



SHALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring 1 Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As ever, there is so much to celebrate in our spring half term newsletter.

The children returned after their Christmas break all raring to go, and hit the ground running with their science enquiries. You'll find out more about this in the coming pages.

The big news this half term has been the launch of our new kitchen. Sam, our Kitchen Manager, has done a wonderful job in getting to know the children and creating a calm, peaceful lunchtime environment. We have all been delighted to see more and more children making the switch from packed lunches to hot school meals - especially beneficial for children during these colder months.

Thanks to the generosity of the FOSS team, the children have had some truly inspiring experiences, including the science workshop and the Mini First-Aid training.

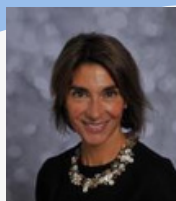
We rounded off the half term with a trip to the Eden Project for Years 5 and 6, which many children said was 'the best trip we've ever been on!'

Next half term is set to be just as exciting, with World Book Day on the 6th March, Parent/Carer consultations on the 31.3 and 3.4 and some super history learning enquiries! On Saturday 1st March, FOSS are running a brilliant 'Reading and Coffee Morning' event from 10am to 12pm. Donations of books, fancy dress and cakes would be gratefully received - more details are included below.

I hope you enjoy reading about everything the children have been up to, and have a restful, relaxing half term break.

Best wishes,

Mrs Stewart



Dates for your Diary

1st March: FOSS Reading and Coffee Morning in the school hall 10am-12pm

6th March: World Book Day

14th March: Y3 Cake Sale

2nd May: Y2 Cake Sale

31st March & 3rd April: Parent/Carer/Teacher Evening

28th March: FOSS Mothers and Others Secret Room

4th April: FOSS Break the Rules Day/Last Day of Term

15th May: Bag2School Collection



Reception Class

Such a busy and successful start to the year in the Reception classroom home! The children have fully immersed themselves with the story and discovery of scientist, Dr Jane Goodall. At first, we thought all scientists worked with explosions, test tubes and experiments but then we discovered that working with animals and studying their behaviours is all part of science too! Through Jane, we have reflected how we can show patience and determination. We were impressed that Jane 'kept going even when things were tricky' growing up as she wanted to attend university but didn't have the pennies to go. She worked hard and ensured she saved up enough to travel and follow her dream... working with chimpanzees and studying them. We have also worked hard, just like Jane, pushing our learning balloons and realise how important it is to keep going when things get tricky. We know this means showing resilience. Lots of us want to be like Jane now and study animals in the wild! How inspiring!



Year One

Year 1 have been busy this half term. We became scientists, explored different materials and performed scientific tests. We used recycled materials to make a collaborative piece of art to highlight the importance of looking after our planet. The children have become so passionate about looking after the world we live in. The children continued showing their passion for saving the planet by deciding to use recycled materials to design and make a rocket. It was super important that we returned Mike Marshen home safely.

We took part in Mini First-Aid training and had a wonderful visit from Rowcroft. This half term we learnt all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated around the world. The children also discussed the importance of mental health and talking about our feelings and emotions. Thinking about what we can do to help us feel calm, we wore coloured accessories to represent the importance of this.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and when we return we will begin our history enquiry, which is all about the lives of others.



Year Two

What a busy spring term we're having in Year 2! The first half of this new term has flown by and that's probably because we've been having so much fun!

We kicked off the half-term looking at food chains in our science learning. This built on all the work we had done in science in the autumn term, looking at animals. Our focus was woodland food chains and we took a trip to Ness Woods to see what evidence we could find of them. We also explored the idea of working scientifically, looking at variables. We tried to find out, by changing one variable at a time, what makes leaves decompose quickest. Working scientifically was great fun.

For the second half of this half-term, the attention turned to design and technology. Our task was to plan and make a pop-up book with an accompanying story to go inside it. Everyone loved this experience and the resulting books were impressive. For the stories, we had a Hawaiian party in class. We acted out our adventures for our stories and then wrote all about it. The stories showed just how much progress everyone has made with their writing since September.



Year Three

Year Three have been busy, as always... The children enjoyed our Science enquiry about states of matter, climate change and the water cycle. They can recall so much from this learning experience and have enjoyed the practical investigations where they explored ice- melting techniques. The enquiry ended with a final report on how climate change has affected the water cycle. We have had a brilliant time doing our DT enquiry. The children reflected that the Plan-Do-Review stage was very helpful to them. They could all tell me what they would change for next time and why. We have had Beach School sessions this term! The children have really benefited from this wonderful experience. We have made stone towers, built sculptures, collected recyclable materials and sorted them into human and natural features. This week, we used metre sticks to measure our shadows and then checked at the end of the session to see if they had become longer or shorter because of the sun's movement. This was a great link with our length and perimeter topic for maths! We looked at whether the tide was coming in or out during our sessions and we have made the most of the outdoors on our very doorstep.

The last week is dedicated purely to poetry! In particular, Michael Rosen's wonderful work. The children have already shared their own poems with me and they are so talented!



Year Four

It's been another busy half term for us in Year 4. We began the half term with a science enquiry where we explored light, sound and electricity. During this enquiry, we learnt about how sound travels; how sound is made through vibrations that are recognised in our brain and how sound differs depending on the amplitude of the soundwaves. As well as that, we explored light and electricity. During our electricity week, we were able to use and apply our learning through circuit building. Year 4 developed their resilience during this because they were not able to make the light bulb light us straight away and had to debug it. As a challenge, some children broke the circuit and then found resources from around the classroom to reconnect the circuit. Following that, we then moved onto design and technology. To our surprise, we received a letter from Michael Morpurgo who was challenging Year 4 children across Devon to create a limited-edition box for Kensuke's Kingdom. The children absolutely loved this challenge and were able to learn how to meet a design brief and how to make a prototype. In the final week, we embarked on a poetry enquiry where we wrote a poem in the style of The Tyger using poetic devices such as alliteration, personification and imagery. The children loved sharing their poems with one another and giving feedback to their peers to improve their poems in order to work towards our metacognition statement. It's safe to say, that Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this half term and deserve a lovely half term.



