



Weekly Bulletin 14th January 2022

Headteacher's Message

Our Year 6 children, along with Mrs Richardson, Mrs Marsden and Mrs Caygill are currently enjoying 3 days at the Robinwood Outdoor Activity Centre in Alston as part of our Year 6 class residential visit. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children (and staff too!) to engage in various activities including climbing, canoeing, problem solving and a Piranha pool! The children are developing new skills and independence. I know that the younger children in school look forward to their opportunity to visit once they are in Year 6.

By today, you will have received a home-school links sheet from your child's class teacher or able to access an online version. This details the ways in which you can support your child with their studies as well as informing you of the curriculum content to be covered during this half term in each subject area. I encourage you to read it and to use it as a basis for discussing with your child what they are learning about in school.

We are continuing to closely monitor punctuality each morning and I draw your attention to the information below. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is on time for school so that they are ready to begin learning promptly.

I have shared the latest updates below with regards current Covid guidelines. We want to keep the 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(s) if they are in different Key Stages. Please ensure your children stand with you and are not running around the waiting area.

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 PE in school and Mr Gowan has shared an update on this below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

PE

This half-term our Y1 and Y2 classes are working with a specialist dance teacher from Durham and Chester-Le-Street SSP in their curriculum lessons. They will be working on whole-class dance routines to perform at the Gala Theatre in March and parents/carers will be able to purchase tickets for this event shortly. Our Y4 and Y5 classes are also receiving specialist support from a gymnastic coach in their PE lessons. We have also subsidised a selection of extra-curricular clubs this half-term giving children further opportunities in Dance, Gymnastics and Games.

COVID-19 Guidance

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#). If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Changes to testing

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Daily testing for close contacts for Covid-19

The public health advice also states that those close contacts who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months *“should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time”*.

Punctuality

We continue to monitor punctuality daily. We request that all parents ensure that their children arrive promptly for the beginning of the school day. This not only means that pupils are present and ready for teaching at the beginning of the morning session but also teaches pupils the importance of meeting deadlines and showing respect for others who may be impacted by poor time-keeping. In cases of persistent lateness, the services of the Education Welfare Officer will be enlisted to support families in meeting their obligation to ensure that their children attend school on time.

Dates

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

Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th February – Parents’ Consultation Evenings

Friday 18th February – Break up for February half term holiday

Monday 28th February – School re-opens for Spring Term 2

Thursday 7th April – Break up for the Easter holiday

Monday 25th April – School re-opens for Summer term 1

Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday

Monday 9th – Thursday 12th - May Y6 SATS week

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.

Online Safety

Many children will, no doubt, have received tablets, mobile phones or other electronic devices as gifts this Christmas. In order to support you in ensuring your children remain safe online, a range of resources are available via the school website. Please do make use of these.

St. Mary's Church Notice

Wild Church

Epiphany Celebration: 4.00 pm Sat 22nd Jan outside St. Mary's Church. Refreshment, making rustic stars and short service. All ages, all welcome. Check St. Mary's Shincliffe Facebook site in case weather causes cancellation.

WILD CHURCH SPRING TERM DIARY

Sat 17th Feb Wild Church World Social Justice Day: 4.00 p.m. Meet outside St. Mary's - prayer station, bring a tin or pasta for an extra foodbank collection, making string telephones.

TBC Sat March 19 or 26 Wild Church International Forest Day: Refreshment, short service, paper trees, tree identification, plant-a- tree, March Marian Garden.

SAT 16TH April Looking to Easter: St. Patrick: Meet outside Church, its Easter Weekend. Refreshment, ceramic lights to paint, re-telling and building of St. Patrick's Easter fire, prayer station, Celtic (Northumbrian style) prayers and a short service.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of peace this half term. Worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

Some further information about this half term's value, Peace:

The biblical concept of peace is not just the absence of war. It includes peace with God, positive harmony and healthy relationships between people. It involves spiritual as well as material security. Peace, in the sense of total well-being for the whole of creation, is the ultimate goal. Matthew 5:9 says **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"**.

In the school context peace-making actions can include everything from conflict resolution to creating times and places for stillness and reflection.

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

Some things to think about:

- • How do you feel when you are peaceful?
- • What sort of things make you feel peaceful?
- • How important is peace in your life?
- • Do you have a special place where you feel peaceful?

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.

