



## **Weekly Bulletin –26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **Headteacher's Message**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we marked one year since the beginning of the lockdown. It has been a time that has had a profound impact on us all. The past year has asked much of us as individuals, families and communities. For many, many people it has been a time of immense grief for the loss of loved ones. For others, the economic uncertainty and restrictions on our day-to-day activities have taken a huge toll on mental wellbeing. Others may be living with the effects of long Covid and not knowing how long this will last. The full return to school, the vaccine programme and slow easing of restrictions offer us signs of hope. Easter speaks of the joy of new life and hope. As we mark a year with Covid, I offer our thanks for the way in which parents and families have worked with us to navigate these difficult times.

Covid, of course, remains with us. I again thank parents for working with us to keep school as Covid-secure as possible.

Please remember to:

- strictly observe drop off and pick up times
- leave the school site and surrounding area as soon as you have collected your children
- supervise your children if they are waiting to collect/drop off a sibling at later staggered time
- ensure your children stand with you and are not running around the waiting area.

Below you will see details of contact tracing over the Easter holidays- please do take note of these.

This week, in school, we have been thinking about Easter and what it means to Christians. Year 6 have been thinking about the Easter story and comparing Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified on the cross and Easter Sunday, when He rose again. The children have produced some wonderful poetry and all our children are able to view this via the whole school community page on DB Primary. Enjoy!

I hope you all enjoy a restful and joyous Easter. I look forward to seeing you again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Best wishes and stay safe

Mr Tait

### **Covid-19 Test Results- 27<sup>th</sup> March- 1<sup>st</sup> April**

#### **Reporting symptoms after the school closes for the Easter Holidays**

School will close today. If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus you must book a test.

**If your child develops symptoms up to and including Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> that result in a positive test up to April 1<sup>st</sup> you must inform the school using the email address [shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:shincliffece@durhamlearning.net)**

Please use 'COVID-19 TEST RESULT' in the subject line of your email.

Please include:

- the name of your child
- their class
- the date that their symptoms started
- the date they were last in school
- your own contact details

#### From Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March

If your child develops coronavirus symptoms from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March onwards, they must be tested and, if positive, follow the advice of Test and Trace. **You do not need to inform the school of any symptoms which occur after this date.**

#### Contact tracing during the Easter break

Please be aware that the school, following the guidance of the Department for Education and Public Health, will do the following for 6 days after the end of term:

- Collect information from staff and pupils with positive tests and families of symptomatic pupils. Emails will be checked each day at 9am.
- Advise families of close contact with confirmed Covid cases, and inform them of self-isolation requirements.

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

For further advice, guidance and support, please visit: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus>

#### **FOSS**

FOSS work extremely hard to support the life of our school. Many of the activities we offer would not be possible if it were not for the fundraising efforts of our FOSS volunteers. Events such as Christmas parties are supported by FOSS. FOSS are currently seeking support from parents with a number of roles. These include treasurer, secretary and chairperson. If anyone is interested in supporting the work of FOSS then please contact school or speak with any member of FOSS.

Our thanks to FOSS for organising today's Easter raffle and prizes for each of our class Easter picture competitions. Congratulations to all of the winners. A total of £245.00 was raised.

#### **School Closure - Local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

I have been informed by Durham County Council that they require the school building for use as a polling station on 6<sup>th</sup> May. We have challenged the decision and asked the Council to look at alternative options. They advise us that this is not possible and are therefore exercising their legal

right to make use of the premises. As a result, school will therefore be closed to all pupils on 6<sup>th</sup> May. We will provide remote learning for the children.

### **DCC Easter Holiday Information for Families**

Whether it's finding fun things for the kids to do, paying for extra childcare, or even just all that extra food they seem to eat, the school holidays can be a struggle for many families. Covid-19 has meant that many people's incomes have been reduced and children and young people are keen to get out and spend time with their friends.

We want to make sure no young people go hungry during the holidays. That's why we launched our Fun and Food programme, providing fun activities with healthy snacks and meals for children and young people. Activities are provided by range of partners including schools, voluntary and community sector groups, sport and leisure services and our Family Centres.

For information on Fun and Food activities during the Easter holidays check out [www.durham.gov.uk/FunAndFoodDiary](http://www.durham.gov.uk/FunAndFoodDiary)

### **Dates**

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

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Final day of Spring Term 2 for Easter break

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – School re-opens for Summer Term 1

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – School Closure (Local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections)

### **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**

Next half term we are focussing on Thankfulness as our whole school Christian Value. We will be looking at why being thankful is important and discussing what the children are thankful for in their lives.

We reflect on occasions when we may want to express love and thanks and consider being thankful for the good things that happen each day in our community.

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

*Some things to think about:*

- How can we express our appreciation and thankfulness in the life of the school?

- How can we demonstrate that we see the good things of life as a blessing and a gift rather than a right?
- How can we be thankful for more than just material possessions?

Worship will take place in class bubbles and will be led by pupils and school staff, with video contributions from Fr. Peter and Fr. Bill.

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

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

*We have been asked to share the following, which may be of interest to families living in High Shincliffe:*

**Openreach** could install faster broadband if you sign up now:

**<http://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity>**

- If you are a business, sole trader, childminder, or run any other business from home sign up as a business

**NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP**

**Open until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

More information on local web page

<https://sites.google.com/view/highshincliffe>

**WE NEED 200+ homes in the next 12 days (BY 31st March...)**

Kit Erlebach – Langton Lea