



Shanklea Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Helen Brown
B.Ed(Priamry)Hons, Dip.(Humanities) NPQH

Telephone : 01670 715205

Email: admin@shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

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Nairn Road, Parkside Chase, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 1RQ

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Newsletter

It's been another busy week at Shanklea with lots of learning and laughter. Children and staff continue to work hard amidst the festive celebrations.

Early closure of schools and absences ahead of the end of term

We've had a number of queries from families about closing early for Christmas, particularly to avoid the possible need for staff and/or students to self-isolate during the Christmas holidays should they get the virus or become a close contact of a positive case.

The best place for children to be is in school, which is why the government said last week that there is no need for schools to close early for Christmas.

In a press release issued last week, the DfE said: "There remain no plans for schools to close early for Christmas, to extend the holidays or to implement rota systems." And the prime minister's plan has also said that schools should not close early.



The winter plan published by the Cabinet Office last week said: "Nurseries, schools and colleges should not change their Christmas holidays or close early this term. "Parents should continue to send their children to school during term time and students should continue to attend college right up until the end of term – our senior clinicians continue to advise that the best place for children and young people is in education.

A time-limited change to social restrictions over Christmas does not require any children to be taken out of school prematurely. The leaders and staff of education settings have been doing an extraordinary job to remain open, keep settings safe and provide education."

Northumberland County Council has advised that schools should remain open for face to face teaching until the end of the Autumn term. Following the latest tier announcement from the Government, the expectation from the Department for Education (DfE) is that schools are to remain open. Therefore, if you were to decide to withdraw your child/ren for the last week of term, this absence would be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Shanklea Primary School will close on **Friday 18th December 2020** and re-open to children on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.





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Christmas Gifts

We have received many queries about Christmas gifts for staff. Could we please ask that any small gifts be brought into school on the day of your child's party so that we can ensure full quarantine procedures are followed. We are so thankful for the support of the Shanklea community and appreciate your kindness.

Foodbank Donations

The response to our request for donations for Cramlington foodbank has been phenomenal. Thank you for all your contributions. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity which will do so much to help those in need this Christmas. Thank you very much!

Competition Winners

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Christmas competitions. The results are below:

Secret Elves Club – Cole R

Child's Hamper: Jessica S-A

Grown-ups Hamper 1: Rosie C

Grown-ups Hamper 2: Charlie P



We have had so many fantastic entries to the **Best Decorated Window Competition** and will announce the winner next week.

Christmas Dinner



A huge thank you to Mrs Bayliss, Mrs Thompson, Mr Thompson and Mrs Richardson-Groves who worked so hard (as always) to prepare and serve a delicious Christmas dinner to over 250 hungry children and staff!

Everyone looked very festive in their festive finery and a great time was had by all.





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Remotely Christmas

Everyone at Shanklea Primary School has enjoyed part in **Remotely Christmas** on **Friday 11th December 2020**.

The digital streaming runs from 11am right through to 8.30pm through YouTube. Anyone can tune in at any time, but the focus of content is split into three parts: children and young people, adults at home and then families within their homes. Christmas activity will be given to children.

Content throughout the day will include interactive workshops with illustrator Liz Million, Panto, storytelling from John Kirk, storytelling from the Libraries and Charlie Younger from Seven Stories and lots of singing including Christmas carols from Early Years, dancing and creative fun.

Santa has set up home at Northumberland Zoo in Eshott for the day and he will be sending his elves all over Northumberland from Kielder to Berwick and Amble to Cramlington delivering good cheer to the children directly into the schools.

Remotely Christmas will be streamed via a YouTube link which will appear on www.leadinglink.co.uk or on their Facebook page 'Leading Link' in the next week together with the detailed itinerary of the day.

The link to YouTube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbDJHeo4CXw>



Flu Vaccinations –Important Notice

NHS staff will be in school on Monday 14th December to carry out flu vaccinations for those children in Reception to Year 6, who they could not give it to on their last visit, either because the child was not in school or because parental consent forms were not provided.

- If you have already sent in a form you do not need to do anything.
- If you have filled in a paper form this week (since 7th December) please contact the office- if you have not already done so.
- If you have not filled in a form and want your child to be vaccinated please collect a form from the office.
- If your child has been vaccinated at another venue in the meantime it is very important that you let us know.





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Panto Time

On Wednesday afternoon, the children virtually experienced a special Shanklea performance of **Sleeping Beauty**, direct from the stage and straight into our classrooms! We were all amazed at the magic and the children were astounded to see the evidence on screen of Mrs Brown with the cookie jar!



Party Days

We will be holding our traditional Christmas parties next week. In light of the current restrictions, **please do not bring in any food or drinks** for the party. Staff will ensure all precautions around hand washing and container hygiene are followed and we are sure the children are going to have a fantastic time. Children should come to school in their party clothes which must be suitable for playing outside.

The dates for the parties are shown below:

Monday 14 th December 2020	Flu vaccinations :- catch up for those absent on previous visit (please see information within this newsletter) Year 1 and 2 Christmas Parties 9.00-10.00a.m. LB1/2 10.00-11.00a.m. KS1/2 1.00-2.00p.m. BD1/2
Tuesday 15 th December 2020	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Parties 9.00-10.00a.m. JR3 10.00-11.00a.m. AH3 1.00-2.00p.m. ER4 2.00-3.00p.m. SH4
Wednesday 16 th December 2020	EYFS Christmas Parties 9.00-10.00a.m. Nursery 10.00-11.00a.m. Squirrels 1.00-2.30p.m. Reception classes
Thursday 17 th December 2020	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Parties 9.15-10.15a.m. LG6 10.15-11.15a.m. CC6 1.00-2.00p.m. SB5 2.00-3.00p.m. RB5
Friday 18 th December 2020	Non- Uniform Day Christmas Community Carols and Lapland Dash and Disco School closes for Christmas and the New Year holidays
School re-opens on Tuesday 5 th January 2021	





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Shanklea Superstars



Congratulations to the **Shanklea Stars** of last week:

Libby C Thomas Y Ivelises E Freya D Blake A

Robson H Bailey W Harry C Rosie S

Savannah P Ethan W Matthew C Bobby B Lori N

You are all amazing – Well done



Thank you all for your continued support. Take care and stay safe!

Mrs H Brown
Head Teacher