



Weekly Bulletin 15th September 2023

Headteacher's Message

I hope you are all keeping well and your week has been productive and enjoyable. School life is up and running and it has been great to see pupils settle so well into school routines. As part of our school vision we want to develop a caring and compassionate community and so it was wonderful to hear of examples of how some of our older children have been supporting our youngest pupils both in and out of school.

As you know, it is very important to us to continually try to reduce congestion near school and to promote a safe and healthy environment for our pupils, staff, parents and local residents. Maintaining good relationships with our neighbours is vitally important for our school. I would, therefore, remind you to be considerate when parking and not to block our neighbours' driveways/access at any time or to block pavements.

For safety reasons, please do not park directly in front of the school gates at any time. Please drive with extreme caution and care if you do need to access Beal Walk. Beal Walk and surrounding roads do not have pavements and are often used by our children, so it is dangerous to drive whilst people are walking to and from school. I thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Each week I want to include a 'snapshot' of some of the things that the children are doing 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 Safeguarding children and an update is shared below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

Safeguarding- information for parents

Definition of Safeguarding

This can be summarised as:

- o Protecting children from maltreatment
- o Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- o Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to aspects of school life including:

- o Pupils' health and safety

- o Meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- o Providing first aid
- o Educational visits
- o Internet or e-safety
- o Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security

Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:

- o cyberbullying (by text message, on social networking sites, and so on)
- o Racist, disability, and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- o Radicalisation and extremist behaviour
- o Child sexual exploitation
- o Sexting
- o Substance misuse
- o Peer on Peer abuse
- o Sexual harassment and sexual violence
- o Issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence
- o Particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and forced marriage

Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website.

Training

- 5 members of staff are currently trained in Level 2 safeguarding and child protection:

Mr P Rumbles (Headteacher), Mrs L Richardson (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs N Claydon (Acting Deputy Headteacher), Mrs H Armstrong (Year 2 teacher) and Mrs V Short (EYFS lead)

All other staff and governors have been trained in Level 1 safeguarding and child protection. Mr Rumbles, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Claydon, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Short regularly access additional training, for example in Female Genital Mutilation, Prevent, Online Safety, Child Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse.

Online Safety Information

There are many positives associated with the Internet and children are increasingly using the Internet for both education and play. As a school, we believe that online safety education is a crucial element of the curriculum and an essential part of young people's development. To raise awareness of the issues that children and young people face online today, the school carries out many age appropriate activities, including participating in the 'Safer Internet Day' organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre as well as half termly online safety lessons. The UK Safer Internet Centre website contains information which is very useful for parents to support the work done in school and ensure that our children keep safe whilst using the ever-expanding growth of mobile technology. The online safety section of our school website will provide you with links to really useful advice on how children can safely use the Internet together with some great tips on how to keep safe.

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor. All parents other than those employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year or who are elected members of the Local Authority (LA) are eligible to

stand for election. This includes any person who is not the natural parent but has parental responsibility for or who has care of a pupil registered at the school (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

If you are interested in becoming a Governor please contact school for a nomination form. The completed and duly signed nomination form should be returned to school by Monday 2nd October. Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary. Should a ballot be required each parent will be sent a link posted on the school website for the duration of the poll, and all parents will have an opportunity to vote using the website voting form.

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.

School Uniform

The school uniform is:

Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers

White polo shirt

Navy sweatshirt / cardigan

Sensible, black school shoes

In warmer weather children may wear a blue and white school dress or grey shorts.

For **PE Days** children require:

House colour t-shirt and jumper, shorts (black or navy), jogging bottoms and/or leggings (black or navy) and appropriate trainers

Polo shirts, sweatshirts, cardigans, fleeces, shower-proof jackets, rainproof jackets, house t-shirts & sweatshirts, and book bags with the school logo can be ordered through school. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 19th September – Y6 Trip to Eden Camp

Thursday 28th September – Y5 Trip to Iskcon Temple

Friday 27th October – School closes for Autumn half term holiday

Monday 6th November – School re-opens after half term holiday

January – Robinwood Residential Y6

Noticeboard

- **DATA COLLECTION** - Please inform the school office if there are any changes to personal contact details - for example addresses, phone numbers or emergency contacts.
- **Packed Lunch**- If your child is wishing to change to *Packed Lunches* please inform the school office with one week's notice.

