



Shanklea Primary School

Telephone : 01670 715205

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Website: www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

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

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

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



Weekly Newsletter



It's been snowing! We've had the most fun, at home and at school, this week in the snow! We've had snowball-making competitions and even built a selection of snow people through great teamwork together, while others found sweeping the snow to be mesmerising as it made different patterns! The children have been stomping in the snow to make footprints with their wellies and to make a trail in the snow like the Gruffalo. The snow might have been a bit too powdery on some days for making good snowballs but it didn't stop the children.

I hope that you and your families are all still well and managing to keep safe. As we now approach the end of what has been a rather strange term, and in view of the recent announcements from the Government, I wanted to write to provide you with an update.

I would like to start by thanking you all as parents and carers for your fantastic support over the last few weeks. I am particularly appreciative for everything that you have been doing to support learning from home. I have been really impressed by everyone's productiveness and ingenuity and how well families have encouraged their children to use their time at home as productively as possible.



I would also like to congratulate once again all of the students who have been recognised in the newsletters and/or through being nominated to receive one of the school's special recognition certificates for their hard work and achievements whilst at home and school. Do please encourage your son/daughter to maintain their efforts - all of the staff are so delighted to hear what they have been doing and to share and celebrate their successes.



I would especially like to thank (once again) the Shanklea Team who have continued to work exceptionally hard to ensure that all our pupils are able to continue with their learning. I hope that all our home learners have continued to find accessing the work via the Google Classroom to be straight-forward and helpful. Although nothing can replace the impact of students being in school to receive the direct instruction and immediate feedback from their teachers, the use of the Google Classroom has enabled us to provide the students with the next best thing. With home learning continuing next term, please remember to refer to the teachers' curriculum overviews and guidance, including some very clear and helpful video tutorials, to support children and parents in navigating their learning. Home and school make a great team.



Please encourage children to **check for feedback** on the Google Classroom, Busy Things and Purple Mash. These look different in different places but usually there will be an alert to tell the children they have a message or there will be an area with '**my messages**' or it may appear on the task when it is returned. If there is a play or audio symbol this will mean the children have an audio message from their teacher.

As I've said previously, if you have any concerns because too much or too little work is being set, or the guidance is not





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sufficient, then please ask your son/daughter to email the relevant teacher or contact them via the Google Classroom to raise their concerns or to ask politely for help and we'll establish how to manage appropriately any concern.

I would also like to thank all the Shanklea Team for helping to provide so much care to the children during these very challenging times. They have not just been providing much needed pastoral and wellbeing support but have helped many of our pupils to organise their time and to establish good working practices, which will prove invaluable as they progress.



Please note that we are not expecting pupils to complete work over the half-term holiday. We would encourage all of our students (and their families) to use the time to rest and recharge in preparation for the next term. We have included some ideas for things to do later in this newsletter.

Half term holidays begin Friday 12th February 2021 @3.15pm

The Prime Minister has confirmed that all pupils will not return to school after February half term and that the Government believes it should be safe to commence the reopening of schools from **Monday 8th March 2021**.

From Monday 22nd February, Shanklea Primary School will be open to vulnerable pupils and children of key workers while other pupils will continue to learn from home. We understand how frustrating this can be for everyone - parents, teachers and pupils. But we will set out further details on our approach to opening the school up to more pupils as part of the wider plan for leaving lockdown. To confirm, we hope it will be safe to start reopening more widely from 8th March, subject to the data. Education is a national priority and we want our school to open fully as soon as the public health situation allows.



Meet the Author

Our older children enjoyed taking part in a live online meeting with the renowned author **Michael Morpurgo** this week. He shared stories and anecdotes and inspired the children greatly. A link to the recording can be found on the Seven Stories website for those that missed it.

Short Story Competition

Would you like to see a new lorry named after you? Can you write a story about a lorry on its journey somewhere? Perhaps it's a story about a favourite toy which has been on a lorry before it came to your house. Or about a lorry that is alive and can talk- how does it feel about its long journey? Tired? Excited? Happy? Be as creative as you want to be!



Moody Logistics and Storage, Cramlington, have invited Shanklea pupils to take part in a short story competition to win a chance to have one of their brand-new lorries named after them. **To enter you need to produce a short story of between 300 and 500 words about a lorry.** If you like the idea of having your name on a lorry please email your entries to your class teacher and the shortlisted group of entries will be forwarded to the competition.

Good luck!!





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Half term fun

Whilst sadly many places are still closed for visits over half term the National Trust has many ideas for fun to be had outdoors over half term. Why not try their Sounds of Nature Bingo game which can be played in the garden or see how many of the activities in the 50 things to do before you are 11¾ - having a wintry adventure or building a home for something in nature both look fun!

These are both attached at the end of this newsletter. More activities, such as family friendly bakes, can be found on the National trust website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/february-half-term-for-all-the-family>



We hope you enjoy these suggestions to keep you busy and those fantastic brains ticking over. Good luck to everyone who decides to enter the lorry competition.



Shanklea Home and Classroom Superstars



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

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Sienna D | Myles B | Lola E | Isabella K | Jack A | Hallie L |
| Tia J | Ivy M | Robyn D | Amber W | Malika W | |
| Katie T | Jake T | Evie R | Molly C | Jackson C | |
| Christopher D | Ollie S | Alexis W | Jayden M | Grace M | |
| Olivia J | Jacob TG | Harley C | Frankie A | Amy B | |

You are all amazing – Well done





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We hope you enjoy lots of February half term fun. We are really looking forward to hearing about all your adventures and to seeing everyone again (hopefully very soon).

Stay safe

Mrs H Brown
Head Teacher

School (partly) reopens on
Monday 22nd February 2021

