



# Shanklea Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Helen Brown  
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Nairn Road, Parkside Chase, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 1RQ

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Weekly Newsletter

This has been an Autumn term like no other. We have had many challenges with new and different expectations for teachers and families, and naturally a few fears too but, nonetheless, it has been a great first term. We have stayed open whenever possible to give the children the chance to be back with their friends, teachers and support staff and everyone has been amazing.

Despite the pandemic, we have welcomed Shanklea children back into school for eight weeks now, in a safe and meticulously planned manner.

- Thank you to all the **parents** and **carers** who have ensured that their children attend school regularly and punctually.
- Thank you to the **children** and **families** who have taken part in learning activities at school, online and digital teaching and dealt with new routines, including staggered entry and exit times.
- Thank you to all the **teachers** and **support staff** who, on top of their usual duties, have ensured safety in so many ways including managing entry into school, toilet breaks and handwashing routines, and ensuring one-way systems were followed along corridors and through the playground.

We have all been faced with situations we have never had to consider previously and have devised new ways of working, with great ingenuity. Even assemblies have been pre-recorded and broadcast to children at their allocated time in class, the assembly hall being out of bounds for reasons of social distancing.

## Keeping safe

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful at times for both adults and children. But Shanklea Primary School's sharp focus has been to help you care for each child's mental health and well-being. We've taught your children more widely about family dynamics, friendships and other kinds of relationships – both online and off – from a young age. Children have also learned about how to recognise and challenge unhealthy behaviour, which led into more contextual discussions later on.

The new relationships education programme, which is mandatory for primary school pupils from September 2020 includes important topics such as diverse family structures, how to set personal boundaries from a young age and how to develop healthy relationships in all their forms. It has been purposefully adapted to suit the needs of young people in a world that's changed a lot.

There are five compulsory areas of learning:

- Families and people who care for me



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- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

To reflect modern society, children are taught about such things as civil partnerships as an alternative to marriage, preparing for the online world, and unhealthy relationships, including violence, abuse and bullying.

Teachers ensure everything they teach is done in an age-appropriate way, taking into account the differences in age, understanding and maturity in their class.

For example, in the Caring friendships area of learning, a Reception class might talk about how friends make us feel; a Year 3 class might discuss the characteristics of friendship (loyalty, kindness, shared interests etc) and how to deal with friendship problems; a Year 6 class might talk about who to trust and not trust, and what to do if a friendship is making them uncomfortable.

Parents and carers cannot withdraw their children from compulsory relationships education.

## Attendance



The attendance ladder graphic on the left shows how absence from school can accumulate to impact on a child's education. We appreciate that coming into school every day isn't always possible, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is very important, however, that children attend school, promptly and ready to learn, every day.

Our overall attendance rate for this first Autumn Term is **96%** which is incredible in the current situation.

Well done everyone!

## School Photography

We usually schedule a visit to school before Christmas by Tempest Photography, to take individual photographs of children. We have been advised that this will now take place in the New Year. We will provide more information when we can.



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## Health Care Plans

We have sent all parents and carers a letter with information about handling medication in school. Please read it carefully to ensure that the information we have is up-to-date and that all medical needs are met.

## Celebrating Halloween

Thank you to all families who supported our Happy Halloween Fun Fundraiser day, dressed as their favourite spooky character and joining in the fun this October.



We met ghosts, black cats, witches and wizards as we entered our amazing 'The Pumpkin Patch'. (Well done, EYFS Team!) We learned to fly and performed our very own 'magic' spells. The children put their magic powers to good use on a whirlwind adventure to rescue the black cat from the evil clutches of the witches and wizards. All it took was a little bit of imagination.

Featuring spooky songs, ghoulish games and magic moves, the children had a spellbinding time.



Thank you for your contributions to our fundraiser. We will let you know how much was raised shortly.

