**Weekly Bulletin 26th November 2021**

**Headteacher's Message**

This week has seen some of our classes return to a number of protective measures and so I thank parents again for working with us to prevent the spread of the virus as far as is possible. This is especially important given the rise in cases. Please continue to refer to the guidance from Durham County Council found below relating to Covid-19.

Due to expected inclement weather we have had to postpone the Christmas Fair until Saturday 4th December 11am - 1pm in the school grounds. The FOSS team have put a considerable amount of effort into preparing and organising this annual event. All of the money will be used for the benefit of the children in school. It will be great if you can support this event on the new date.

Each week I want to include a 'snapshot' of some of the things going on in school. For example, news from our ECO team, Worship group, V.I.P. (Very International People) and SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group). This week our focus is on our Art work in school and Mrs Armstrong has shared an update on this below.

Stay safe and well,

Mr Rumbles

**ART**

Over the past two weeks children have taken part in a `Still Life` art project. They learnt about Still Life as an art form, spanning time and cultures, then produced their own pieces of work in watercolour. Children developed their observational drawing and painting techniques to great effect! Their work will be displayed, for all to appreciate, in galleries across school.

Diwali lamp – YR

Apples – Year 1

Bowl of limes – Year 2

Pumpkin – Year 3

Pencils – Year 4

Bowl of apples – Year 5

Limes in a bowl – Y6

Apples – Y6

**Christmas Arrangements**

We are hoping to celebrate Christmas and to enjoy events that comply with Covid-guidance for schools that minimize the risk of Coronavirus spreading within school.

**Christmas Lunch**

*Thursday 9th December*

Our Kitchen team will be cooking a traditional Christmas lunch for the children and staff to enjoy. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch and they do not usually have a school meal, please inform the School office by Monday 29th November. This will also be Christmas Jumper Day and children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper. If you don't have a Christmas jumper you can wear Christmas colours like red or green. All other uniform must still be worn. Children are invited to donate a suggested amount of £1. The collected donation will be sent on to the Save the Children charity.

**Christmas Parties**

*Week beginning 13th December*

The children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes on the day of their party. Dates and times will be shared in due course. The children will have party games and fun activities and we will provide children with a snack as we are unable to accept donations of food into school. Each child will receive a gift of a book thanks to the support of FOSS.

**International Christmas and Craft Week**

*Week beginning 6th December*

This year, we really wanted our work linked to our International Schools to have an environmental focus. Each class will be taking part in a range of activities focussing on 'Winter wildlife' around the world and how animals adapt to survive conditions at this time of year. We will then be linking this to wildlife in Britain and children will be making birdfeeders to bring home to help winter wildlife in our gardens.

**Christmas Nativity Performances and KS2 Singalong**

We will be holding nativities this year, however, due to the ongoing protective measures, there will be 2 tickets per family and each performance will be for a specific year group. The singalong for KS2 will be outside in the school grounds. Dates and timings are shared below.

**Christmas Cards**

We know that the children enjoy sharing cards with one another. We request, therefore, that all cards are brought into school between Monday 6th and Friday 17th December. They will then be distributed by our Year 6 children.

**Dates**

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

Saturday 4th December (11:00am-1:00pm) – FOSS Outdoor Christmas Fair (NEW DATE)
Thursday 9th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 14th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am – Y1 parents only
Wednesday 15th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am – Rec parents only
Thursday 16th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am – Y2 parents only
Thursday 16th December – KS2 Christmas outdoor singalong - 3pm Parents welcome.
Friday 17th December – Christmas Service 10am
Friday 17th December – School closes for Christmas half term holidays
Thursday 6th January 2022 – School re-opens for Spring Term 1
Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th January 2022 – Y6 Residential to Robin Wood Activity Centre

**FOSS Christmas Fair - 11am - 1pm Saturday 4th December**

The Whatever the Weather Christmas Fair is now on Saturday 4th December 11-1pm and we are getting very excited. Please come along to enjoy the following stalls and activities:

