



# Shanklea Primary School

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

Telephone : 01670 715205

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Website: [www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk)

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

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Weekly Newsletter



Christmas is nearly upon us and it's been a fun-filled festive season here at Shanklea Primary School. We've had extra-long circle times as the children have been so keen to tell us all about their advent calendars and what the mischievous elves at home had been up to in the night! The excitement has gained momentum as the children have noticed the addition of decorations, Christmas trees and flashing lights around school. We've enjoyed celebrating with dancing and games and we've indulged in eating a delicious Christmas dinner in the school dining hall. We've made calendars, cards, decorations and decorated our classrooms with a liberal sprinkling of glitter on top! It's been very exciting!! Families can look forward to receiving an abundance of fantastic Christmas artwork...

We know this year has been unusual and not easy for anyone but we would like to say a huge well done to everyone for all of their hard work. We have been so impressed by what we have seen and how you have all tried your best. The children have been a pleasure to teach. We come to the end of this full term and there is so much for us to reflect on and to celebrate.

First and foremost is our attendance (despite Covid-19). The overall attendance figure for this academic year stands at **96.7%** which is superb. This in itself is evidence that the children at Shanklea Primary School are being given the best possible opportunity to progress in their learning and development. Thank you to all of the parents and families who have helped ensure our children are back in school enjoying their learning.

Even though '**Shanklea School Life**' has had to adapt with lots of changes involving different routines and procedures we are so proud of the quality and breadth of learning that has been taking place. The term has been full of considerable exciting learning and it has been wonderful to see the children being involved in so many different activities:

- there has been some superb reading happening all across school;
- the children have been working hard on their maths and their times tables and
- the writing across school has been incredible.
- Children have enjoyed lessons in science, art, computing, music, PE, French, R.E. and even Forest Schools





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It is no surprise if the children and staff are a little tired!

Of course all of this cannot happen without the dedication and commitment of all of our staff. I would like to say a thank you for a superb effort by everyone: the Governors, the teachers and support staff, the office team, the kitchen and lunchtime staff, Mr Allen and the cleaning team and not forgetting our volunteers.

**A great term in very challenging circumstances.**

## EYFS

Wow! What an incredible first term we have had in EYFS!

All the children have settled in and have made huge amounts of progress. We have been particularly impressed with the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christmas story and hope you all enjoyed their little outdoor sing song we shared on Tapestry with you.

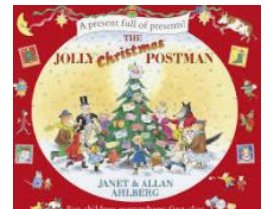
We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and we will see you all in the New Year.



## Key Stage 1

All of the children in Years 1 and 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas unit of work. They have created some excellent pieces of work linked to 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' in English and Maths. It has been really lovely to see all of the children enjoying themselves with their friends during our Christmas parties. Their dance moves were pretty impressive!

All of the staff in Key Stage 1 want to say thank you to all of the children for putting in so much effort with their learning this term and to wish all the children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Lower Key Stage 2

Well done to the pupils in Year 3 and 4! You have all worked very hard and impressed us with your outstanding attitude and dedication over the whole term - both at home and in school. It has been great fun celebrating Christmas with you - making this year one to remember!

Together we have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the very magical Christmasaurus and sharing his enchanting story. Throughout our journey with the Christmasaurus we have been celebrating our own qualities and strengths and learning about the importance of being unique. We have loved creating





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some festive ornaments and decorations as well as having great fun at our Christmas party on Tuesday. We witnessed some fantastic dancing and we were all good sports with the party games.

Thank you to everyone at home for your support this term and we hope you are all able to have a very Happy Christmas celebrating with your loved ones. We look forward to seeing everyone back in January for another exciting term!

## Upper Key Stage 2

The children in Years 5 and 6 have really impressed us with the patience and care they have shown during the Dickensian themed Christmas activities. We have all also enjoyed looking at the different versions of A Christmas Carol. The behaviour of the children throughout these activities has been excellent and it has been lovely to see them enjoying time with their friends at the Christmas parties.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. **For Year 6 this will be at the earlier time of 9:15am, finishing at 3:15pm.**

## Christmas Window Winners

Congratulations to **Mason** and **Priya K** for their beautiful Christmas window.



## Keeping Children Safe Online over Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching many children want to get devices from Santa to access the online world. The harsh reality is sometimes the online world is not an appropriate place for children just yet and one that children may be ill prepared for.

The internet can be a great place for children and young people to play, learn and connect. But it can also put them at risk of online abuse. We have provided some advice and support for you and your child below. Together we can keep children safe online.

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web, like computers, tablets and mobile phones. And it can happen anywhere online, including:

social media      text messages and messaging apps      emails  
online chats      online      live-streaming sites

Cyberbullying and online harassment can be extremely distressing. Sometimes, they can be even be





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classified as criminal offences:

Making comments or posts online that are deliberately abusive, offensive, threatening, or inflammatory.

Liking and sharing this kind of abuse can also count as bullying and harassment.

## Guidance to consider and share with children:

- Always think before you post and consider what you say and what effect it may have when posting or commenting online.
- Never post comments that are abusive, threatening or are likely to cause offence to others.
- Keep personal information personal: do not say anything or publish pictures that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment. Be aware of what friends post about you, or how they reply to your posts – particularly about your personal details and activities.
- Make the most of privacy settings: keep your profiles closed, allowing access only to your chosen friends and family.
- If you are concerned about your child and Social Media, speak to them.
- If children feel uncomfortable discussing what is bothering them with you, encourage them to speak to another trusted adult, a teacher, a counsellor. They can use one of the services listed below:
  - The Samaritans – Freephone 116 123
  - Barnardos – 0800 328
  - Childline – 0800 1111
  - NSPCC – 0808 800 5000
  - Teenline – 0808 800 2222



If you believe that you or your child are the victim of online bullying, keep a record of the content (for example, take a screenshot). You can use this to help your report to the service provider and, if necessary, the police.





