



Weekly Bulletin 3rd February 2023

Headteacher's Message

This week our children in years 1 to 6 have had the opportunity to experience New Age Kurling which has involved pushing or sliding Kurling Stones at a range of targets. As well as this, children in Reception have had balance bike training which you can read about below. Both experiences have been opportunities to enhance the curriculum and teach new skills.

Our Parents' evening booking system will go live on Monday 6th February and we will again be offering both face to face appointments and a night set aside for online video-call appointments for pupils in Y1 to Y6 (See below for information for Reception children). It is hoped this will allow greater flexibility for parents/carers and the opportunity for as many as possible to attend and learn about their child's progress so far this term. Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th (3:40-5:30pm) will be held in school with the class teacher and Wednesday 15th (3:40-5pm) will be held online. There will be an online booking form for you to choose either an in-person appointment or a video-call. The link for this will be sent out on Monday so please ensure your contact details are up-to-date with the School office. If you have any problems securing an appointment please contact the School office. Progress reports will be sent home on Friday 10th October.

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 School Council and they have shared an update on this below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

School Council

As a School Council we met to discuss ideas to make the school better. We decided to support Mental Health Week which begins on Monday 6th February and we have lots and lots of ideas! This year the theme is Let's Connect. To represent this, we have lots of ideas like paperchains to string around the hall, speed friending where you have 10-15 seconds to make a friend and much more. We look forward to sharing what we do.

Yours sincerely,

William Hulse: Chair
Ewan Scott: Secretary

Balance Bikes

The children in Reception Class have had the fantastic opportunity to work with staff from Durham Council on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of this week. They worked in small groups to learn how to balance on the bikes whilst moving in straight lines, using their feet to push them along initially. Later on, as their bike control improved, they were able to steer their bikes carefully to travel around different pathways such as in a circle, along wiggly lines etc. The children absolutely loved the experience and we would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and superb behaviour throughout all of the sessions.



Reception Class Parents Evening

The Reception Class Parents Evening will be on a drop-in basis, between 3.30 - 4.30pm on each evening from Monday 13th to Thursday 16th February. Mrs Short and Mrs Silvester will both be available for all of the sessions, allowing Reception parents/carers to speak to them alongside looking through their children's work. The drop-in sessions have been allocated to a house/colour group for each night (please see below) and we shall be splitting each session into 2x half-hour slots this time. A form has been sent with your child to indicate which time slot best suits.

Monday 13th February - Yellow Aidan Parents

Tuesday 14th February - Blue Bede Parents

Wednesday 15th February - Red Cuthbert Parents

Thursday 16th February - Green Godric Parents

Safer Internet Day and Online Safety

Next Tuesday, 7th February, is the annual Safer Internet Day. As a school we will be marking the day with information and awareness-raising class-based activities for the children. Staying safe online is everyone's responsibility. It might be helpful to think about:

- Where you keep devices – Keep them in public areas of the house!
- What is being shared- checking the settings carefully.
- Who are your child's online friends?

Further information to support parents:

The school will help children to learn about staying safe online, but recognises that the primary responsibility for online safety at home lies with parents and carers. Your help is needed to help your children adopt safe use of the digital technologies at home.

It is important that we are all vigilant when children are using devices and act to ensure they are protected from people who may pose a risk to them. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content, comments or activity online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

We know that new apps and sites appear daily online and it would be unrealistic to ask parents and carers to understand all of them. The sites and services that your child likes to use may change regularly, but the messages they need to keep themselves safe will remain the same – think before you post, be kind online and ask for help if something makes you feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.

If your child wishes to download a new app then we would recommend considering some of the following points:

Listen

- Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk with them about how they use technology.
 - Ask your child why they want to use the app? How did they hear about it?
- Discuss with them how they will keep themselves safe and make sure they know:
 - How to block and report other users and content
 - To speak to a trusted adult if they see anything or something happens online that makes them feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.
 - About websites such as Child Line and CEOP? www.childline.org.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Functionality

- Make sure that you understand how the app works so you can decide if you are happy for your child to use it. You may even wish to set up an account yourself first.
- Consider:
 - Does it allow video chat or the sharing of images?
 - Does it allow user to communicate with 'random' strangers?
 - Does it allow anonymous chat?
 - Does it allow in-app purchases?
 - Can you restrict access to the content that your child shares?
 - How will your child's personal data be used by the app?

