



# SHALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2025

#### Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see so many families join us this last week for our teacher consultation meetings. The children have all been working incredibly hard and I know teachers were all looking forward to sharing the children's progress with you all. Parent/Carer/Teacher meetings are always such a great reminder of how lucky we are at Shaldon to be so well supported by our families. So from all of us in school, a huge thank you!

We began this half term with a focus on history, from Neil Armstrong and Sir Francis Drake to the Cockleshell Heroes. The children enjoyed getting stuck into some in-depth historical research, and learnt about the different types of historical sources that historians use to gather their information. And we can't possibly forget the ever-popular World Book Day, with teaching staff embracing the theme of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.'

And on the subject of being hungry, I am delighted to see that our delicious, home-cooked school lunches have continued to gain increasing popularity, with the take-up of school meals growing week-on-week. If your child hasn't yet tried one of our amazing meals, I would seriously recommend giving them a go!

I would also like to say a huge thank you for your support with ensuring children attend school every day. Shaldon's attendance rates continue to be above national average. This means that our children continue to make exceptional progress in their learning; they are also able to enjoy our broad and balanced curriculum experience and have fun spending time with their friends!

I hope you enjoy reading through everything our pupils have been getting up to this term, and would like to wish you all a fabulous Easter break.

Best wishes,

*Mrs Stewart*

#### Dates for the Diary..

- First day back: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- Y6 SATs: 12<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> May
- May Bank Holiday: 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Half term: Mon 26<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 6<sup>th</sup> June (returning on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> June)
- Y1 Phonics Screening Check: 9<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> June
- 29<sup>th</sup> April: RNL to see Y5
- Y6 Residential: 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Sports Day: 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Y6 Leavers Assembly: 21<sup>st</sup> July at 6pm
- Whole School Community Lunch event: 24<sup>th</sup> July (more details to follow!)
- Last day of the summer term: 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### Contact Info

Email:  
[admin.shaldon@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:admin.shaldon@acexcellence.co.uk)

Phone:  
01626 873329 (8.30am-4pm)

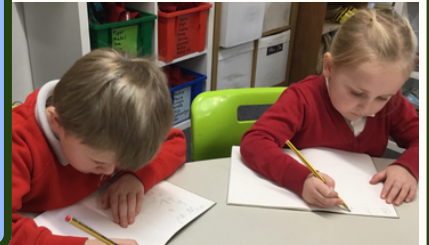


## SHALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

### Reception Class

What a gorgeous Spring term it has been full of fun and new learning – our learning balloons are HUGE!

We started the term learning about Dr Jane Goodall. We soon noticed how she challenges herself as a scientist. We discovered how brave and resilient she is, determined to pursue her dreams and work with chimpanzees studying their behaviour in the wild. We made links to Jane's determination and our own application to learning, pushing our learning balloons in our classroom zones to be our very best. Just like Jane! We have also linked our character value 'What does it mean to be trusted?' to that of the Big Bad Wolf in The 3 Little Pigs. As authors, we told and retold the story – learning it is a traditional tale meaning a story from the past shared again, and again. As authors, we selected our favourite moment from the story and using our phonics knowledge, wrote a sentence independently using Fred Fingers to support our spellings. As we explored this theme, we decided the Big bad Wolf might not be so bad after all... maybe he is just lonely? Or wanting some new friends? If that's the case... he's come to the right class! A room full of kind and happy friends and learners! Well done Reception class family on a wonderful Spring Term – we are so proud of you.



### Year One

We went to the moon! The children were curious historians, learning to ask questions about life in the past and finding out new information using different sources. We recapped prior learning on what a timeline is and why we use one. Then we were able to add Neil Armstrong and his significant achievements to our class timeline. Our space day was out of this world! We spent the day as real astronauts; this helped bring our writing to life. To end the term we have been looking at Judaism, learning about Jewish beliefs and traditions.

