



## **Weekly Bulletin 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### **Headteacher's Message**

It has been another busy week in school with children engaging in a range of activities in lessons and in after-school clubs. A particular highlight has been our Y5/Y6 Girl's football team who have played two matches this week with the conclusion of their league next Wednesday. Their attitude and teamwork were exemplary and they have been a credit to the school. As well as this, Reception class and KS1 have begun preparations for their Christmas Nativity. Details of all the Christmas arrangements are shared below.

We continue to monitor punctuality daily. We request that all parents ensure that their children arrive promptly for the beginning of the school day (between 8.45am and 8.55am). This not only means that pupils are present and ready for teaching at the beginning of the morning session but it 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. I thank parents for their continued support.

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 the work of our ECO Club and Mrs Claydon has shared an update below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

### **ECO Club**

We have had a very busy time in Eco Club with Year 1 and 2 this half term. The raised beds have been cleared and we have collected all the seeds from last summer's sunflowers and are saving them, ready to plant next spring. This week, we started on our preparations for an Eco themed tree for the Festival of Trees which will be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm. We have decided to link our tree to the RSPB Big Schools Bird watch and have been thinking about all the birds we might see in our gardens over the winter and how we can help to look after them. Next week is the final week to complete our design so we will have a busy last session. Thank you to all the children who have attended!

## **Christmas Arrangements**

Below are details of the various Christmas events that will be taking place in school.

### **FOSS Christmas Fair - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 3:30 - 5pm**

Come join us for this year's Christmas fair for fun and games and of course a special visit from Father Christmas. Stalls will include, cakes, mystery bottles, guess the snowman's birthday, crafts to name but a few. There will be refreshments too.

If anyone can help with donations we are looking for the following:

- Cakes to sell at the cake stall - Please drop off at School on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December or Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December morning
- Kids Christmas jumpers - We are running a Xmas jumper stall at the fair
- Bottles and bottle bags for the mystery bottle stall
- Books for book stall

Any donations you can give would be much appreciated. We will also have our ever-popular raffle and whilst we already have some great prizes, we would be very grateful for some more prize donations. If you have a prize you would like to offer please email FOSS.Shincliffe@gmail.com.

Also if anyone is available to help out on the day either with preparation or with any of the stalls please get in touch via the FOSS Facebook page or email us at FOSS.Shincliffe@gmail.com.

Thank you so much from the FOSS team.

## **Christmas Lunch**

*Thursday 14th December*

Our Kitchen team will be cooking a traditional Christmas lunch for the children and staff to enjoy. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch and they do not usually have a school meal, please inform the School office by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. This will also be Christmas Jumper Day and our School Council are inviting children to wear a Christmas jumper. If you don't have a Christmas jumper you can wear Christmas colours like red or green. All other uniform must still be worn. Children are invited to donate a suggested amount of £1. The collected donation will be sent on to St Cuthbert's Hospice.

## **Christmas Parties**

*Week beginning 18th December*

The children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes on the day of their party. Please ensure that they still have sensible shoes and a warm coat. The children will have party games and fun activities and be provided with a snack. As well as this, each child will receive a gift of a book thanks to the support of FOSS.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December AM – Y1 and Y2 Party

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December PM – Reception Party

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December AM – Y3 and Y4 Party

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December PM – Y5 and Y6 Party

## **International Christmas and Craft Week**

*Week beginning 11th December*

This year, we will be focusing on the different countries from around the world that are represented in our School community. Each class will be taking part in a range of activities to help learn about the Christmas traditions of their chosen country.

### **Christmas Nativity Performances and KS2 Singalong**

We will be holding nativities this year and there will be 2 tickets per family and each performance will begin at 10am on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December. Reception parents, please continue to support your child in learning their lines.

The Singalong for KS2 will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> December beginning at 2:45pm. Parents are invited to come and join KS2 in singing a variety of carols and Christmas songs.

