



Shanklea Primary School

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

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



Weekly Newsletter

Welcome back to the full re-opening of Shanklea Primary! It has been a fantastic start and lovely to have the children back. It is obvious that they want to be here with their teachers and their friends, they're enjoying the routine and structure of school, and they are really engaging with their learning in such a positive way.



We have been so excited about seeing everybody together once again after what can only be described as a very long absence and at quite a distance!

I just wanted to take a moment to thank parents and carers for their wonderful support this week. Our aim has been to provide as **'normal'** an education as possible for our children, taking into account both their physical and emotional well-being, while also trying to ensure that they still access a broad and balanced curriculum, including specialist teachers.

I believe that Shanklea staff have done an excellent job ensuring that we maintain a high quality of education whilst adhering to the restrictions with which we have been presented. Life in classrooms still contains a buzz of excitement, chatter of children, **strong and positive relationships** between adults and children, and there is **so much fantastic learning going on**.

The staff have been looking at many ways to help children close any learning gaps that have developed as a result of lockdown and to support them emotionally.

It is hard to believe that almost a year ago, we were heading towards a first national lockdown – it has been a very long year! However, the **support and resilience of our school family has been amazing**. Our children, parents and staff have all worked so hard to ensure the **best possible learning continues** whether at home or in school.

Well done to all our children working both remotely and in school. I am so proud of you all.

It is important families adhere to the start/end of day times and the drop off/collection points. Please ensure you wear your mask as you enter the school site and follow the one-way system around the school. Minimal contact between families and bubbles is still needed to ensure the safety of all. Please help us all by following our risk reduction guidelines -having finally been able to have our children back we want to ensure we can stay fully open!



We appreciate that there will continue to be some anxieties about returning to school after we have gone through such an unprecedented and challenging year. But please be assured we have a rigorous risk assessment in place to keep **everyone as safe as possible**. **It is important to note that there is a mandatory attendance expectation in all year groups**.





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Our staff are keen to have some 'normality' and the prospect of having our children return to the classroom for the remaining year is wonderful. The well-being and mental health of our pupils remains paramount, so we have planned some PSHE lessons alongside special English projects next week.

Please ensure your children regularly bring back their reading books and any school devices they have borrowed.

The Senior Leadership Team have also been reviewing our Covid-19 risk assessment to ensure that clear systems of control remain in place. As in the autumn term, we will continue to have a contingency plan in case of bubble outbreaks and communicate those changes to parents as soon as possible. Staff will continue to wear face coverings when in communal areas of the school buildings and will remind children to wash their hands regularly.



World Book Day

We had a great day last Thursday celebrating World Book Day. This included virtual sharing of short clips of **masked readers** reading from a favourite children's book. Children showed great skill in working out who the masked readers were:

Masked character name	Teacher	Book
Tortilla Chip	L Greenwood	Diary of a Wimpy kid - dog days
Roman Clock Face	J Rutherford	Alice in Wonderland
Koala Bear	E Dunning	Aliens in underpants save the world
Rabbit	K Laughton	A squash and a squeeze
Monkey	H McClurry	We're going on a bear hunt
Dog	O Carr	One Button Benny
Cat on the phone	E Rigg	The Singing Ringing Tree
Mrs Lion	F Gaultier	The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
Cat	S Baxter	Diary of a Killer Cat
Frog	L Barron	Room on the Broom
Bag of chips	A Henaghan	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Egg	K Spence	The Gruffalo's Child
Cow	S Shires	The Gruffalo
Giraffe	B Downes	Giraffes Can't Dance
Fox	M Short	Funny Bones
Lion	J Ainsley	Little Red Riding Hood
Robot	R Brown	The BFG
Octopus	H Jackson	Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy
Giraffe 1	S McBride	The Very Hungry Caterpillar



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Staff and pupils looked fantastic in their World Book Day costumes both online and at school.

Our latest **Scholastic Book Club** is now **online** at <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/shanklea-county/digital-book-club>. There are hundreds of fantastic children's books to choose from, and **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club will **earn 20p for our school** in Scholastic Rewards.

