



## Weekly Bulletin 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Headteacher's Message

I thank all of you who took the time to respond to our recent parental survey. The views of our parents are vitally important to us and the information gathered from the surveys will enable us to continue to work successfully with parents and carers for the benefit of your children. It is by working in partnership that we can fulfil our Ethos Statement to encourage all to 'use their gifts and talents' and 'develop the highest levels of academic achievement and personal well-being within a loving Christian context'.

The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive, with over 95% of responses in all categories (apart from Online Parents' Consultation Evenings) either strongly agreeing or agreeing with the statements. This is testament to the strong partnership between home and school. It is heartening to see that the efforts and dedication of the staff combined with strong parental support is bearing much fruit.

A number of issues were raised in the survey and we respond to these below:

*The School supports my child's wider personal development.* The 'strongly agree' responses were lower in this category than in others. There are many areas that we are working on across school that will help with the personal development of your child. These include our Christian values which are thankfulness, compassion, endurance, creativity, humility, justice, peace, wisdom and hope, and they are used as the basis for our work to support pupils' character development. We are also working on the Christian Aid inspired 'Global Neighbours' programme in order to support SMSC development within school. This aims to support schools in equipping children with the knowledge, skills and confidence to act against inequality and work towards a world free of poverty. By helping children claim their voice as global citizens, participation in the scheme helps children to become courageous advocates. As well as this, we use our PSHE curriculum to facilitate learning around health and well-being, relationships and living in the wider world. In school there are a range of opportunities provided to stretch and develop pupils' skills and talents. This includes sports provision (specialist coaches), leadership opportunities, educational visits, residential visits and visitors to school. Some of these activities have been curtailed of late due to Covid but it is hoped that there will be a full resumption in the coming months. Should any parent wish to discuss their child's personal development then please speak to the class teacher.

*My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.* The 'strongly agree' responses were lower in this category than in others. We understand that offering both before and after school care would assist many parents with their childcare arrangements. However, the only space we have available at school is the hall and were this to be used for either before or after school care then we would be unable to offer the clubs and extra-curricular activities we currently offer. Our view is that after school clubs are to provide *enrichment* and *opportunity*.

The Governing Body has in the past considered these issues and the statement outlining the provision the school makes and the rationale behind this is on the website and copied below:

‘Upon occasion, parents raise the issue of before and after school provision. This is something that has been considered by the Governing Body. As a school we are aware that offering ‘wrap-around’ before and after school care would assist many parents with their childcare arrangements. Similarly, we greatly value the current range of after school activities that we provide and the notable impact they have on both the depth and breadth of the educational experience we offer and pupils’ social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

The need for teachers to use their own classrooms as spaces for planning, preparation and assessment activities both before and at the end of the school day means that the only space we have available at school is the hall and were this to be used for either before or after school care then we would be unable to offer the clubs and extra-curricular activities we currently offer. After careful consideration of the situation, therefore we intend to continue with the current provision and arrangements for before and after school clubs and activities.’

As part of the commitment detailed above, we constantly look towards offering additional clubs. The recent development of the Art and Eco Club being examples of this. It is also hoped that we will be able to offer clubs to our Reception class in the summer term.

*I would like the school to continue to use Online Parents’ Consultation Evenings.* The overwhelming response to this question was that parents/carers would like to see a return to face to face meetings. Whilst the online meetings were helpful, many additional written comments expressed the desire to come into school and see the environment their children are working in. We are planning a number of opportunities for parents to come into school. These include; a reading café, class assembly and our open evening in the Summer term. Details of these events will be shared in the coming months.

At Shincliffe we aim to work in partnership with parents for the benefit and well-being of your children. If parents are concerned about any matter then please do make an appointment and I will be more than happy to meet with you.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

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 Science in school and Miss Newman has shared an update below:

#### **British Science week - 11th – 20th March 2022**

As part of British Science week, each class in school will be using resources from our recently-purchased OAA scheme to have an outdoor science-themed lesson next week. Classes will also be considering the theme of ‘Growth’ and will do a range of activities looking at all sorts of growth, including buildings, eco-friendly behaviours, animals and even how we can grow plants on Mars!'

