



Weekly Bulletin 4th February 2022

Headteacher's Message

It has been another busy week in school where the children have been able to engage in a range of learning opportunities. Concluding today we have celebrated our Lunar New Year Activity Week. The week has not only been enjoyable but has also given us the opportunity to celebrate difference and learn more about the rich traditions in different communities. A big thank you to Mrs Claydon for leading the pupils in celebrating the Lunar New Year. Activities for Year 6 continue tomorrow at Durham Town Hall. We have also celebrated Number Day and raised money to support the work of the NSPCC. My thanks go to the School Council and Mrs Richardson for helping to organise this.

I again wish to thank parents for working with us in order to keep pupils, staff and the school community safe. The protective measures we have implemented have helped to reduce the cases and children in all classes can return to their normal drop-off and pick-up times as well as participating in after-school clubs. Your cooperation and understanding have been greatly appreciated.

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 the work of our ECO team and they have shared an update below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

ECO update

Thank you to everyone who donated old plastic toys and unwanted tech to our 'Recycle to Read scheme'. Recycle to Read is a campaign that rewards schools for collecting unwanted plastic toys and tech for recycling and reuse, in exchange for books. Our boxes have been collected and we will let you know how much money we have raised towards books for school.

Parents' Consultation Evenings

To keep staff and the school community safe we will be holding our Parents' Consultation evenings online again. After receiving mostly positive feedback from our last consultations in October we have made some changes. If the connection isn't working teachers will telephone and if you need to discuss things further the class teacher will contact you at a separate time. An invite to book your appointment time will be sent out today.

Punctuality

All classes have now returned to normal drop-off times which is between 8.45am and 8.55am. 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.

COVID-19 Guidance – message from the DFE

The Prime Minister announced on 19th January that the temporary introduction of Plan B is to end. As a result, the Plan B measures for schools are being removed. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. We have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to revise this guidance and this is updated below:

Face coverings

From 20 January, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms. From 27 January, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas. From 27 January, staff and pupils should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school.

Vaccination

We recommend all school staff and eligible pupils take up the offer of a vaccine. You can find out more about the in-school vaccination programme in COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people guidance for schools.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

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 temporarily suspended. 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”.

Dates

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

Saturday 5th February 2.30pm – 2.45pm – Y6 Lunar New Year at Durham Town Hall

Tuesday 8th February - Safer Internet Day

Monday 7th- Friday - 11th February Children’s Mental Health Week

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

Monday 4th April – Reception Zoolab Workshop

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

St. Mary’s Church Notice

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.

Durham University Holiday Camps

Durham University are back running sport and activity camps from Monday 21st to Friday 25th February at their state of the art Sports and Wellbeing Park. The camps are available to all 5-11 year olds and can be booked on a day to day basis. Costs are £15 per day (09.30am-4.30pm) with a small charge for wraparound care from 08.30am and until 5.30pm each day.

Click the link here to see a short video about what happens at our Holiday Camps.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=you+tube+durham+university+holiday+camps&docid=608029024122065778&mid=11E62CA1B8DC0CD280A911E62CA1B8DC0CD280A9&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

To book a place for your child, please click here.

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details/?id=1805>