



Weekly Bulletin 10th May 2024

Headteacher's Message

This week our Year 1 children performed their assembly to the school and it was wonderful to see the children share what they have been learning in class and the many different things we can be thankful for. Thank you to all who attended.

Next week is SATs week - national assessments for our Year 6 pupils. We are mindful of all of the hard work undertaken by both children and staff in preparation for these tests and wish the children every success next week.

Can I remind you to complete the annual survey for parents and carers. Please do take the time to complete this and return it to school by the 17th May. The views of parents and carers are invaluable to us and support us in both celebrating all that is good in the life of the school as well as helping us to focus on future developments. I thank you in anticipation for your support.

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 we have a number of updates from FOSS, Y4 and Reception and they are shared below.

Best wishes,

Mr Rumbles

Friends of Shincliffe School (FOSS) update

Summer Fair Update – FOSS have decided this year to sell drinks and ice-creams/lollies after Sports Day, on Monday 1st July, as opposed to running the Summer Fair later that same week. We'll run the ever-popular raffle as well, so look out for tickets which will be sent out a few weeks in advance of Sports Day. As always donations to the raffle are very welcome so please email foss.shincliffe@gmail.com if you can contribute. Please also get in touch if you are able to help with drinks and ice creams on the day.

Orienteering Event – Summer Term 2 – details to follow.

Y4 – Cathedral Visit

On Wednesday, the sun shone for Year 4's pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral. We enjoyed taking time to reflect on why people go on pilgrimages and explore how pilgrims use Durham Cathedral to deepen their relationship with God even today. One of the highlights included a reflection of peace, where we wrote a thought or prayer about peace onto a paper dove. This will go towards making a grand piece of artwork which will be displayed at the Cathedral between 26th July-4th September. Other highlights included completing a Pilgrim Passport gathering information about Northern Saints and learning more about the features of Durham Cathedral.

Mrs Crook

Reception - Balance Bikes

The children in Reception Class have had the fantastic opportunity to work with staff from Durham Council on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. They worked in small groups in the hall 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 and their awareness of others who were also on bikes improved, they were able to steer their bikes carefully to travel around different pathways such as in a circle, along wiggly lines & around objects 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.

Mrs Short

ECO Club - Recycle to Read Batteries Collection

Our school is recycling batteries to protect the planet (and for a chance to win book vouchers for the school).

How can you help?

1. Hunt out used batteries at home. We are collecting AA, AAA, C, D, 9V and button batteries.
2. Tape over the contacts of lithium (Li) and button batteries (see below).
3. Put them in a tied plastic bag (preferably reused)
4. Take them to the school's collection point.
5. Enter the prize draw at jointhepod.org/win

Safety first:

Not only is storing and recycling batteries safely great for the environment, it can also help reduce risks associated with batteries:

- Batteries can cause serious injury or death if swallowed, please keep batteries out of reach of small children and pets.
- Lithium and button batteries need to be taped so their contacts don't touch, as they could short circuit if they do.

Use sticky tape over the contacts (top and bottom of batteries). Button batteries can be placed in a line between two sections of sticky tape. Lithium batteries can look like any battery, but they will have lithium (Li) written on them.

Many thanks for your support and happy battery hunting! To find out more, head to: jointhepod.org/batteries

Mrs Claydon

High Shincliffe Park

We remain conscious that a number of children visit the park after school, however, parents have reported that children have been unkind during this time. Whilst this is outside of school hours I would encourage all children to play in a kind and considerate manner with those in the park.

Wild Church – St Mary’s

4.00 p.m. Sat 11th May Wild Church: ANNUAL CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE - Meet outside St Mary's Church. Activities: Refreshments-, Drum Circle, the prayer wall, marrowfat pea shoot planting, take home pea shoots, seed potato planting, short service with Elizabeth representing Christian Aid, campfire etc. **(Young Leaders (11+) Meet at 3.00pm for drum practice, setting up and rehearsal.** Collection for Christian Aid.

