



## **Weekly Bulletin 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

### **Headteacher's Message**

Our Parents' evening booking system will go live on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> (3:40-5:30pm) will be held in school with the class teacher and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> (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 9<sup>th</sup> February.

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 our THRIVE work in school and Mrs Caygill, our Mental Health Lead, has shared an update below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

### **Mental Health Week**

Next week we will be supporting Children's Mental Health Week which begins on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. This year the theme is "My voice matters". Every child has the right to express their views and feel they are being considered and taken seriously. During the week we will be providing the children with time, space, and opportunities to express themselves. Children have many opportunities throughout the year to influence aspects of their school life through our School Council meetings. If you would like further information about Children's Mental Health Week or you would like some activities to complete as a family please click on the link <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Mrs Caygill

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 12th February - Yellow Aidan Parents

Tuesday 13th February - Blue Bede Parents

Wednesday 14th February - Red Cuthbert Parents

Thursday 15th February - Green Godric Parents

### **FOSS – Shrove Tuesday Fundraising**

The Avenue are partnering with FOSS on Pancake Day to help raise funds for school. The event will take place on Shrove Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 3.30pm. All are invited to visit The Avenue, who will supply the pancakes and toppings for the children (and any adults wishing to partake!) and ask for a donation from any visiting families that will then go to FOSS to further support school.

### **Safer Internet Day and Online Safety**

Next Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.childline.org.uk) and [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://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](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) and [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.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](http://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](http://www.childnet.com) and [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/)

- Apply appropriate parental controls to all devices: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) and [www.internetmatters.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 Richardson via the School Office. Additional information and resources are available via the school website.

#### **WILD CHURCH SPRING PROGRAMME**

4.00 p.m. **Sat 10<sup>th</sup> February: Wild Church : Plough Traditions in the New Year** – Meet: In St. Mary’s Church Hall: Refreshments, fire pit and mallows, raking to composting, choosing seeds, prayer station, short service with music. **Bring:** ‘leaf hands’ or sweeping brush or rake/ a dust pan and a cash donation for Tear Fund farmers seed project.

9.30 am. Sun 10<sup>th</sup> March **Mother’s Day Service at St. Mary’s.** JG will be speaking and there will be children’s activities and distribution of flowers. Foodbank donations can be made at every 9.30 service.

4.00 pm **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March: Wild Church CELIDH** with Chris Wagstaffe and his band, Pizzas today. **Bring :**a cowboy hat if you wish. To pay for the band, its £5 per adult, children free. Tickets from Julie Goodhart 0191 3869047 or Lucy Roberts or Lizzie Pexton.

4.00 p.m. **Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April: Candlelit/Flare Vigil for Climate Justice** Meet outside church. Activities: fire pit, refreshments, (lent pancakes), Lollipop Cards, followed by a Short service. **Bring :**a food donation for the foodbank.

#### **Diary Dates**

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

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February – Children’s Mental Health Week

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – FOSS School Disco

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Y5 Lunar New Year celebrations – Dunelm House  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February – In Person Parents’ Consultation Evenings  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Online Parents’ Consultation Evenings  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February Reception Parents’ Consultation Evenings  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – School closes for half-term holiday  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – School re-opens  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – School closes for Easter holidays  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – School re-opens  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – School closed for May bank holiday  
WC Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Y6 SATS week

### **Christian Vision and Values**

Our school vision is rooted in Jesus’ promise that he has ‘come that you may have life, and have it to the full.’ To help us understand and live out this vision we look at certain Christian values which, as a school community, we believe are important.

We are exploring the value of peace this half term. Worship will be led by Mr Rumbles, Mrs Matthews, Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the pupils.

*Some further information about this half term’s value:*

The biblical concept of peace is not just the absence of war. It includes peace with God, positive harmony and healthy relationships between people. It involves spiritual as well as material security. Peace, in the sense of total well-being for the whole of creation, is the ultimate goal. Matthew 5:9 says “**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God**”.

In the school context, peace-making actions can include everything from conflict resolution to creating times and places for stillness and reflection.

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

*Some things to think about:*

- How do you feel when you are peaceful?
- What sort of things make you feel peaceful?
- How important is peace in your life?
- Do you have a special place where you feel peaceful?

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.

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# WHEN

- **FEBRUARY 2024** Monday 12th February - Friday 23rd February
- **EASTER 2024** Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 12th April
- **MAY 2024** Tuesday 28th May - Friday 31st May
- **SUMMER 2024** - Monday 22nd July - Friday 3rd September
- **OCTOBER 2024** - Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November
- **CHRISTMAS 2024** - TBC

# WHAT

- MULTISPORTS
- TABLE TENNIS
- COMPUTER GAMES
- LEGO
- ARTS AND CRAFTS
- FOOTBALL

**"My little boy has been to simply sports club last summer but always with a friend. He went this time alone and as any mam can imagine I was beside myself as he is only 6 and still my baby! The staff at simply sport have been amazing! He has had a fabulous time and is asking when he is there next and even said the coaches were cool! Thank you simply sport, it's lovely to not worry and know my boy is happy and enjoying himself! I would highly recommend the club!"**

**Parent Facebook review**

# TO BOOK

Head over to our websites holiday club section:  
[www.simplysportltd.co.uk/holiday-club](http://www.simplysportltd.co.uk/holiday-club)

Any Questions? email: [info@simplysportltd.co.uk](mailto:info@simplysportltd.co.uk)

# February Holiday Camps

- Multi-sports (5 - 12 years)
- Dance (5 - 9 years)

**19 February - 23 February**



[durham.ac.uk/holiday-camps](https://durham.ac.uk/holiday-camps)

Sports and Wellbeing Park, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3SE  
Free onsite car parking

