicester leading to a local lockdown. You should arrange to get a coronavirus test. There are two ways to arrange a test – you can [book a coronavirus test online](#) or call 119 if you have no internet access.

*If you test positive you must self-isolate.*

If your test is positive you must complete the remainder of your ten day self-isolation. Anyone in your household should also complete their self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. By doing this you will continue to protect your family and friends and the wider community from coronavirus. If you need help during this time and you don't have friends, family or neighbours to help, we can put you in touch with organisations through the County Durham Community Hub who'll be able to help you through this time. The most up-to-date information can be seen by following this link [www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help](http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help) Alternatively you can contact them by phone on 03000 260 260 between 9.00am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday or via email at [communityhub@durham.gov.uk](mailto:communityhub@durham.gov.uk) (If your test is negative, you and other household members no longer need to isolate).

*If you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service you must self-isolate.*

If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus you will receive a call or text from the NHS Test and Trace Service. (Under 18's will get a phone call and a parent or guardian will be asked to give permission for the call to continue). You will be asked to begin self-isolation for up to 14 days, depending on when you last came into contact with the person who has tested positive. It's really important to do this even if you don't feel unwell, because it can take up to 14 days for the symptoms to develop. Remember we don't want the virus to spread so although this may be disruptive for you, it is less disruptive than an outbreak of coronavirus and far less disruptive than a local lockdown. By doing this you will continue to protect your family and friends and the wider community from coronavirus.

### **Staffing Updates**

During the summer holidays Mr Rumbles needed to undergo surgery whilst in hospital. I am delighted to be able to say that Mr Rumbles is recovering well and looking forward to returning to school. He will, however, be absent from school for the first few weeks of term. Mrs Leonard from the Local Authority's Supply Partnership is teaching Y4 in September until Mr Rumbles is able to return. We wish Mr Rumbles a continued speedy recovery.

I am continuing to support Aycliffe Village Primary School during the Autumn term at the request of the Local Authority. This means that I will not be onsite at Shincliffe on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Richardson will be available on these days if there are any urgent queries. Mrs Richardson will also be taking responsibility for SEN during Mr Rumbles' absence. She can be contacted, if necessary, via the School Office.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Woods who is training to be a teacher. She will be working with Mr Gowan in Year 3.

### **Diary Dates**

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

### **School Extra-Curricular Activities**

There will be no extra-curricular activities during the first half of the autumn term. This is in order to avoid pupils mixing beyond their bubble group. As we undertake further risk assessment exercises during the course of the first half of the term we will keep you updated as to when clubs can resume.

### **Y3 Swimming Lessons**

We have been informed by Durham County Council that swimming tuition will not recommence before January 2021.

### **Noticeboard**

- Updated photographic consent forms have been sent out to all pupils today. Please return them to school as soon as possible.
- **Please inform the school office if there are any changes to personal contact details - for example addresses, phone numbers or emergency contacts.**

### **Medical**

- A reminder that we are only able to administer prescribed medications at school once parents have completed the required consent form. All medication must be delivered to and collected from the office by an adult.
- Packed Lunch Children – please ensure your child’s packed lunch is **NUT FREE** as we have children in the school who have an allergy to nuts.

### **Christian Values**

We are exploring the value of creativity this half term.

*Further information on the value of creativity:*

Seen from a Christian perspective all of life is a ‘gift’, entrusted by God to humankind for a purpose. This purpose is glimpsed as the creative spirit within each person learns to value and explore, celebrate and enjoy this world in all its mystery and diversity. With this gift comes a mutual responsibility to ensure the creation is not spoiled, but rather sustained and shared by all.

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

Some things to think about:

- How do we use the earth’s resources to meet our needs whilst still carrying out our duty of stewardship?
- What opportunities are there to meet creative people in various walks of life?
- Who might inspire and channel their own creativity?

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. [Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net)

The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the parents’ section of the website.