- **PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT** - Consent is required every school year and will last for the duration of that school year unless consent is withdrawn. Please can you complete the Photographic Consent forms for your child and return to the School office.
- **MUSIC LESSONS** - Brass and Violin lessons start next week - Week commencing Monday 11th September. Guitar lessons start WC Monday 18th September. If your child plays a music instrument please ensure they have their instrument on the day of their lesson:
 - BRASS – Monday
 - GUITAR – Monday
 - VIOLIN – Friday

Medical

- A reminder that we are only able to administer prescribed medications at school once parents have completed the required consent form. All medication must be delivered to and collected from the office by an adult.
- Packed Lunch Children – please ensure your child’s packed lunch is **NUT FREE** as we have children in the school who have an allergy to nuts.

WILD CHURCH IS BACK!

We welcome everyone back to Wild Church this Autumn, the full programme is being finalised this week, but put the next session in your diary if you can. See you then.

SAT 23TH SEPT 4.00 pm Outside St. Mary’s: The Gaia - Creationtide

Activities: making impact craters, the inflatable solar system, marshmallows and fire pit, planet prayer station, planet quiz and a short service. Foodbank donations welcome.

Starting School - Will your child turn 5 between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025?

Applications open 5 September 2023 and close midnight 15 January 2024.

If so, you need to complete an application online to tell us which school you would like your child to attend from September 2024.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. The easiest way to apply is online, if you are unable to apply online, paper application forms are available on request.

You still need to apply even if your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school, or already has a sibling at the school. You will also need to apply for a place in Year 3 in a junior school for an older child.

For more information please contact School Places and Admissions Team

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Tel: 03000 265896

YEAR 6 PARENTS - Application for a Secondary School Place – September 2024

As you will be aware, your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September next year. The application process will be open on 5 September 2023. You will need to read the School Admissions online guidance for parents which is located on the School Admissions web page. This contains essential information that will help you in making your child's application. The guidance is available on our website www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions You must only complete one application and this must be to the Local Authority to which you pay your council tax (i.e. Home Local Authority).

If you live in County Durham, you need to complete an application to tell us which school you want your child to attend. You should list up to 3 school preferences and applying for just 1 school Does Not improve your chances of gaining a place at that school. You can apply for any school/academy in County Durham or in another Local Authority area.

Please apply on-line at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions When you apply on-line you will receive an acknowledgement and you will be offered a school place for your child by email on 1 March 2024. Please save your log-in details as you may need these at a later date.

Please note that school places are allocated according to specific criteria which are different depending upon which school you apply for your child to attend. One criterion is "nearest school". If you wish to know your nearest school, please contact us.

If your child's offer of a school place is for an oversubscribed school (i.e. where there are more applications for a school than places available) we will offer your child a school place based on the child's/parent's address. We may request information on the child's/parent's address when we offer a school place and the onus will be on you to prove your address if asked.

If you do not wish to apply on-line, you can contact the School Admissions Team by email or telephone to request a form. Email: schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or telephone

03000 265 896. Your application must be received by us at the address below by the closing date. We strongly advise you to return the application form to us by "Royal Mail Signed for™" or "Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed". If you complete a paper application form you will receive a letter to inform you of the school place offered to your child on the 1 March 2024.

Please note for both on-line applications and paper application forms, you will be required to read the disclaimer and sign/tick the box to agree that the information you provide on the application form is complete and correct otherwise the offer of a school place will be withdrawn.

The closing date for receipt for on-line/paper application forms is 31 October 2023.

Yours sincerely DCC School Places and Admissions Team.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of endurance this half term and worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Fr. Peter, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill and our Key Stage Two pupils.

Further information on the value of endurance:

Endurance - is recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity.

Jesus endured rejection, abuse and the cross, and his followers are warned that they may well have to share that pain as persecution took hold. Discipleship is depicted as 'taking up the cross daily' and following in Jesus' footsteps (Luke 9:23).

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

Some things to think about:

- How do we give pupils a better appreciation of the difficult situations that many people in the world have to endure and of the courage and resilience they show in the face of them?
- How do you help pupils understand that some things are worth working for even though they do not bring immediate results? How do we develop patience?
- What encourages and inspires you to persevere through difficult times in life?

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.



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