Diary Dates

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

WC Monday 13th May 2023 - Y6 SATS week
Tuesday 21st May – Reception Hardwick Park
Thursday 23rd May – Y4 Quadjkids Competition
Thursday 23rd May – Pentecost Eucharist – 9:05am All Welcome
Friday 24th May – School closes for Spring half term holiday
Tuesday 4th June – School re-opens after Summer half term holiday
Tuesday 4th June – Y4 Vindolanda
Wednesday 12th June – Y2 St Mary’s Lighthouse
Wednesday 12th June – KS2 Durham Dash (Team selection TBC)
Tuesday 18th June – Y5 Beamish Trip
Wednesday 19th June – Y2 Class assembly – 9:05am
Wednesday 19th June – Y3 Oriental Museum
Tuesday 25th June – Y1 Hall Hill Farm
Monday 1st July – Sports Day and FOSS Summer Fair – 1.15pm (Reserve date – Tuesday 9th July)
Friday 5th July – Monday 8th July – French Trip – Y5 and Y6
Monday 15th July at 2.45pm – Y6 Leavers’ Assembly – Y6 Parents Welcome
Friday 19th July at 10am – Y6 Leavers’ Service at St Mary’s Y6 Parents Welcome - refreshments served afterwards by St Mary’s parishioners
Friday 19th July – School closes for Summer holiday
Wednesday 4th September – School Re-opens for Autumn Term 2024/25
Wednesday 8th January 2025 – Friday 10th January 2025 – Y6 Trip to Robinwood

Year 6 Transition Dates

Belmont - 10th & 11th July
Framwellgate - 28th June
Johnston - 5th July (provisional - they are still trying to come up with an alternative date for children going to France)
Sedgefield - 4th and 5th July
St Leonards - 11th and 12th July plus a half day (am) visit for children from non-feeder schools on 6th June.

Christian Values

We are exploring the value of thankfulness and 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:

This half term we are focussing on Thankfulness as our whole school Christian Value. We will be looking at why being thankful is important and discussing what the children are thankful for in their lives.

Some things to think about:

- How can we express our appreciation and thankfulness in the life of the school?
- How can we demonstrate that we see the good things of life as a blessing and a gift rather than a right?
- How can we be thankful for more than just material possessions?

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the Parents' section of the website.



ST LEONARD'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FOR EVERYONE



OPEN DOOR EVENING MONDAY 20TH MAY, 5-7PM

Welcome: We would like to invite all interested families and pupils to see our brand new temporary school site, 'Our Lady of Help' in action and hear about the exciting plans for our state-of-the-art new school. Please come along at any time. There will also be a brief 10 minute presentation at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Everyone is warmly welcome.

£45+ million investment: St Leonard's is the first RAAC school in the country to be rebuilt, due for completion in Easter 2026. With over £45 million being invested in both our new build and temporary site, we wish to take this as an opportunity to further serve our community, which we have been doing for over 90 years.

For everyone: Many people think Catholic schools are only for Catholic pupils. The opposite is true. Catholic schools are here to serve the whole community. We are open to all pupils, regardless of faith. Across the country, c.40% of pupils in Catholic schools come from a variety of faith backgrounds and none. Any questions on admissions, contact Nicola Callender on: ncallender@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk

Community use: We want our new building to serve the wider community. We are especially interested in supporting groups with a similar ethos who could possibly offer our pupils opportunities to serve. Early expressions of interest are very welcome to Kate Woodall on to kwoodall@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk

PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN
ALL AND FOR ALL

TAKE CHRIST AS
THE MODEL FOR LIFE

STRIVE TO CREATE
COMMUNITY



Family Community: We are a family community with wonderful pupils and caring staff. Our vision is to ensure: All pupils are loved and known.

Care: Pupils are able to learn in a calm, encouraging and purposeful environment.

Behaviour: Is exceptional at the school with pupils feeling safe to be themselves and to treat each other with dignity.

Enrichment: We believe in the development of the whole person. We offer over 60 clubs and societies: Rowing, Orchestra, Choir, Chess and Sports to name a few.

Academic Excellence: We are amongst the top 3 performing schools in the North East for both GCSE results and University entrance.

More information: Please see our website for up-to-date information about our school and building programme: stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com



**ST LEONARD'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

FOR EVERYONE

Proud to be part of



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in partnership,
enabling all to flourish.