### **Christmas Cards**

We know that the children enjoy sharing cards with one another. We request, therefore, that all cards are brought into school between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. They will then be distributed by our Year 6 children. Alternatively, there will also be an opportunity for children to post a message to the rest of the school on our eco-friendly Christmas trees located in the hall and at the School Office.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

Father Peter, Y6 Worship Group and the Worship Choir will be leading our Christmas Service, helping us to reflect on the Joy and Peace of Christmas. The service will begin at 10am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December in school followed by refreshments afterwards provided by FOSS.

### **Diary Dates**

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

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Y3 Visit to the Great North Museum

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Advent Eucharist – 9.05am

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 3:30-5:00pm – FOSS Christmas Fair

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Performance Reception and KS1 - 10am

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Performance Reception and KS1 - 10am

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Christmas Singalong – 2.45pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Community Worship – 10am

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – School closes for Christmas holiday

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – School reopens after Christmas holiday

January 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – Robinwood Residential Y6

### **Noticeboard**

- **All Brass:** There is no brass lesson on Monday 11th December but it will be on Thursday 14th December instead.

### **Wild Church**

SAT 25th NOV: CHRIST THE KING PARTY (in Church Hall) – Jesus' Kingdom includes the everyone and overlooked people, e.g. the poor and also the natural world. Children's party today, King Crowns and preparation for Advent and Tree Festival (e.g. Choc money tree, why we choose Wild Church Sustainable Tree.) Table-top toasting mallows if it rains, Christ the King activities and Short Service: Foodbank donations welcome.

### SUNDAY 3RD DEC: ADVENT SUNDAY P.M. FESTIVAL

9.30 Holy Communion with special focus on children and Advent activities

5.00 pm - 6.30 **Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's (Fundraiser for Church Hall Heating.)**

Come to St. Mary's church where there will be over twenty different festive themed trees. Its £2.50 for adults, free for children. You can pay on the door. There will also be a craft stall so you might want to bring some cash or a card.

Later, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, at 6.00 pm there begins a Wine and Cheese in the Church Hall - £10 per head - tickets from Julie Goodhart, Margaret Charters, Eileen Marchant or at the door. (inc. Tree Festival)

### **Christian Values**

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

*More information on this half term's value:*

Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone. The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others.

In the Gospels we find many stories of Jesus showing compassion to the sick and the downtrodden of society. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. In the school community this means showing kindness and respect to each other. It is related to the way in which new people are welcomed into the school family and nurtured and supported. It is reflected in the ways in which members of the community support each other through difficult times, such as bereavement. Christians would say that God Himself is the perfect example of community—the three persons of the Trinity are bound together in the ultimate closeness which makes them one. In a church school the idea of community will always be a strong one— schools share a common life and common goals—we aim to nurture and sustain all our members.

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

Some things to think about:

- In what ways do we encourage members of the school community to show kindness and respect to one another?
- How do we foster links with charities for those in need?
- How are new members of the school community nurtured and supported?
- How does the school help, and encourage pupils to understand and empathise with members of their community who have suffered traumatic experiences, e.g. bereavement?

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.



# Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church  
**5pm Sunday 3rd December**

All welcome to this heating fundraiser.  
**£2.50 donation for adults and children free**

**Followed by CHEESE AND WINE**

**£10 donation inc. the Christmas Tree Festival  
5.30pm in the Hall**

**TREE TICKETS and CHEESE AND WINE TICKETS**

from Julie Goodhart, Margaret Charters and Eileen Marchant or on the night.



## DECORATING A TREE

If you want to join in by decorating a tree - let us know - so that we can plan tables/spaces.

[juliannegoodhart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliannegoodhart@hotmail.co.uk)  
or [mscharters@hotmail.com](mailto:mscharters@hotmail.com)

Open to all groups and all ages, get your tree and let your creativity roam - go freestyle or do one around anything ending in tree or try or y e.g. Christmas Tree, country, book tree, shoe tree, entry, community etc.

Church is Open 2.00pm - 3.30 pm on 3rd Dec to set up the trees.





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