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We will send a document with extra tips for online safety with this newsletter.

## Safeguarding

Shanklea Primary School considers the welfare of all our pupils to be of great importance and we hope that parents and carers are confident about their children's health and safety whilst in our setting. We will always try to share any concerns we have with home.



There are, however, times when we are legally obliged to share our concerns with other agencies, without first speaking to parents, or without the consent of parents.

The safety and protection of our pupils is our most important concern and we wish to reassure you that any sharing of information is always done with the children's best interests at heart. If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of any child in our school, the Designated Child Protection Officer is Mrs Brown, Head Teacher. In her absence, you should contact the Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers: Mrs Baxter, Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Laughton. They can all be contacted through the main office.

The school has a duty to inform parents that there is a prohibition on reporting or publishing details (including on social media) that could identify anyone who is subject to an allegation.

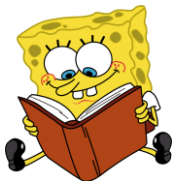
The Government have launched a new website aimed at parents, teachers and school leaders to give practical advice on protecting young people from extremism and radicalisation. This was launched by the Education Secretary and contains information which addresses many questions / issues faced by parents and children. The website can be found at [www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)

## Sumdog Competition

The winning class this time was **Mrs Greenwood's Year 6** class and the winning child with a very fast time was **Emily W** in Mrs Hagan's Year 4 class. Well done everyone.



## Reading Raffle Winners



As an additional encouragement to read, every time a child reads in class and completes a bookmark they are entered into a Prize Draw. Congratulations to the following children who have won book vouchers:

**Humaira C, Louis W, Jamie R**





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## Shanklea Hoopstarz

Congratulations to Mr Rutherford's class who won the trophy for most improved class in the Virtual School Games Hula Hooping Festival.



## Shanklea Superstars



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

Jack A

Charlotte H

Harry K

Alyssia R

Florence S

Lucas B

Humaira C

Maisie S

Callum M

Maisie K

Lois E

Archie H

Ryan M

You are all amazing – Well done



## Castle Points Winners

Student: **Amelia A (SH4)**

**Christopher D (JR3)**

**Sophie A (SH4)**

Class: **BD1/2**

**SB5**

**JR3**

Castles: **Bamburgh**

**Prudhoe**

**Lindisfarne**



Bamburgh



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## Returning to School in January 2021

Lots of work has been going on to get ready for re-opening in January and we will continue to follow strict procedures to keep everyone safe. These are under continual review and are adapted as necessary.

We would like to remind families of the importance of observing the staggered start and collection times for each class. These have been carefully designed to ensure social distancing on our site and maintain everyone's safety. We try to be flexible for families with children in different classes but it is very important that families continue to bring their child in and collect them at the correct time. Thank you for your support.

We would like to remind you of the following:

### Pick up/ Drop Off Arrangements

- One adult only please
- Leave the site promptly
- Please do not arrive before your designated time above
- Walk, cycle or scoot to school.
- If using the cycle path gate, follow the one-way system
- Parents/staff may wear masks when on the school site.
- Older children should be left at the gate if possible.



Prudhoe



Lindisfarne

### Protective Measures in school

- Regular handwashing/ sanitising upon arrival, before leaving and throughout the day (minimum 6 times)
- Enhanced cleaning schedule throughout the day. All classrooms and teaching areas have a supply of cloths, sanitiser and gloves. A log is completed each time surfaces, light switches and door handles are cleaned throughout the day. Toilets will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Children taught and play within their year group bubbles
- Staggered break times and lunchtime





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- Children taught to “Catch it! Bin it! Kill it! Lidded pedal bins in all classrooms. Posters are displayed in each classroom to remind the children.
- Children are provided with their own pencil case containing pencils, rulers, sharpeners and erasers.
- PE and play equipment will not be shared across year groups and will be sanitised after each use.
- Children will sit at tables, in rows or L shapes and will not sit altogether on the carpet.
- Until further notice, there will be no assemblies or school trips.
- Classrooms will be well ventilated. Windows will be kept open.
- Packed Lunches will be eaten in classrooms. Hot dinners will use the hall.
- Children to wear PE kit to school on PE days (Parents/carers will be told when this will be)
- Parents and carers should telephone, text or e-mail if they need to speak with a member of staff
- We are unable to accept any cash payments in school. All payments should be made using the School Gateway System. (School Grid for lunch payments). Please download the APP if you have not done so already.
- It is expected that all children will attend school, unless they are unwell. Family holidays will continue to be recorded as unauthorised absences. Please avoid taking holidays in term time.

## P.E. Days

Children in KS1 and KS2 should come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE.

Monday	KS1/2		BD1/2		SB5	RB5	CC6
Tuesday	MSR	LB1/2	AH3				
Wednesday	KLR	KS1/2	JR3	ER4			LG6
Thursday	BD1/2		AH3	SH4	RB5		CC6
Friday	LB1/2		JR3	ER4	SH4	SB5	LG6





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Whatever your Christmas Plans and however you chose to spend it, the most important thing is having time with your nearest and dearest; something that we'll be doing on many occasions in school this week – coming together as one!

School closes at the normal time on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and reopens on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Happy holidays and bring on the festivities!

On behalf of all our staff and pupils, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2021!

Mrs H Brown  
Head Teacher