- Santa's Grotto
- Toy Tombola
- Mystery Bottles Tombola
- Treasure Hunt Trail
- Cake Stall
- Tuck Shop
- Reindeer Food & Craft Stall
- Name the Elf Game
- Guess how many sweets Game
- Where's Santa Game
- Christmas Jumper Stall
- Broom House Farm Truck with Food and Drink

Thanks so much! FOSS team x

**Parent Governor Vacancy**

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor. All parents other than those employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year or who are elected members of the Local Authority (LA) are eligible to stand for election. This includes any person who is not the natural parent but has parental responsibility for or who has care of a pupil registered at the school (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

If you are interested in becoming a Governor please contact school for a nomination form. The completed and duly signed nomination form should be returned to school by Monday 6th December. Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary. Should a ballot be required each parent will be sent a voting form.

When the process has been finalised school will inform the parent body via our weekly bulletin and website. School and Governor Support Service will write formally to all nominees confirming the outcome of the ballot.

**ECO**

**We really need your help!** We will be collecting plastic and tech right up to the Christmas holidays. If you have any of the following, please bring them in to school and help us with our recycle to read challenge:

- Broken or old plastic toys (no batteries or electrical elements)
- Any old tech, which is still working: e.g. mobile phones, wireless speakers, tablets, MP3 players, wearable tech (fit bits etc) and digital cameras. Items can be donated without chargers and cables and it isn't a problem if they have a cracked screen. Please can we ask that batteries are removed before they come into school. If they are part of the device, they are still fine to hand in

Thank you to everyone in advance – we really appreciate all your help!

**Parental Support for SEND**

There are a number of organisations and support networks for children with SEND. If you would like further information please do get in touch with the School office.

**St. Mary's Church Notice**

Advent Windows 2021 – Create a window display on themes of Light and Hope at Christmas. Use coloured tissue paper and light card to make a picture to be lit up at any time from Sunday 28th November. For advice or more information contact Bill Rigby 07734068668 or Julie Goodhart 07519601285.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Extra Bank Holiday**

As you may be aware, an extra bank holiday has been announced for 3 June 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As on previous similar occasions (e.g. the 2012 Diamond Jubilee or 2011 Royal Wedding), the DfE has therefore amended the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations to reduce the school year 2021/22 for maintained schools to a minimum of 189 days, in order to allow schools to close that day or on another day.

Schools not already on half term break on the day of the bank holiday will be able to close that day. Most schools will, however, be on half term at the time of the bank holiday. This change to the Regulations will allow maintained schools to be able to close at another time to give staff and students an extra day off.

In line with other Durham County Council schools, Shincliffe CE Primary School are taking Tuesday 4th January as their extra Bank Holiday. Our INSET day will move to Wednesday 5th January 2022. Children will return to school on Thursday 6th January 2022.

For more information please go to our website:

https://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-holidays/

**Salvation Army – Christmas Present Appeal**

Many Salvation Army churches and centres across the UK will be running a Christmas Present Appeal, collecting donated presents until mid-December.

Please support your local Christmas Present Appeal by finding your nearest appeal and donating new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present.

The gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need.

**How to find your local appeal**

To find out where to donate your gift or for more information on the Christmas Present Appeal please contact your local Salvation Army church or centre.

**https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal**

**Suggested Gift List for Children and Young People**

We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so we are unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal.

- **0-3 years:** dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles
- **3-5:** dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- **5-9:** educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- **9-12:** games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- **13-16:** books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

Over the years, millions of children and young people have benefited from gifts donated to The Salvation Army.

By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference in someone's life at Christmas.

