



Weekly Bulletin 1st December 2023

Headteacher's Message

Christmas preparations are well and truly under way and with the fall of snow it is starting to feel and look a lot like Christmas. Next week, we will be hosting our annual Christmas Fair which is taking place on Thursday 7th December at school (3:30pm-5pm). The FOSS team have put a considerable amount of effort into preparing for, and organising, the Fair and it would be good to see a high level of support.

I also draw your attention to our Advent Eucharist on Thursday 7th December at 9:05am. This will be led by Fr. Peter, the Worship Choir and children from the Year 6 Worship Group. You are warmly invited to attend.

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 computing in school and an update is shared below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

Computing

On Wednesday 29th November, our Year 4 students were invited to attend a Computer Science and Engineering Activity Day at Durham University. The students had a fantastic time completing Pirate-themed challenges to develop skills in cipherring, decoding, programming and understanding algorithms, as well as building on their Science knowledge of sound, which they are studying this half term. We are excited to use these skills more in our future learning.

Christmas Arrangements

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

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 4th and Friday 15th 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.

FOSS Christmas Fair - Thursday 7th 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 6th December or Thursday 7th 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 30th 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 18th December AM – Y1 and Y2 Party

Monday 18th December PM – Reception Party

Tuesday 19th December AM – Y3 and Y4 Party

Tuesday 19th 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 12th and 13th December. Reception parents, please continue to support your child in learning their lines.

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

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 15th 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 5th December – Y3 Visit to the Great North Museum

Thursday 7th December - Advent Eucharist – 9.05am

Thursday 7th December 3:30-5:00pm – FOSS Christmas Fair

Tuesday 12th December - Nativity Performance Reception and KS1 - 10am

Wednesday 13th December - Nativity Performance Reception and KS1 - 10am

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December – KS2 Christmas Singalong – 2.45pm

Friday 15th December - Christmas Community Worship – 10am

Tuesday 19th December – School closes for Christmas holiday

Thursday 4th January 2024 – School reopens after Christmas holiday

January 10th-12th – Robinwood Residential Y6

Noticeboard

- **All Brass:** There is no brass lesson on Monday 11th December but it will be on Thursday 14th December instead.
- **GUITAR LESSONS** – From WC Monday 4th December, the guitar lessons will move from a Monday to Friday afternoon.
- **Thursday After-School Sports Club** – This club is **CANCELLED** on Thursday 7th December, due to the Christmas Fair.

Wild Church

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 3rd 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)

Advent Windows

'Countdown to Christmas'

Create your own Advent Window to light up this season of celebrations. Use coloured tissue paper to show stars, candles, Nativity scene or other Christmas related picture. Put it onto the inside of an outward facing window, backlight in the evenings and 'job done'. Enjoy the creativity and seeing what others have made.

Fr Bill

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 The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the parents' section of the website.

Friends of Shincliffe School



Christmas Fair

Thursday 7th December

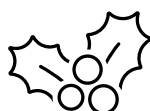
3:30 – 5.00



Come join us for this year's Christmas fair for some festive fun and of course a special visit from Father Christmas. There will be lots of games, face-painting, Christmas craft activities, bottle stall, sweet stall, book stall, Christmas jumper stall as well as refreshments and of course the big raffle.

Where you could win some great prizes including:

- Overnight stay at the Dolphin Hotel, Whitby
- Hamper
- Christmas Wreath from East Grange Farm
- Family climbing taster at Durham Climbing Centre
- Free play at Dragonflies Soft Play
- Alnwick Gardens day entry ticket
- Poplar Tree Garden Centre voucher
- Durham Distillery – Gin making experience
- Broom House Farm Forest Adventure
- The Avenue voucher



To make the event as fun as possible please could anyone supply the following:

- Cakes
- Books
- Bottles
- Xmas jumpers

All donations can be dropped off at the school from next week.

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

FOSS.shincliffe@gmail.com



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
or 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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Holiday Club
Member and
recieve
reduced rates!



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CLUB**



FOOTBALL CLUB



**LEGO CLUB
CLUB**

Come and Join us in the lead-up to Christmas and in the New Year.
Wednesday 20th - Friday 23rd December & Tuesday 2nd - Wednesday 3rd
January

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