



Shaldon Primary School Newsletter October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for all of your support in what has been a busy, but super successful first half term. There have been many visitors to the school this term, and they have consistently commented on how eloquent, confident and polite the children are.

We have introduced so many new clubs and activities this year, and it has been wonderful seeing the children making the most of the wide range of opportunities on offer. Year 6 have started Beach

School, Year 5 have been on residential to Pixie's Holt, and Years 3 and 4 had the most incredible time on their Farmwise trip. Children across the school have been taking on a wider range of roles and responsibilities this year, too: Reading Leaders, Sustainability Leads, School Council, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Healthy Lifestyle Champions.

It has been incredibly heart-warming being able to take groups of children to Teignbridge House again this year. Having had a three-year hiatus following the pandemic, it has been a real joy to be back visiting the local residents. The children who have visited showed such care and compassion, and made such a difference to the residents they met.

We will round off the half term with our Harvest Festival, before breaking up for a week on the 25th October. Next term starts on Monday 4th November, and will be equally as action packed. We have our Parent and Carers Evening on the 12th and 13th November and our Christmas performances on Wednesday 11th December.

There will be two more art clubs running after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. The NeuroHeadway Well-being course for children in KS2 will also run every Monday after school, starting on Monday 4th November. Don't forget to submit your registration form directly to the course provider – copies of registration forms can be obtained through the school office.

When we return after half term, we will be further forward with our school kitchen project. The kitchen equipment will have been fitted; we will also be in a position to start thinking about our menu and recruiting our team of kitchen staff.

Finally, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Nicki, our new administrator. Nicki brings with her a wealth of administrative experience and we are delighted to be welcoming her on board.

Thank you all again for your tremendous support this half term and I wish you all a happy, restful half term break.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Stewart

Reception

What a wonderful start to school life the Reception children have had! This half term we have been thinking about 'What makes us special?' We discussed how each of us are different and unique. We realised that we can all have different thoughts or ideas... and that is okay and brilliant! We have learnt how to listen to others' ideas and then share our thoughts with a kind, gentle voice. We created our very own self-portraits through carefully studying our facial features using mirrors. Grandma Wise helped us with this! She loves WONDERFUL WORDS and ensured we knew what it meant to study something (to look really carefully!) so we could study our faces to make sure our self-portraits were accurate.

Our next learning journey has been to consider 'Why are memories important?' We created a simple timeline focusing on the historical language past, present and future. We noticed the word 'time' pops up a lot when at school and at home – playtime, lunchtime, story time, home time, dinnertime and bedtime! We realised that a timeline helps to order events of the day.

Next half term, we will be exploring 'What makes Shaldon GREAT?' We will venture into our local village and learn the important roles people in our society have and how they help us... like the butcher, ferry people, baker and post office! We will show citizenship by thinking about what we can do to say thank you to all the people that help us in our local community... watch this space!

As we near to Christmas break, we will think about 'How people celebrate special times differently' We will reflect on how people might celebrate special times in different ways and explore what tradition might mean and how families acknowledge special times or occasions. We will learn how to project our voices and what we need to do to perform in role by presenting The Nativity in the school hall in front of a live audience!

Autumn 2024 trips and visitors

Boo to a Goose Theatre Company are coming into school to share their production 'Storm in a teacup'. We are promoting and developing pupil voice through communication and language. Through this experience, we will learn how to use expression and voice choice when speaking aloud. We will listen and learn the songs to the production so we can join in and be part of this wonderful experience!

Isobel's Dad is a policeman and will be coming to visit us with his police car when we explore how people help us in our local community. We will learn about safety and how to be a kind, caring citizen. We will be venturing to Shaldon post office to deliver some letters and also interviewing the butcher and baker!

Year 1

This term is about settling back into school life, with new routines in a new environment. We have been looking at what it means to be a good learner, venturing into the past at our time in Reception. It's about what changes we should make to our expectations for us all to succeed. As a class we have looked at the values and skills a good learner should have, seeing how we can apply all of this to ourselves to push our learning balloon further. This has helped us develop an understanding of why being a good learner is so important to help us develop to become the best we can be, and how it will support our future.

The Year 1 children have applied all these important skills and values to become artists. We asked the question "How do I create a self-portrait inspired by Pablo Picasso?" We looked at all the skills and values an artist needs to have and will compare Pablo Picassos art to the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky.



