



Weekly Bulletin 21st November 2025

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 Class Worship where the children led us in thinking more about our Christian Value of 'Compassion'. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in attendance and to hear the difference that compassion can have in our lives. As well as this, Reception class and KS1 have begun preparations for their Christmas Nativities. Details of all the Christmas arrangements are again shared below.

We have also had inspectors from SIAMS visit this week. I wish to thank parents for speaking to the inspectors and for being so supportive during the process. When the report is complete, I will share their findings with you all.

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, Global Champions and SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group). This week our focus is on computing and Mrs Crook has shared an update below.

Best wishes

Mr Rumbles

Computing

On Wednesday 19th November, Year 4 went to Durham University to learn interesting discoveries about Computer Science. We took part in three activities: understanding and creating code breaking messages; making animals with Lego and trying to explain how to make it to our partners; and graph colouring where we had to colour in connected circles in graphs based on rules. We all really enjoyed the day at Durham University and are excited to work with one of the Durham students in January.

Mrs Crook

Parent Governor Vacancy

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders in setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor. All parents other than those employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year or who are elected members of the Local Authority (LA) are eligible to stand for election. This includes any person who is not the natural parent but has parental responsibility for or who has care of a pupil registered at the school (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact school for a nomination form. The completed and duly signed nomination form should be returned to school by Monday 24th November. Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary. Should a ballot be required each parent will be sent a voting slip and all parents will have an opportunity to vote using the voting form. These can then be returned to school via your child or dropped off at the school office within a set timeframe.

When the process has been finalised school will inform the parent body via our weekly bulletin and website. School and Governor Support Service will write formally to all nominees confirming the outcome of the ballot.

Christmas Arrangements

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

Advent Eucharist

This will take place on Friday 28th November at 9.05am. It is an opportunity to celebrate the beginning of Advent and take part in the Eucharist. All are welcome.

Christmas Nativity Performances and KS2 Singalong

This year we will be holding separate nativities for Reception and KS1. The Reception class will be performing their nativity 'Wriggly Nativity' on **Thursday 4th December at 9.10am**. The children in KS1 (Y1 and Y2) will be performing 'Lights of the World' on **Wednesday 10th December at 9.05am**. All parents are welcome to attend, these will not be ticketed performances as in previous years. Can parents please continue to support your child in learning their lines.

The Singalong for KS2 will be on **Monday 15th December beginning at 2:45pm**. Parents are invited to come and join KS2 in singing a variety of carols and Christmas songs.

Christmas Fair – Monday 8th December 3:30 – 4.30pm

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, and games from Year 6. There will be refreshments too.

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

- Bottles and bottle bags for the mystery bottle stall

If anyone is available to help out on the day either with preparation or with any of the stalls, please contact the school office.

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 10th 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 Friday 28th 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 CHUF-Children's Heart Unit Fund our chosen charity for the year.

Christmas Parties

Week beginning 15th 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.

Tuesday 16th December AM – Y1 and Y2 Party

Tuesday 16th December PM – Y3 and Y4 Party

Wednesday 17th December AM – Reception Party

Wednesday 17th December PM – Y5 and Y6 Party

International Christmas and Craft Week

Week beginning 15th 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 Cards

We know that the children enjoy sharing cards with one another. We request, therefore, that all cards are brought into school between Monday 1st and Monday 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.

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 9am on Friday 19th December in school followed by refreshments afterwards.

Diary Dates

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

Friday 28th November - Advent Eucharist – 9.05am – all welcome

Thursday 4th December – Reception Nativity - 9.10am

Wednesday 10th December – KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.05am

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Lunch

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

Thursday 12th March – Y2 Trip to Shildon Science Museum
Monday 30th March – Reception visit from Zoolab
Monday 11th May-Thursday 14th May 2026 – KS2 SATs
Monday 22nd June 2026 - Sports Day – 1.15pm onwards
Friday 3rd – Monday 6th July 2026 – France Residential for Y5/6

Wild Church

Don't forget the Christmas Tree Festival is next weekend Friday 28th November at 5.30 pm
£2.50 adults and children free - trees to see and a Knit and Natter and Craft Stall for items too.

Hope to see you then!

Plus Advent Sunday 30th Nov 9.30 Communion and there will be a Children's Activity at the back.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

5.00 pm FRIDAY 28th November ALL WELCOME, there will also be gifts to purchase from Knit and Natter and a Craft Table

And Saturday 29th November CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL OPEN 10-12.00 Noon

Children free: £2.50 per adult Doors Close 12.00

Arrangements: contact Julie@ juliannegoodhart@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to do a tree and we will prepare a label

SET UP YOUR TREE Friday 28th at 4.00 pm for 5.00 pm opening

RETRIEVE TREES Sat 29th November 12.00 Noon- 1.00pm or

RETRIEVE TREES. Sun 30th November 10.30- 11.00 pm

ADVENT SUNDAY COMMUNION

9.30 am Sunday 30th Nov. There will be a children's activity table

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

School Vision and 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 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.



Merry Christmas!



December 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)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm



November Timetable

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Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm



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