Year Five

Throughout this term, I have been consistently impressed by how the children have faced challenges in all areas of school life and learning. They have aspired to be the best version of themselves, showing resilience and determination in both their academic and personal endeavours.

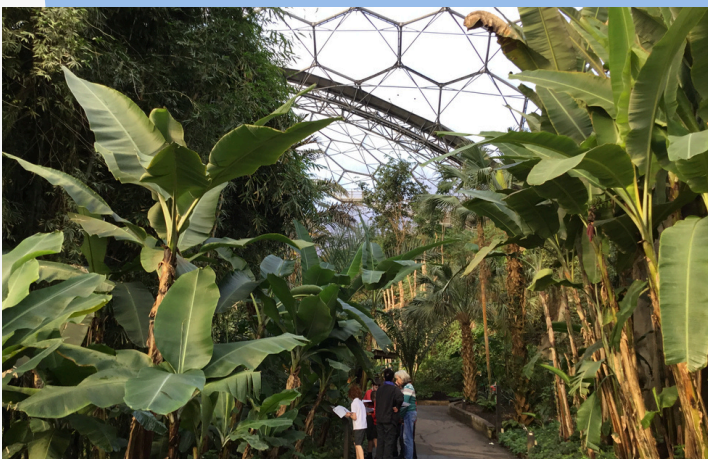
We began our journey with an exciting science enquiry where we explored Isaac Newton's Third Law of Motion. The children engaged in hands-on learning by creating parachutes to investigate the principles of gravity. It was fascinating to see their curiosity and problem-solving skills in action. Following our science enquiry, we shifted our focus to design technology. The students dove into an enquiry about pneumatics and designed their very own pneumatic cars. It was impressive to witness their creativity and critical thinking as they brought their ideas to life.

As we approached the end of the half term, we explored the world of poetry, centring our studies around the work of Carol Ann Duffy. The children composed their own poems, drawing inspiration from our local environment while emulating Duffy's unique style. Their reflective and imaginative writing truly showcased their artistic talents.

In addition to our classroom activities, we were fortunate to receive a refresher in mini first aid training this half term. The children greatly appreciated this opportunity and left feeling confident about how to respond in emergency situations. It's a vital skill that I'm sure will benefit them in the future. We also had an enriching experience with a school trip to The Eden Project. The students explored the rainforest and Mediterranean biomes, demonstrating exemplary character and integrity during our time away from school. I was incredibly proud to have them represent our class, and they showed great enthusiasm throughout the day.

After the half term, we will be moving on to history, where we will be embarking on an enquiry exploring the Aztec civilization and the relationship between Cortez and Montezuma.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to another exciting term ahead!



Year Six

What a fantastic and engaging half-term we've had in Year 6! The children have been working incredibly hard, tackling new challenges with enthusiasm and curiosity. From hands-on scientific experiments to creative design projects and an unforgettable trip to the Eden Project, it has been a busy and exciting few weeks.

In Science, we have been exploring how our bodies respond to exercise by investigating heart rate. The children designed and carried out their own experiments to measure how physical activity affects the heart.

In Design and Technology, the children put their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test by designing safety products using micro:bits. They explored how light sensors can be used to improve safety in everyday situations and applied this knowledge to develop innovative prototypes.

One of the standout moments of this half-term was our trip to the Eden Project. This immersive experience allowed the children to explore a variety of global climates and ecosystems, reinforcing their learning about plant adaptations and sustainability.

The children were full of curiosity and asked brilliant questions. A trip we will remember for a long time!



FOSS

**Reading
and
Coffee morning**

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH
10AM- 12 NOON

Shaldon primary school hall

Selling books, fancy dress
costumes and refreshments
Free craft activity for kids

FREE ENTRY

**Donations required
PLEASE**

We would love donations of the following to
sell at our reading and coffee morning please

Books

We are after any books in a good sellable condition,
all ages; toddler, children's and adults accepted,
Collection box outside of school office

Fancy Dress Costumes

Any Fancy dress costumes that you no longer need,
FOSS would love them to sell at our coffee morning,
all ages accepted,
Collection box outside of school office

Cakes

We would love donations of cakes; homemade or shop
bought to be able to sell at our coffee morning.
Collection date: Friday 28th Feb- before and after school

Shaldon Pre-School

We have had a busy few weeks here at Pre-School. We are very proud of how well our new children have settled in and how our established Pre-Schoolers have welcomed their new friends. Our return to Pre-School coincided with some much colder weather so there have been lots of discussions about the different clothes we wear in the winter. Ice has also been a big part of our learning inside the hall as well! The children have explored ice balloons and finding different ways to melt the ice to discover the hidden animals inside.

One of our topic books has been "Going on a bear hunt" so we have created an obstacle course allowing the children to climb up, over, under and through them. We have also been going on our very own bear hunts around the village swishing through the grass, squelching through the mud in our wellies and splashing through the water at low tide. Finishing off with a warm cup of hot chocolate and marshmallows to warm us up. We've also enjoyed using our tent as an igloo and bear cave with torches and binoculars looking for that illusive bear!

We have introduced yoga to the children and I have been so impressed at how quickly the children have picked up the movements and even know how to say "Namaste" to each other.