**Covid-19 Local Authority Update**

*In recent weeks, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases across County Durham. In particular, there is a marked increase within school-age children which, as you know, is impacting on students and staff. The vaccination programme continues to roll out and is proving effective in reducing serious illness and deaths, however, we are noticing an increase in hospital admissions of patients with Covid-19. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.*

*In response to this we believe it is important to take proactive steps to reduce the spread of infection, bring cases down, and minimising the risk of further disruption to education. Our priority remains, to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to-face education and minimise any disruption.*

*LFD Testing advice*

*We would recommend you have a supply of LFD testing kits at home in the event you are requested to use them. You can order home testing kits to be delivered to your home here [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) Or you can collect LFD kits at Community Collect sites across the County. To find your nearest collection point please enter your post code here maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk. If you pick up tests from a pharmacy, you may be asked for a 'collect code' this helps the NHS match your details to the tests. To get a 'collect code' please visit test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits Please register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result*

*What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19*

*The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:*

*· new continuous cough and/or*

*· high temperature and/or*

*· a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

*If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. Book a free PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test . If positive, your child should*

*isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111. If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 full days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. You must always register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result*

*Help, support, and further information.*

*To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details. There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk*

*Finally, we would like to thank you for everything you've done to keep your family and community safe, and for your patience in continuing to support our school during this challenging time.*

**Christian Values**

We are exploring the value of compassion this half term and worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Fr. Peter, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill and our Key Stage Two pupils.

*More information on this half term's value:*

Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone. The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others.

In the Gospels we find many stories of Jesus showing compassion to the sick and the downtrodden of society. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. In the school community this means showing kindness and respect to each other. It is related to the way in which new people are welcomed into the school family and nurtured and supported. It is reflected in the ways in which members of the community support each other through difficult times, such as bereavement. Christians would say that God Himself is the perfect example of community—the three persons of the Trinity are bound together in the ultimate closeness which makes them one. In a church school the idea of community will always be a strong one— schools share a common life and common goals—we aim to nurture and sustain all our members.

We would like our children to continue their reflection and experience at home.
Some things to think about:

- In what ways do we encourage members of the school community to show kindness and respect to one another?
- How do we foster links with charities for those in need?
- How are new members of the school community nurtured and supported?
- How does the school help, and encourage pupils to understand and empathise with members of their community who have suffered traumatic experiences, e.g. bereavement?

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net

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

**Friends of Shincliffe School**

# Christmas Fair

**Saturday 4th December 2021**
**11am-1pm**
**£1 entry per family**

**Whatever the Weather Grand Christmas Raffle** is coming where you could win some great prizes including:

- M&S luxury hamper
- Sweety Hamper
- Family Pass to Durham Botanic Gardens
- Family climbing taster at Durham Climbing Centre
- Free play at Dragonflies Soft Play
- Voucher for tea and cake for two at Betty Bees
- Gift Voucher for Mugwump
- Christmas Tree from East Grange Farm
- Meet the alpacas experience
- La chocolatrice gift box
- Bottle of Alberlour Whiskey

Please find attached some raffle tickets that you can buy in advance ready for the fair. The tickets are £1 each with a book of five being £5. Could you please return the ticket money with the completed ticket stubs or any unused tickets in an envelope back to school by **Friday 26th November.** Good Luck in the Raffle! From the FOSS Team.

## WHAT WE NEED

To make the event as fun as possible please could anyone supply the following:

- Fairy lights preferably battery operated to borrow for the day
- Donations of:
  - Cakes and Biscuits
  - Bottles and bottle bags for mystery bottle stall
  - Soft toys, books, games and toys in good condition for toy tombola
  - Kids Christmas Jumpers

# Whatever the Weather

## Christmas Fair

**Saturday 4th December 2021**
**11am-1pm**
**£1 entry per family**

TOMBOLAS

SANTA'S GROTTO!

XMAS JUMPER SALE

BROOMHOUSE FARM TRUCK SELLING TOASTIES, HOT DOGS, HOT DRINKS AND BAKED GOODS

TREASURE HUNT

CAKE STALL

NAME THE ELF AND MANY OTHER FUN STALLS

RAFFLE

XMAS CRAFT ACTIVITY

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