### **Ukraine Aid Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated medical supplies, blankets and sleeping bags. The lorry has been packed and is heading to the Romanian/Ukraine border where the items will be distributed amongst the Ukrainian refugees. We will continue to pray for an end to the conflict in Ukraine and if there are further opportunities to help in a practical way the future we will update you.



### **First Aid Update**

A Public Access Trauma First Aid Kit (PACT) is a first aid kit which supports the treatment of immediate, life threatening injuries such as major bleeding and those who are unresponsive with absent or abnormal breathing. The PACT first aid kit can be used by ANY person regardless of their level of First Aid Training and supports the first aid effort until such time as the emergency services arrive. If needed, the Kit is available from the office upon request.

### **Traffic in the Vicinity of the School**

As you will be aware, we work in partnership with the Parish Council and Durham Police to address issues of parking and access to the school by car. We have received a number of complaints from residents and parents that cars are driving along the pavements. I ask all parents to consider the safety of our children and drive responsibly when using the roads within Shincliffe. This is in order to ensure the safety of all of our children. This could include leaving the estate by the Whitwell Acres exit then this would reduce the flow out of the estate via Heathways. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

### **Parental SEND Support**

One of our parents is offering to set up a parental SEND support group via Whatsapp. It will be an opportunity to share resources, provide support and guidance. If you are interested in this then contact the office and we can pass on the details.

### **Dance Festival**

Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be participating in the Dance Festival at the Gala Theatre on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Please note this will be the afternoon session.

Tickets for our school's performances will go on sale from the Gala Box Office at 10am on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Our parents will need to purchase their own tickets directly from the Gala Theatre on 03000 266600 for the 13.55-14.50 performance on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 when contacting the Box Office. Below are the details we have received from Durham and CLS SSP regarding the Dance Festival.

*There is a limit of 200 audience members per show. Each school will be allocated an audience slot (i.e. the first set of performances of that festival or the second. This doubles the capacity of the audience and means that each class/group get to perform their routine twice). Anyone wishing to attend must purchase a ticket (including*

children up to 12 months attending and not taking up a seat – these tickets will cost £1) from the box office at the **Gala Theatre – in person, or over the telephone (03000 266 600). Tickets for the performance will cost £5 each. No audience members will be allowed in the theatre without a ticket due to fire regulations. When booking tickets at the box office there will be a limit of 4 per person, this includes any schools wishing to book tickets.**

### **FOSS School Disco**

Tonight - Friday 11th March in the school hall

Infants 5.45-6.45pm

Juniors 7-8pm

### **Dates**

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

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March – FOSS School Disco

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March Book Fayre and Reading Cafe

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Reception Zoolab Workshop

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 9:15am – Easter Service – All welcome

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 9:15am - Y3 and Y4 Easter Assembly

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Break up for the Easter holiday

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – School re-opens for Summer term 1

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Bank Holiday

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May Y6 SATS week

### **St. Mary's Church Notice**

**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 justice and worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Peter, Fr Bill and the pupils.

*Some further information on this half term's value:*

Justice is . . . . .

Looking after each other so that everyone has a fair share of what they need.

Justice and mercy are key themes of the writings of the Old Testament prophets. Biblical justice is **more** than fairness and equality, it is a strong bias towards the weak, the poor and the socially disadvantaged are cared for, whether they 'deserve' it or not. In God's eyes every person is precious and oppression or discrimination, on any grounds, has no place. God's justice is gracious—He always acts justly and he calls on people to do the same.

*Some things to think about:*

- • How can we take responsibility for one another?
- • How can we ensure all are treated fairly?
- • How and why do we support charities in our school?
- • *How can we be inspired to recognise injustice in the world and think about our own role in fighting it?*

'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.