



Shanklea Primary School

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

Telephone : 01670 715205

Email: admin@shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

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

Friday 16th April 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Newsletter



It is so hard to believe the Summer term is here. As I write this, the sun is shining and it feels brighter outside, which is good news for everyone. There is a very positive feeling in the school, with children and staff pleased to be getting back to some kind of normality. Resilience is the key word that springs to mind when I look at our amazing children and wonderful staff team. Whatever changes or challenges that have presented themselves, we have worked together with yourselves and the

wider school community to ensure that our children have been well supported in their personal development and wellbeing, as well as in their academic progress.

We are expecting to see **ALL** the children back in school in **FULL** school uniform. I know that some parents have struggled to get items over the last few weeks but all of the shops will reopen from Monday 12th April 2021 allowing you to get any missing items.

No jewellery please.

Jewellery is not permitted as part of the school uniform. It is better if primary aged children do not have their ears pierced due to difficulties in removing earrings and keeping them safe. However, one pair of plastic insert flat stud earrings may be allowed under certain circumstances and with prior agreement. **For P.E. the child must remove these items** preferably before coming to school (they must be able to do this by themselves).

We follow current Health and Safety guidelines in physical education (see below). This means that jewellery should not be worn in P.E. and earrings should be removed for the lesson. Where piercings are still healing within any advised period (e.g. 6 weeks) and a pupil is unable to remove their earrings, then that pupil will not actively participate in the lesson in line with these guidelines.

Health and Safety Advice

The Health and Safety Information Bulletin issued by the Education Departmental Safety Co-ordinator has clarified the position with regard to children wearing earrings for P.E., Games and Swimming.

“The current Code of Practice for Physical Education, Games, Sports and Outdoor Education states that watches, jewellery, rings and earrings, belts with metal buckles and other unnecessary encumbrances likely to prove dangerous to the wearer or to





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others should not be worn". This follows national advice issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE)." The Bulletin continues: "Schools have a duty to deliver the National Curriculum to all pupils but also have a duty to safeguard pupils in their care. Parents or children refusing to comply with these safety requirements are themselves preventing the school from delivering the National Curriculum."

As such, we do not allow children to wear jewellery, including earrings during P.E., Games and swimming lessons as, if an accident did occur, the School could be found liable. It is **not possible** for parents to get around this rule by '**granting permission**'. Teachers and support assistants are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves and, although willing to look after earrings during a lesson, cannot be held responsible for any losses.

Sustrans Big Pedal 2021

This year's **Big Pedal** from Sustrans will start on **Monday 19th April** and what better way to celebrate the arrival of summer than getting active on our bicycles, feet and scooters. Children and adults are invited to use their bicycles, scooters or just walking, to travel to and from school each day. It's a great way to stay fit and active.

There is an informative video for you to watch with the whole family from Sustrans at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQLGK_Ek_qY



We hope that as many people as possible can join in this fun activity. Sustrans have also created an information letter for all families, which gives everyone the details of what is happening with the Big Pedal 2021 and how we are all keeping the Big Pedal safe during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Virtual Parents' Evenings

Our parents' evenings will take place the week beginning **Monday 26th April 2021**.

Our students have overcome many challenges over the last year and we feel this point of communication between teachers and parents is crucial in ensuring the overall wellbeing and academic progress of our students is discussed.

The school has introduced a new online system which allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers. Consultations will be via video call to ensure Covid safety. Teaching staff will be available for appointments in **8 minute** blocks, you can choose when you would like your appointments to suit your own availability.





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Our office team will send a link to the school cloud system shortly. On schoolcloud.co.uk you will find:-

- The link to make an appointment
- A video tutorial on how to attend appointments over video call
- A parent/guardian guide
- A link to step-by-step instructions
- Troubleshooting Issues
- FAQs



The Office Team will send a link to book your appointments shortly. You will then need to:

- Enter your title, first name and surname followed by an email address.
- The students' first name, surname and date of birth will need to be entered too.
- Follow the on screen instructions and click on the relevant year group to make the appointments.

On the evening itself, you will need to log into the system again and all of the appointments will be conducted virtually. No additional app is required; you will need a smartphone, tablet or computer.