We also celebrated world book day and shared our love for reading through poetry and as a class, we shared many of our favourite stories.

In Year 1 we have been learning British Sign Language. The children have enjoyed this and now it is a part of our morning routine.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and when we return we will begin our geography enquiry, comparing what life is like in Devon compared to living in London!





## SHALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

### Year Two

Putting the 'spring' into the learning in Year 2! What a fantastic half-term it's been in Year 2 over the past six weeks! We have been designers and historians and our outcomes have been absolutely just brilliant.

The half-term started with a design and technology focus, looking at designing, building and evaluating a pop-up book with moving mechanisms, including a lift-the-flap, a box fold and a mouth fold. This was a great opportunity to put our values into practice, as at first we found the folding, cutting and sticking for the mechanisms tricky and we had to really persevere and learn from our marvellous mistakes. But, like with most things that are tricky at first, if you work at them and constantly reflect, you end up being successful. The construction of the books proved a roaring success and we added our own creative stories to them, inspired by a 'Hawaiian party' Exciting Writing.

The attention then shifted to history, looking at the life of Sir Francis Drake and trying to answer the question, 'Was Sir Francis Drake a pirate?'. This was a fascinating learning experience, one which everyone really enjoyed. What was really lovely was to see how excited everyone was to find out more, exploring the Golden Hind in Brixham at the weekends. Their business must have been booming! We learnt all about Drake's life and his achievements and ended the experience writing and performing a persuasive speech explaining whether we thought Drake was or was not a pirate. Great work everyone!



### Year Three

Year 3 have had a cracking half-term! We started off with our history enquiry about the Roman invasion. We learnt about the rise of Queen Boudicca, and what led her to stand up to the Romans. We asked the question: What did the battle of Watling Street tell us about Roman rule in Britain? We explored the meaning of chronology and we had an exercise outside where we made a timeline to the Neolithic era of the Stone Age. We used the scale of 1cm = one year. The children learnt a lot about the concept of history over time as they labelled when the Roman invasion began. We learnt about bias as well as secondary and primary sources of information. The children wrote a detailed piece of about the Iceni tribe and the Romans, including the final battle.

Our second enquiry has been the subject of Religious and World Views. We have been learning about Judaism and have been studying the concept of 'belief'. The children have really enjoyed learning about Passover and other celebrations. A big thank you to Danny Yank, for giving up his time to be grilled by the children! Finally, let's not forget how we developed our oracy skills on World Book Day as we dressed up and recited poetry!



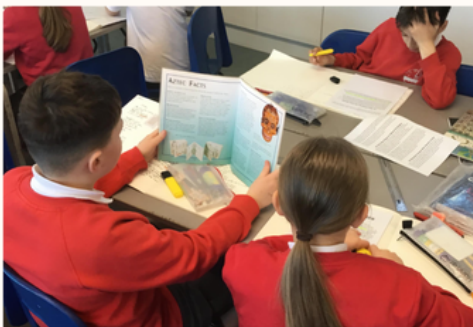




## SHALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

### Year Four

This half term has seen a lot of adventure as we have had the opportunity to visit Shaldon Beach for our beach school experience. During these sessions, we have collected litter, made observations about our surroundings, thought about gratitude and made sculptures. We have had the most amazing time at beach school and are truly grateful for the opportunity. As well as that, we have embarked on a journey that has explored the Battle of Hastings, building on our Vikings learning in the Autumn term. During this enquiry, we learnt about what caused the Battle of Hastings and what the events leading to the battle were. We finished our enquiry by writing a non-chronological report about how William of Normandy conquered England. Year 4 were absolutely fascinated by this experience. Following that, we moved onto Religion and World Views Education where we have learnt about some key aspects of Hinduism. We have developed our skills by thinking about how our beliefs and values can impact our communities and the world around us as well as learning about how some of the key aspects of Hinduism could be both similar and different to the way we live. As a whole, we have had another busy but enjoyable half term in Year 4 and I can't believe we will be welcoming the summer term!