We have emailed families their World Book Day tokens. Paper World Book day tokens can also be obtained from the office. **Please place your order online by March 22nd, 2021.**

Red Nose Day

Friday 19th March is **Comic Relief day** and we will be entering into the fun at Shanklea as usual.

All the children will be invited to dress in an amusing costume (superheroes etc) or in red to mark the occasion. Donations may be made online on the School Gateway.

There will also be the opportunity to enter a red nose day competition.

EYFS and KS1 could draw their favourite book character with an additional red nose. Entries should be brought in on Friday and the teachers will choose winners.

KS2 pupils are asked to think about their favourite joke and each class will host a comedy show to find the favourites.

As a school we will also be completing a **Comic Relief Egg (red nose) and spoon challenge** - where we will attempt to walk more than the 100kms set by the **One Show Challenge**. We are asking children to bring in a spoon and their red nose for this event. 100kms is not enough for Shanklea - we are aiming for 500km - remember to look on Facebook to see how we get on!

Free School Meals

Now that all pupils have returned to face-to-face teaching, all children are able to access a tasty, nutritious meal at school. These meals are free to those who are eligible for free school meals, including **Universal Free School Meals** for children in **Reception, Year 1** and **Year 2**.

The government also has a scheme to support individuals, families and children with food and other essentials outside of term-time through the **COVID Winter Grant Scheme**, which will operate through the Easter holidays. This scheme, run by local authorities, operated successfully in the Christmas and February half-term holidays and ensures that families and children who require it, including those eligible for means tested free school meals, can





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receive the support they need. Eligible families will receive Hugg vouchers as before.

NHS

If you have any
coronavirus
symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

[Get a test](#) and stay at home

Asymptomatic Lateral Flow tests at home

We have been advised that that lateral flow tests MAY now be accessed by primary age children and their family bubbles. This is entirely voluntary and is run independently from school. We have sent a separate advisory sheet with this newsletter for anyone who would like more information.

Happy Retirement

Our School Catering Manager will be saying farewell after 33 years' service and producing a staggering number of tasty, nutritional meals. **Mrs Hume** who has worked in many Northumberland school kitchens has taken the decision to retire and enjoy a well-earned rest at the end of this term (March 2021.)

I'm sure you will join our staff and governors in wishing Mrs Hume a very **happy and healthy retirement** and we would like to express our **gratitude** to her for her many excellent years of service and hard work. She is always so happy and friendly with the children and will be a huge miss in our school.



Mrs Hume has seen many children progress through school and some of them now even have their own families. She has been an integral part of our school and has contributed to many school events throughout the years and is well loved by all of the children and well fed staff!

Mrs Hume, you will be missed but we wish you all the best with your retirement and please make the most of your family time.

We are so pleased with how well the children are settling back into normal school routines. Please continue to keep us informed of any concerns so we can work together to provide the best possible school experiences for all our community.

Stay safe

Mrs H Brown
Head Teacher



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Shanklea Home and Classroom Superstars



Congratulations to the **Shanklea Stars** from **week beginning 22.2.2021**:



Elise B Chloe J Amelie M Jamie C Liam C Oona S Gabriella H



Mason K Zac H Blake M Emily M Helena N Jack S



Emilia O Ruby G Ava Jayne B Jack A Charlotte H Emily W



Sophie A Neve H Gabriella C Amber C Anna S Ellie F



Emily M Charlie H Jessica N Ryan B Zak L Angel A



Congratulations to the **Shanklea Stars** from **week beginning 1.3.2021**:



Finn T Poppy P Anya B Joseph K Sophie B Owen H Emmy S A



Jessica S A Holly R Ronnie C Freya D Amelia B Lucas H



Mariah S Flynn S Joseph T Maggie H Zeva V Owen R Leon M



Taliah E Maisie K Katie E Jessica B Lucas B



Jack C Ryan M Callum B Joseph C