- Follow the link to the website.
- You will have an option to start video calls.
- You will meet each teacher one after the other at the designated times.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our Office Team on 01670 715205. They will be happy to create appointments on your behalf and arrange for telephone calls to be made.

As virtual parents evenings are new to us we thought it important to establish some ground rules so that all participants are following the same protocol which should ensure everyone's wellbeing.

- Conversations should take place in appropriate rooms e.g. kitchen, lounge, study and not in a bedroom
- All participants should be appropriately attired as they would be for a real life face to face meeting
- No conversations should be recorded
- If you are using a device with e.g. FaceTime or WhatsApp to enable both parents from different households to attend simultaneously please flag this up to the teacher as a matter of courtesy at the start of the conversation
- Both teachers and parents have the choice of using audio or video
- As in real life, your son/daughter is welcome to attend





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- Please try to be on time as the slot times are not flexible at all and will start/finish exactly on time
- The first 30 seconds of each conversation allows for a short break for the teacher who will initiate the conversation when they are ready at some point during this time
- Shanklea Primary School is often commended for the very positive, constructive relationships between staff and parents and it is important that this continues. Therefore please note that in the extremely unlikely event of verbal abuse, staff will end the conversation and refer the matter to the Senior Leadership Team.

Tips for troubleshooting

- Staff have checked their devices work so we hope all is well at our end.
- Please read the guide carefully beforehand to ensure you are using a suitable browser
- Try logging on up to an hour before - if you can't see "Join Video Appointments" check the following:
 - Make sure your camera and microphone and volume are fully enabled in your settings and that you have allowed the system to access them
 - Better sound is achieved if only one person speaks (closely) to the microphone at a time
 - If one party loses connection please just wait whilst they log in again - you should be able to resume
 - If there is a sound /display issue try clicking the microphone/camera icon off and on again
 - If there is still an issue try logging off and logging on again or try another device
 - Keep an eye on your email/appointments in case the teacher has a later slot they could book you into
 - If possible have a backup device ready for you to log on and use
 - We cannot do any more on the night so please be forgiving in case of technical hitch. We are doing our best to make contact at this difficult time. If you miss a conversation the teacher will drop you an email you in the next couple of days
 - The same parent who made the appointments MUST be the one to log in as the appointments are linked to his/her details only and NOT to the other parent.





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- Check the names match exactly what we have on the system
- Check the email address - in some instances the system shows that parents are sharing the same email address which you may have forgotten

Shanklea Calendar



Below are just a few of the events coming up in the coming weeks.

| | |
|---|--|
| Week commencing 12.4.2021 | Autism Awareness week |
| Week commencing 19.4.2021 | The Big Pedal |
| Week commencing 26.4.2021 | |
| Friday 30 th April | We would like to invite you all to spread a message of hope and resilience and take part in <i>Captain Tom 100</i> |
| Week commencing 3.5.2021 | |
| Monday 3rd May 2021 | May Day Bank Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Wednesday 5th May 2021 | World Maths Day |
| School closes on Friday 28th May and re-opens on Monday 7th June 2021 | |

The children will be spending some time in our end of week assembly marking the death of Prince Philip and learning about his life.

Please continue to look out for texts and newsletters for more up-to-date information.





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Shanklea Superstars

Congratulations to **Lois E** who has shown great kindness in donating **41cm** of her hair to the **Little Princess Trust** who make real hair wigs for children.

After discovering it costs £550 to make one wig, Lois decided to see if she could raise money for them too and has already raised **£230** through JustGiving. As Lois met her original target of £50, Mrs Earle now has to donate hers too. We look forward to seeing the results. Well done Lois, you're a real Shanklea superstar.



Congratulations to the **Shanklea Stars** of last term

Shanice Y **Ella B** **Charlie L** **Scarlett R** **Joey B** **Leila C** **Ryan W** **Ivelises E**
Oliver T **Sophie J** **Emilia O** **Lewis M** **Izzy H** **Harry C**
Beth W **Ronan A** **Sam P** **Mathew J**



Stay safe.

Mrs H Brown
 Head Teacher

