



Weekly Bulletin 12th September 2025

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 we begin the new term, I draw your attention to the work of FOSS (Friends of Shincliffe School) our community association group that support the school through various events and fundraising activities. In the past, this included our annual Christmas and Summer Fairs, Christmas shopping evenings, termly school discos, science shows, craft activities, coffee afternoons and much more. The money raised has supported each and every child in school through funding for school trips, Christmas celebrations and equipment to name but a few. We are currently looking for people to run the group and if this is something you would be able to help with then please do contact the school office. The FOSS AGM will be held in school on Thursday 25th September at 7pm and all are welcome to attend to find out ways in which you can be involved.

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

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

Mr P Rumbles (Headteacher), Mrs L Richardson (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 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.

FUNDamental skills club for Reception and Year 1– Wednesday after school.

In this club children will do a range of fun activities to support them in physical activities, sport, boost their confidence and set them up for active, healthy lives. The session will include a mix of fun and engaging activities and games which help running, jumping, balance, throwing, catching and challenges, all aiming to keep engagement high and develop confident movers. If you would like your child to attend then please contact the school office.

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 16th September – Teaching and Learning meeting for Reception parents – 4-5pm
Tuesday 23rd September – Y6 Trip to Eden Camp
Thursday 25th September – Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church – 10am – all welcome
Thursday 25th September – FOSS AGM at 7pm – all welcome
Friday 26th September – Y6 Modern Foreign Languages Day at Durham High School
Tuesday 30th September – Y5 Trip to Iskcon Temple
Monday 20th October – Wednesday 22nd October - Y1 to Y6 Parents' Consultation Evening
Monday 20th October to Thursday 23rd October – Reception Parents' Consultation Evening
Friday 24th October – School closes for Autumn half term holiday
Monday 3rd November – School re-opens after half term holiday
Monday 10th November – Wednesday 13th November - SEND Parents' Consultation Evening
Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance Service – 9.05am at School – all welcome
Thursday 20th November – Y5 Class Assembly – 9.05am
Friday 28th November - Advent Eucharist – 9.05am – all welcome
Thursday 4th December – Reception Nativity - 9.10am
Wednesday 10th December – KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.05am
Thursday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15th December – KS2 Christmas Singalong – 2.45pm
Friday 19th December - Christmas Community Worship – 9.05am
Wednesday 7th January 2026 – Friday 9th January 2026 – Y6 Trip to Robinwood
Tuesday 10th March 2026 – Y5 Murton Park Trip
Monday 22nd June 2026 - Sports Day – 1.15pm onwards
Friday 3rd – Monday 6th July 2026 – France Residential for Y5/6

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.

- **Secondary School Open evenings are taking place this term.** Visit each school's website for more information.

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 and we aim to be a nut free school.

Wild Church

We hope you all had a wonderful summer. Harvest has come early and the apple harvest too. We invite everyone to Apple Day at 4.00 pm on Sat 20th September outside St. Mary's. We are very pleased that this year we have an apple macerator and an apple press so we are going to make apple juice as one of the activities.

4.00 p.m. Saturday 20th Sept WILD CHURCH APPLE DAY. Meet outside St. Mary's. Activities: Refreshments with apples, Apple bobbing, apple pressing, fruit prints, apple identification table, apple quilling, apple harvest prayers and a short service. All welcome it's a community event.

Sunday 21st Sept 9.30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist at St. Mary's

4.00 p.m. Saturday 18th October ANIMAL WELFARE DAY: Wild Church Meet outside church - service 4.15 prompt today. Introduce your favourite animal-by bringing a picture, wobble animal craft. Dogs welcome ON LEADS only. Hamsters, Guinea Pigs in cages etc. (Cats get v. distressed around dogs- so sorry but please, no lovely cats today, not even in a cage.)

10.00 pm Sat 1st November ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE: Church Hall

5.00 pm – 7.00 FRI 28th Nov. CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:

Sat 20th Dec 5.30 pm CAROLS AROUND THE TREE with NATIVITY: Shincliffe Green
(In church if the weather is poor) Afterwards: Mince pies in the Church Hall

Starting School - Will your child turn 5 between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027?

Applications open 1 September 2025 and close midnight 15 January 2026.

If so, you need to complete an application online to tell us which school you would like your child to attend from September 2026.

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 2026

As you will be aware, your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September next year. **The application process will open on 1 September 2025.** 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 receive an email on 2 March 2026 containing a link to obtain your offer of a school place from the Document Download Portal. **Please save your log-in details.**

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 2 March 2026.

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 2025.

Yours sincerely,

School Places and Admissions Team.

Christian Values

Our school vision is rooted in Jesus' promise in John 10 v 10, that he has 'come that you may have life - life in all its fullness.' 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 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. Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the parents' section of the website.



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For more information please contact

School Places and Admissions Team

🌐 www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

☎ 03000 265896



FREE TICKETS

FOR CHILDREN 16 & UNDER!



DURHAM V CHARLTON
SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
12PM KICK-OFF



SCAN HERE

OR VISIT
DURHAMWFC.TICKETCO.EVENTS

USE THE
PROMO CODE
LIONESSES25





September Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Understanding Addictive Behaviour	15 Sep 10am
Supporting A Child With ADHD	15 Sep 7pm
Improving Family Communication	16 Sep 10am
Autism Improving Communication	16 Sep 7pm
Facing Defiance	22 Sep 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	22 Sep 7pm
Understanding Anger	23 Sep 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	23 Sep 7pm
FREE Facing Defiance	25 Sep 7-8pm
Introduction To OCD	29 Sep 10am
What Is ACT?	29 Sep 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	30 Sep 10am
Anxiety Explained	30 Sep 7pm
Understanding The Teenage Brain	6 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	6 Oct 7pm