Weekly Bulletin 10th December 2021

Headteacher's Message

We extend our thanks to FOSS for ensuring that our Christmas Fair was such a fantastic success. A total of £900 was raised for school funds and will be used to further enrich the school curriculum. Yesterday, the children enjoyed their Christmas lunch and I am delighted, that as a result of your generosity, we have raised £178 for Save the Children as part of our Christmas Jumper Day.

We have enjoyed an International Week packed full of activities. Our theme this year has been winter wildlife around the world. The children have very much enjoyed learning about 'snow animals' around the world and how they survive winter conditions as well as looking at the '12 birds of Christmas' and taking part in craft activities. Our thanks to Mrs Claydon for coordinating this work.

I again thank parents for supporting us in keeping children, staff and the community safe by following all of our Covid measures. This continues to be of vital importance as we enter the last school week before Christmas. By continuing to follow the measures we are able to prevent the virus spreading as far as possible and hopefully prevent the need for any self and family isolation over the Christmas period.

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 ECO work in school and an update on this is shared below.

Stay safe and well,

Mr Rumbles

ECO update

This week in school, we have been successful in receiving a delivery of 30 sapling hedgerow plant from the Woodlands Trust. This included species of dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple and dogwood.

The children in Year 4 have successfully planted these saplings around the perimeter of the Secret Garden; which will provide food and habitats for wildlife and help towards climate change.

As well as benefiting our school, the free trees will count towards an incredible nationwide tree-planting projects.

- The Queen's Green Canopy marks The Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II. Everyone is invited to plant a tree, creating a network across the UK and a green legacy in honour of The Queen's service.

- The Big Climate Fightback an initiative to get the UK involved in planting 50 million trees to help combat the climate crisis.

These are projects we feel very passionate about in school and we look forward to creating a change to our outside environment in the forthcoming year.

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 Parties
Week beginning 13th December
The children are invited to come to school wearing appropriate party clothes on the day of their party. The children will have party games and fun activities and we will provide children with a snack. Each child will receive a gift of a book thanks to the support of FOSS.

Rec – Thursday 16th December
Y1 & Y2 – Tuesday 14th December
Y3 & Y4 – Wednesday 15th December
Y5 & Y6 – Friday 17th December

Christmas Nativity Performances
At present, 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 (please see dates below).

KS2 Singalong
The singalong for KS2 will be different compared to previous years. It will be held outside in the school grounds. It will begin at 3pm and finish at 3.20pm. Children and adults will be encouraged to singalong to carols and popular Christmas songs. Please do indicate to your child/children if you are intending on coming to the event.

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.

Tuesday 14th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am – Y1 parents only
Tuesday 14th December – Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15th December – Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am – Rec parents only
Thursday 16th December – Reception Christmas Party
Thursday 16th December- Infant Nativity 10:00am – Y2 parents only
Thursday 16th December – KS2 Christmas outdoor singalong - 3pm Parents welcome.
Friday 17th December – Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party
Friday 17th December – Christmas Service 10am (children only)
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

Parent Governor Vacancy

This week you will have received ballot papers for our Parent Governor Vacancies. Please can you cast your votes and return, at the latest, by Thursday 16th December. We will then will arrange for the votes to be counted and the candidates and the Chairman of the Governing Body will be present if they wish.

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.

A Parent Governor will hold office for four years from the date of appointment (notified by the LA) unless he or she resigns or is disqualified. A Parent Governor does not have to relinquish the post when his/her child/ren leave the school.

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 or Mrs Richardson who is our SENCO.

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 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.