Reviews

- What do other people (i.e. other parents and carers) have to say about the app?
 - Ask your friends and family members or take a look online. You may be able to find reviews via search engines or using tools such as www.net-aware.org.uk and www.commonsensemedia.org

Age Restrictions

- You can usually find age restrictions within the app's terms and conditions. This is not the same as the app/google store rating.
- The age limit for many popular social networking sites is thirteen. This is due to American Legislation called COPPA. The age limit is not based on suitability of content and instead applies to any website, app or online service which collects, stores or uses children's personal

information. Some apps will have age limits of 18+ as they are exclusively designed for use by adults.

- If children use apps that are aimed at an older age group then this may leave them vulnerable to being exposed to unsuitable content (including advertising), as well as being contacted by strangers.

Safety

- Many popular apps will have 'help' and 'safety' sections, either within the app itself or via its website. Some apps will even have content specifically designed for parents and carers.
 - www.saferinternet.org.uk has some useful parent guides which highlight safety tools on popular devices, and signpost to report mechanisms.
- Does the app have any privacy settings? If so then help your child to apply them appropriately – for example is it possible to set the app so that only trusted friends can see information they post?
- Explore the block and report features. Can your child block or report concerning users or inappropriate behaviour?
- If the app doesn't have safety or help sections, or doesn't provide the ability to report and block, then you may wish to consider if it is safe for your child to use.

Boundaries

- Talk to your child about safe and appropriate online behaviour.
- Consider setting up a family agreement regarding how their internet use will be supervised and how long they can spend online. Resources to help can be found at www.childnet.com and www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/
- Apply appropriate parental controls to all devices: www.saferinternet.org.uk and www.internetmatters.org
- Discuss your expectations about the types of content and information they should share online, rules relating to adding friends and meeting people in real life.
- Do they understand:
 - That content posted online should never be considered to be private and may be copied and shared?
 - That they should behave online the same as they would in "the real world" and be kind?
 - How to be secure online such as by using safe and strong passwords. You can visit www.getsafeonline.org.uk for more advice

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or criminal offence has been committed then you can report your concerns to the Police or First Contact (Durham County Council). Please do not notify suspicious profiles of your actions, as this could enable them to delete material which might be required for any Police investigations. You can contact the Police via 101 or via 999 if there is an immediate risk to a child's safety or First Contact (Durham County Council) on 03000 26 79 79. You can also report online sexual abuse to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the "Click CEOP" reporting button.

If the school can be of any further assistance, then please contact Mr Rumbles and Mrs Claydon via the School Office. Additional information and resources are available via the school website.

Dates

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

Monday 6th February-Friday 10th February – Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th February – Safer Internet Day
Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th February – Face-to-Face Parents’ Consultation Evenings
Monday 13th – Thursday 16th February – Reception Parents’ Consultation (letter sent home today)
Wednesday 15th February – Online Parents’ Consultation Evenings
Friday 17th February – School closes for half-term holiday
Monday 27th February – School re-opens
Tuesday 7th March – Y5 Visit to Yorkshire Museum of Farming
Monday 27th March – Reception Zoolab workshop
Thursday 22nd March – Y2 Visit to Shildon Museum
Friday 31st March – School closes for Easter holidays
Tuesday 18th April – School re-opens
Monday 1st May – School closed for May bank holiday
WC Monday 8th May 2023 - Y6 SATS week

St. Mary’s Church Notice

Wild Church

4.00 pm Sat 11th Feb: Wild Church: Celebrating international whale day (Outside St. Mary's)
Meet: Outside St. Mary’s Church. Refreshments, fire pit and mallows, model whale papercraft, building an ocean food web, whale habitat big game, prayer station, whale music, short service with music. Bring some food for Foodbank donation. (We have two inflatable whales!).

4.00 pm Sat 18th March, Wild Church: Celebrating St. Patrick and the Trinity (to start, Meet in the Church Hall)

4.00 pm Sat 1st April Wild Church: A Celebration for Palm Sunday Eve (Outside St. Mary's)

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of hope this half term.

Worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Fr. Bill, Mrs Matthews and Fr. Peter.

Some further information about this half term’s value:

This half term we are focussing on hope as our whole school Christian Value.

The Christian understanding of hope is much deeper than our everyday use of the word can be. We hope that it will not rain for the picnic, or that the car will start or that the plumber will come tomorrow.

Hope is a universal human phenomenon. People hope for peace in time of war; food in time of famine; justice in time of oppression. Where hope is lost there is despair and disintegration.

Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times.

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.