As part of our learning we have thought about the colours we use and how the colours made us feel. As a class we also thought about the term cubism and how this could be applied to our final piece. Throughout this enquiry the children developed their drawing and painting skills to create their final piece of a self-portrait in the style of Pablo Picasso

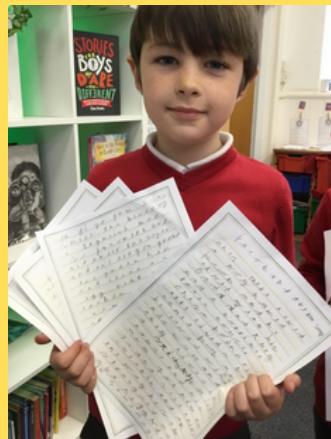
YEAR 2

What a fantastic start it's been to life in Year 2! Over the past few weeks, we've been getting to grips with our new classroom and the new learning and we've had such an exciting and rewarding first half-term. Our first learning journey was art-focused, looking at the artistic knowledge and skills needed to produce a realistic 'still-life' piece. We looked at secondary colours and tone and thought about how colour and tone can be used to sketch and paint an apple that looks good enough to eat! The progress the children made from the beginning of this enquiry to their final outcomes was really impressive.

We then moved on to writing, looking at creating a new version of the Jack and the Beanstalk story. We looked at what sentences need in order for them to be successful. We also looked at how we can bring our writing to life using adjectives and similes to add detail and colour. Again, just like in art, the progress everyone made from start to finish was fantastic.

We ended the half-term looking at the history of Shaldon Bridge. The children looked at prior history learning (from Year 1) and were tasked with placing this and their new historical knowledge on a timeline. The children were fascinated to find out that the bridge that stands today was not the original bridge that was built back in 1827.

As well as all of this amazing learning we also started our Exciting Writing sessions which were so much fun. So far, we've had a detective day, solving the 'mystery of the missing chair' and a pirate battle at Cutlass Island! The children loved coming in dressed up and using drama to inspire their brilliant writing.



YEAR THREE

Autumn 1 Round-up

The character trait has been Citizenship

Autumn 1 has gone so quickly in Year Three! We started off the term with a bang for our amazing art enquiry. We were looking at tone, hue, shading and highlighting using watercolour paints. The children made fabulous progress throughout the journey as they utilised skills learnt in Year Two, where they did tonal drawings of fruit, using pastels. The children used reflection as a metacognition tool to progress their skills further.

Writing is something we focused on for our next enquiry. With this in mind, the children wrote in their neatest writing and stuck it on a writing target card in order to know what their best looked like. I can honestly say, that the final outcome of their twisted traditional tales, has meant that I am going to need to get them to do another 'best writing' sample, as they surpassed mine and their own expectations!

We end the term, learning about the Stone Age. The children are going to produce a leaflet of facts about what it might be like to live in the Stone Age through the three different eras. They are drawing mind maps to gather their information.

Aside from all the enquiry learning, we have gone on a Farmwise trip to Westpoint, which helped the children to see where food comes from as well as look at sustainability and our ever-changing environment. This will support the children to be the experts when they help to design the school menu for our new kitchen! The children have enjoyed discos, learning to play basketball and earning golden minutes and certificates for showing the character trait of drive throughout the school day.

Autumn 2

The character trait will be Leadership

Science will be the first enquiry upon returning from our half-term break. We will be looking at the rock cycle and wondering what rocks we have in our area, in particular, Shaldon Beach. We will test the permeability of rocks collected from a beach trip, in our science investigation. The permeability of a rock will tell us a lot about what stage the rocks are in the rock cycle. The outcome will be to write a scientific report to explain findings from our practical investigations.

For the final three weeks of the term, we will be looking at the volcanic island of La Palma. This ties in with our prior rock cycle learning. We will find out about where La Palma is, what the country looks like, the exports and the civilisation of the island. Then we will learn what it is like for the residents to live near a volcano and how this affects their lives and livelihoods. The children will create a geographer's report on the impact of volcanoes in the region.

I hope to organise a trip to Postbridge, Dartmoor during this term. The children will then be able to put their history knowledge to the test as they answer quiz questions and even think of some for Mrs Stewart (who loves coming on this trip) to find answers to at the Postbridge information centre.



