



# Shanklea Primary School

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

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



## Weekly Newsletter

### Thank you for Keeping Up the Good Work!

As we are now six weeks in to this lockdown, I want to say **thank you** to everyone for all the work you are doing.

Part of the joy of teaching is, of course, interacting with the children and getting feedback from them and this is greatly reduced at present. Our teachers are doing their best with setting the work, making videos and making sure that the full curriculum is covered and everyone is working hard to support each other and provide the best possible education for all Shanklea children. It is difficult for staff to motivate and energise the children from behind a screen and your help and support is invaluable. As described later in this letter, we will be establishing online wellbeing sessions after half term to provide more support and boost children's morale and engagement.

We understand that you too as parents/carers and home educators need kindness and compassion at this time. We need to remember to be kind to each other through phone calls, texts and emails. Many in our community, including some staff, have had the coronavirus, and we all know someone who has suffered illness or loss. Some staff have post COVID symptoms still. This is a difficult time for us all - lockdown is challenging for everyone.



We look forward to working together as best we can over the next few weeks and months.

We all need to remember that we are not alone in this and the pandemic is affecting everyone throughout the UK and the world. Thank you for trying your best to keep your children engaged and motivated – not something that the teachers can do easily from afar despite their best efforts. Thank you all and please keep up the great work you are doing. I appreciate it is not easy but we can see the lovely work and great effort being put in from many children on Google Classroom.

I would like to share something with you that I saw on social media when this lockdown was first announced.

### **‘Whatever your thoughts on school closures are, please remember this:**

- ✚ Your children's school did not make this decision
- ✚ Your children's school want the very best for your child
- ✚ Your children's school staff may be fearful for their own, and their families, health due to rising infection rates, even with all the safety measures put in place
- ✚ Your children's teachers and support staff have never worked so hard to provide education within the ever-changing guidance provided by the government
- ✚ Your children's school staff will be ready to welcome all of the children back into school buildings as soon as they are able to
- ✚ Your children's school staff are human beings, with emotions, that are affected by this too If you know





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someone who works in a school, they need kindness and compassion right now!’

## Online Wellbeing Sessions

After half term we will be timetabling in some weekly well-being sessions with our children who are currently learning from home. These will be an opportunity for the children to catch up with their teachers and the other children at home, share what they have been up to and have a bit of fun at the same time.

In order for us to deliver these sessions we have produced a **Google Meet Wellbeing Sessions policy** which will explain the expectations of the pupils, parents and teachers. Please look out for this being sent to you by email next week and complete the **Google Form** if you **consent** to your child taking part. The teachers are really looking forward to catching up with the children and hope it will boost their motivation to continue working hard at home as we begin the new term.



## Meet the Author

Next week, Shanklea Primary School will join with **Seven Stories** in Newcastle to participate in a live online meeting with the renowned author **Michael Morpurgo**. During this event, aimed at our pupils in **Key Stage 2**, Michael will talk about his novels such as **Warhorse** and **Private Peaceful** and share the inspiration behind them. He will also read an extract from his new book, **Boy Giant**.

We will send a separate information sheet, with links, with this newsletter to families of KS2 children. Families can access the event at: <https://www.sevenstories.org.uk/learning/michael-morpurgo-2021/event>

The event will finish with a short question and answer session. If your child has a question they would like to ask, they should send a message to their class teacher through the Google Classroom and we will see if we can send it on.



This event will be available for live streaming at **1.30p.m.** on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. Families can also watch on catch up after the event.

There will be an opportunity to purchase signed books afterwards at their online virtual bookshop but there is no obligation to do this.

## Mental Health Awareness Week

This has been a **Mental Health Awareness Week** with a difference. We are so delighted at the responses (both in school and at home) to our **Dress to Impress** and **Wear Something Inside Out** Days.





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Many of us are worried about coronavirus and how it will affect us and those we love. This is why we have been supporting the **#SpeakYourMind** initiative which encourages us to reach out to someone who needs a friend with a positive message, or share with them your own tips for coping to make sure they don't have to face this pandemic alone. The more we talk, the more myths we bust and barriers we break. We can help to end the stigma that surrounds mental ill health – by talking about our own feelings and being open to listening to others. While we cannot gather physically, social distance doesn't mean emotional distance. There are many ways we can connect with one another and start conversations. Together, we will end mental health stigma.



## PSHE and RSHE

At Shanklea Primary School we recognize the importance of our children's physical, social and health education. We aim to support each child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) throughout the teaching of our curriculum.

In this rapidly changing world, it is vital that these areas are explored in a safe and supportive environment. **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)** and **Citizenship** education enables our children to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society.



Our pupils are encouraged to develop their sense of self-worth by playing a positive role in contributing to school life and to the wider community. They learn how society is organised and governed and experience the process of democracy in school through the **Shanklea School Council**. We provide opportunities for them to learn about rights and responsibilities and appreciate what it means to be a positive member of a diverse society.

All primary schools are required by the government to teach **Relationships and Health Education**. **Relationships Education** is designed to help children to have positive and safe relationships with family, friends and online. **Health Education** will help children to make good decisions about their health and wellbeing and enable them to know how to seek support if any health issues arise for themselves or others.

If you would like more information about statutory **Relationships and Health Education**, please read the government guide "Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school: a guide for parents" <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

We have updated our Relationships and Sex Education policy to reflect the new statutory status for Relationships Education.

Shanklea Primary school will be using the 3Dimensions scheme of work and the PSHE Association resources which covers all the main aspects of the national curriculum. The elements of this are encompassed under three wider areas of:

**Relationships**

**Living in the Wider World**

**Health and Wellbeing**





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## Shanklea Home and Classroom Superstars



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

Arthur G    Isla L    Owen F    Scarlett G    Daniel T    Catie T

Jessica S-A    Emmy Smith-A    Sadie G    Florence S    Zac H

Archie W    Beth H    Layla R    Ruby A    Willow F    Hana I

Lily-Mae B    Charlie D    Lilly May M    Benjamin F    Freya W

Millie C    Matthew C    Zane V    Daniel M    Callum B

Archie D    Eryn R    Emily M    Ellie-Mae J

**You are all amazing – Well done**



Thank you all for your continuing support as we work together to achieve the best possible outcomes and experiences for all our children.

Mrs H Brown  
Head Teacher