## Celebrating our achievements

In these challenging and difficult times we believe it is important to celebrate the exceptional and outstanding things that our children have done. We are **SO proud** of the ways in which our children continue to think about others and put others first. Please click on the links on our school website to see the films we have made showcasing life at Shanklea. Our 'Loving the Learning' slide shows highlight the work being carried out in our classes. We hope you enjoy them.

Well done to all of you!

### EYFS

Wow, it's hard to believe the end of the first half term is here. It has been a very strange but enjoyable half term for everyone in EYFS. We have welcomed a group of amazing children through our doors and have loved teaching every single one of them.

All the children have settled in well, despite having a break in the middle of term. They are dedicated to learning and have already made amazing progress. Please keep posting on Tapestry over half term, we love to see what everyone has been up to and talking together in class when we return to school.

We are looking forward to some wonderful topics in the second half term and welcoming everyone back.



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Happy Half Term, everyone

## Key Stage 1

This has been an amazing first half term and the children have settled very well back into school routines. They really have been wonderful and we are all so proud of them. The children have all enjoyed lots of different activities including finding out about different materials and objects, investigating what makes something waterproof, going on autumn scavenger hunts looking for signs of autumn, making number chains, using the new Chrome books to name and lots more!. Everyone has worked incredibly hard and they all deserve their half term break. Please stay safe over the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing all the boys and girls back after the holiday.

## Lower Key Stage 2

Years 3 and 4 have been busy, busy, busy this half term. From creating Egyptian death masks in History, to investigating light and shadows in Science to learning how to keep themselves healthy, both physically and mentally they have not had a minute to spare! Their teachers are very proud, not only at the mature way they have settled back into school life but also of the resilience they have shown to their learning. We wish them all a happy half term holiday - they deserve their well-earned rest!

## Upper Key Stage 2

The children in Years 5 and 6 have worked very hard this half term and covered a whole range of topics including Space and Beyond, The Vikings, Electricity and many aspects linked to Black History Month. They have written several poems based on these themes and have really impressed us with their maturity and creativity. The children have shown great resilience and enthusiasm this term and have adapted easily to the new rules and systems in school. Well done everyone, enjoy a restful holiday.

## Reading

Thank you to all the families who have helped us to get all the children reading again and who have supported our systems in school.

We have collected in the children's reading books today (Thursday) in order to put them into quarantine to allow us to issue your child with a new book on the first day back. We know that this will mean that they do not have a school book over the half term holiday but hope that you will be able to take the opportunity to get out and about before the winter weather sets in. Remember there is reading all around us and getting your child to read a map when you are out walking or playing games with street signs helps them practise their skills.

For older pupils watching films can also develop their reading. Predicting what might happen next, talking about a character's emotions or actions and explaining how you know, and discussing why they like or





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dislike stories are all valuable reading skills that can be done whilst enjoying a family movie night.

Finally look out for competitions such as the Caboodle book island challenge where families can win book tokens together. <https://caboodle.nationalbooktokens.com/competitions>

## SumDog Competition

A huge **WELL DONE** to all the children who took part in the recent SumDog competition, as usual it was a great effort by Shanklea Primary School. Congratulations to Ms Henaghan's class, **AH3** who were **5th** out of 29 classes from across Northumberland in the overall competition.

The highest scoring pupil from our school was **Dylan C** from **JR3** who came **6th** out of 350 children who took part. Well done, Dylan, what a fantastic achievement.

## Shanklea Stars of the Week

Congratulations to last week's Stars of the Week who have impressed their teachers with their hard work and enthusiasm:

**Ollie D   Scarlett P   Kenji K   William B   Alice Y**

**Heidi G   Sam S   Taylor W   Joshua W   Oliver S   Ellie F   Georgia S   Codi C**

## Half Term Holidays

Please remember **school closes** for the half-term holidays after school on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** and **reopens** on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October is a staff training day. We hope everyone has a lovely half-term holiday. Good luck in the Shanklea Fundraiser competitions (if you choose to have a go.)

Kind regards,

Mrs H Brown  
Head Teacher