Year 4

This term, Year 4 have been incredibly busy getting to know their new learning environment. We started the term by embarking on an art enquiry where we learnt about how to draw using a horizon line to ensure that the size of our still life maintained accurate proportions; and learnt to mix primary and secondary colours to create tertiary colours. The progress that we saw within the children's art was incredible due to their drive and determination to create accurate paintings. Following that, we moved onto a narrative enquiry where we had a writing stimulus that read: "the wizard's spell missed. So why is my skin scaling?" The children spent time asking questions about the story including 'who is the wizard?', 'what did the spell hit?' and 'what was the spell meant to do?' in order to spark their ideas for their story writing. Year 4 absolutely loved writing their stories and were proud of their achievements. To end the half term, we have been learning about Viking settlements. In order to step into the shoes of the Vikings, we took part in some role-play where we had to become the 'Thing'- a Viking local assembly and decided whether we wanted to fight, surrender or flee when Harald Finehair became the king of Vestfold, Norway. The children got such a valuable learning experience from this enquiry. In PE this half term, we have been building on and developing our skills in basketball, which has allowed us to participate in basketball games led by Mr Atkinson. The Year 4s really came together as a team to compete against each other fairly and show such high levels of sportspersonship when putting their skills into play. It left me feeling incredibly proud of all of them.

If that does not sound busy enough, we have also been on a school trip! This half term, we went to the Farmwise event at West Point Arena, Exeter where we learnt more about where our food comes from. While we were there, we saw sheep shearing and learnt about the wool, watched sausages being made, put the pizza toppings on a pizza, saw some pigs and so much more. We truly did have an amazing day and learnt a lot about different sources of food and animal product.

Next half term, we will be learning about magnet forces in science and will be learning about north and south poles as well as developing our working scientifically skills and designing and carrying out a scientific investigation. As well as that, we will be learning about climate change and focusing on the wildfires that are currently happening in Greece.

Least to say, it has been an exceptional start to Year 4 and the children have loved being in a new learning environment.



Year 5

As we reach the end of the first half of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful journey we've shared so far this academic year. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know your children, a truly great class who consistently demonstrate fantastic citizenship and responsibility in their daily activities.

This half term has been particularly enjoyable with our enquiry lessons. The children had great fun expressing their creativity through abstract watercolour art, which allowed them to explore their artistic skills while learning many water colour techniques. Additionally, we embarked on an exciting writing project inspired by a Ten Word Tiny Tale, where they practiced using relative clauses and direct speech effectively in their stories.

In history, our exploration of Ancient Greek society has provided fascinating insights into the lives of this remarkable civilization. It has been rewarding to see the students engage enthusiastically with the topic, demonstrating both curiosity and deeper understanding.

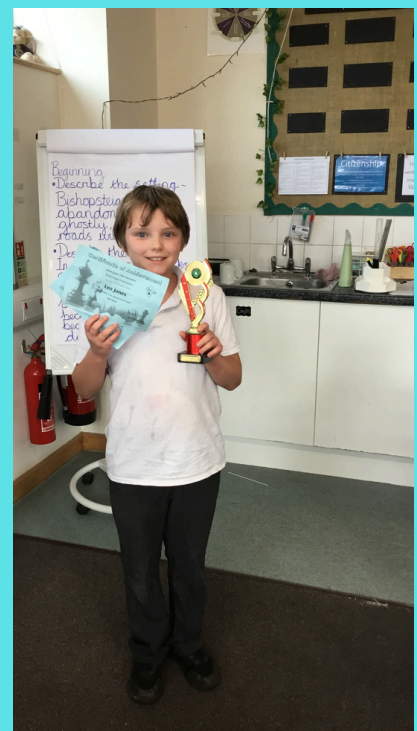
In Maths, we made significant progress, particularly in our understanding of place value. We tackled identifying numbers in the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands—a challenge that sparked some lively discussions! While there were moments of difficulty with pronunciation, the children excelled at explaining the place value of each digit. Additionally, we revisited our addition and subtraction skills, engaging in problem-solving activities that honed their mathematical fluency.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly our residential trip to Pixie's Holt. The children truly shone during this experience, displaying remarkable independence and camaraderie over the few days. I could not have been prouder of how they embraced the activities and supported one another.