### Year Five

Year 5 have had an excellent half term. We began our history enquiry with the compelling question, "What were the key differences between Cortés and Montezuma?" The pupils delved into the fascinating world of the Aztec civilisation and the Spanish Empire's invasion, led by Hernán Cortés. Through this enquiry, the children gained valuable historian skills by investigating reliable sources, understanding bias, and appreciating chronology. I was particularly impressed with their independence in researching and evaluating various sources to provide reasoned answers to our central question. They demonstrated commendable honesty in their quest to minimise bias in their findings. In addition to history, we explored a Religion and World Views enquiry centred around the question: "Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?" This experience encouraged our students to show respect and tolerance while discussing different beliefs. We also touched upon the concept of interpretation, highlighting the importance of recognising that everyone may perceive things differently and hold unique opinions. In French, our lessons revolved around everyday communication in France, particularly regarding shopping and currency handling. The children enjoyed enhancing their pronunciation and listening skills through vocabulary quizzes, adding an element of fun to their learning experience. Looking ahead to next term, we will shift our focus to geography. The children will examine migration and the push/pull factors associated with climate change in south-east Asia. I hope all of the children have a brilliant Easter break and a well-earned rest after all of their hard work this half term.



## SHALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

### Year Six

This half term has been packed with learning and discovery! We've delved deep into the fascinating and daring story of the Cockleshell Heroes and Operation Frankton. The children have been captivated by the sheer bravery and ingenuity of this World War II raid. We've explored the specifics of the mission: the specially designed 'Cockle' canoes, the perilous journey up the Gironde estuary, and the courageous acts of the Royal Marines who aimed to sabotage German shipping in Bordeaux. We've discussed the strategic importance of the operation, its impact on German morale, and how, despite heavy losses, it demonstrated the potential for small-scale, highly targeted raids. We've also explored its local connection to Teignmouth, where some of the Marines trained, and its lasting legacy in the formation of the elite Special Boat Service.

In Religious Education and Worldviews, we've explored the contrasting perspectives of creationism and the theory of evolution. We discussed how different religions explain the origins of the world, and considered the scientific evidence supporting evolutionary theory. We encouraged respectful discussion and critical thinking.

To round off a busy and productive half term, we are thrilled to be hosting a Fairtrade coffee morning for our parents. We will be serving a delicious range of Fairtrade teas, coffees, and sweet treats, supporting ethical trade and enjoying a moment of community together.

### Eat Them to Defeat Them!

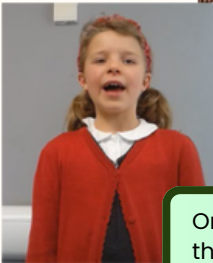


Throughout March, our brilliant chef Sam has been preparing a range of delicious plant-based snacks for the children to try out.

Every Friday, there has been a selection of different fruits and vegetables to sample, with the aim of introducing children to new and exciting food.

Sam has been busy chatting to the children about the samples they liked the most, and we will incorporate their feedback into planning our next menu.

Our Year Six 'Health Heroes' have done a marvellous job in helping out the younger children and encouraging them to try something new!



### Poetry by Heart

One of the highlights of this half term has been submitting the final poetry performance videos to the national competition, 'Poetry by Heart.' Children from across Years 3-6 have been learning and practising poems, ready to be submitted to a panel of national judges, including former children's laureate, Joseph Coelho!

The standard of performance and recitation from all children was truly exceptional. Two pupils have entered with poems that they have written themselves. We are all very excited to find out in May whether we have made it through to the finals, held at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. We wish all the entrants the very best of luck and are so impressed by their courage and dedication!

This summer, we will be hosting a whole-school community lunch event, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July. All children who entered the Poetry by Heart competition will have an opportunity to perform the poems they have learnt. We will send out more details on this after Easter, but save the date for now!