We also enjoyed rehearsing our Harvest Festival song and took time during our values assemblies to reflect on the significance of Black History Month. These discussions have enriched our understanding of diversity and inclusion within our community.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting term planned. We will be launching a science enquiry focused on states of matter, where the children will experiment with reversible and irreversible changes. Following this, we will dive into a geography enquiry examining the impact of natural disasters on the country of Haiti.

As we look forward to welcoming the children back after half term, I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement at home—it truly makes a difference. Wishing you a wonderful half term!



Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have been working on exciting enquiries into art, narrative writing and history. In art, we learnt more about still life drawing and the different techniques that we needed to learn in order to be able to create realistic still life images. Children learnt about techniques including scumbling, stippling and heavy pressure blending, as well as learning how to consider light and shadow when composing their images. In our narrative writing, we learnt more about how to use techniques such as pathetic fallacy and 'show, don't tell' in our stories. These techniques helped us to build suspense and tension in the stories and allowed us to think more clearly about the reader when we were crafting these pieces of writing. We finished the half term with a history enquiry where the children learnt more about the Second World War. The class were challenged to come up with their own enquiry question and outcome that could explain how the living conditions of people in Britain were impacted by the war. Some children chose to learn more about evacuation, others chose to focus on the Blitz. The children taking ownership of their learning has helped them to develop their character trait of drive alongside their independence.

Outside of the classroom, Year 6 have been attending Beach School. Whilst there, we have enjoyed many learning experiences including: learning to speak with confidence in public; creating sculptures from the natural resources we find on the beach; singing songs, and playing sports. Year 6 also hosted their Reception buddies for an exciting afternoon of art and music - the children loved the chance to share their learning with their younger friends.

Next term, we will be studying electricity in science where the children will have the opportunity to create their own investigations to test theories about conductivity. We will then complete a geography enquiry where we will learn more about Fairtrade and how this organisation is working to tackle injustice for farmers in countries around the world.





FOSS started off the new school year with an AGM, and some new faces joining us. We then had our Back To School Disco which was a huge success, as always. We had a Bag2School collection, and our first Cake Sale of the school year. The children designed their Christmas Cards in school, orders have now been placed and the relevant artwork has been sent off ready to be scanned and turned into cards/tags/wrap - the finished item will be distributed to children when they arrive. All of those things combined have raised just over £500, so not a bad start!

We look forward to another Cake Sale after half term, a non-uniform day, a raffle for Festive Hampers and the ever-popular Christmas Secret Room where children can come along and buy gifts for friends and family (this is now available to book via www.pta-events.co.uk/shaldon).

Thank you for your continued support!
FOSS



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 25th October 2024 - Last Day Of Term

Half Term

Monday 4th November – Back To School

Friday 15th November – FOSS Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Tuesday 19th November – School Photos

Wednesday 20th November – Flu Vaccinations

Friday 22nd November - FOSS Year 5 Cake Sake

Thursday 5th December – Rudolph Run

Friday 6th December – FOSS Non-Uniform Day for hamper donations

Friday 13th December – FOSS Christmas Secret Room

Friday 20th December – Last Day of Term

Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January – Non-pupil Day

Tuesday 7th January – First Day of Term

PIRATE GUYS WANTED FOR BONFIRE



CASH REWARD AVAILABLE!

Bring your homemade Pirate Guys* to the Ferry Shelter on Shaldon Beach between 12pm and 3pm on the day of our Bonfire and Fireworks Display:

SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER 2024

Best Guy wins £25

2 runners-up prizes of £15 and £10



Please construct your Guy from natural materials like our wood - only bonfire, and be sure to firmly attach your name, age and a contact telephone number to him/her.



AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

AUTUMN TERM 2

MONDAY

Table Tennis

£3.50 per session
20 places available

Monday's

4 November - 16 December

3:15 - 4:15

TUESDAY

Gymnastics

£3.50 per session
20 places available

Tuesday's

5 November - 17 December

3:15 - 4:15

Remember your PE kit, a coat/jumper and a water bottle.

BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE

www.kineticsportsgroup.co.uk

Bookings go live on 23 October. Children must be booked on before attending.



www.kineticsportsgroup.co.uk

01803302296

info@kineticsportsgroup.co.uk