



December 2019

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

As our autumn term draws to a close, it has been great to look back at all of the exciting activities that the children have been enjoying. From appearing on BBC Radio Devon to writing to penpals in Russia and America, the children have been brimming with excitement and enthusiasm about the opportunities their teachers have planned for them.

Teacher's Rock Youth Choir sang their hearts out and made us all so proud when they performed at Exeter Cathedral in November. The event itself was spectacular and was a wonderful opportunity for the children to perform with live musicians and gospel singers.

Many of our children have been aiming high in various sporting events recently. Oliver in Year 6 beat competitors from across Devon in a Cross-Country running event and our Year 5 and 6 netball team made it to the regional finals... watch this space for the final result!

Having started this half term with our week of story-making, it has been fabulous to see the children's writing displayed around the hall. Our Year 6 children even created a stunning mural, based on one of the illustrations from 'Return' by Aaron Becker. Do pop in and take a look next time you're in school.

As we look ahead to the spring term, we are excited to get started on our new science-based learning journey. We are very lucky to be collaborating with the South Devon Bluezone initiative as we investigate how we can adopt a healthier lifestyle and reach out to our community through various gardening projects. More news on this to follow after Christmas!

We say farewell to Mr Foscett at the end of this term and am sure you will join us in thanking him for his hard work and dedication. Miss Tonna joins us in January, as our new Year 2 teacher and we are all really looking forward to welcoming her to Shaldon.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and that the children get some well-earned rest after all of their fantastic efforts this term. I look forward to seeing everyone in January and hearing all of the children's exciting news!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Jenny Stewart
Headteacher

Teignmouth Beach

While investigating the geography of our local area, we have been given the chance to get involved with the Teignmouth beach campaign.

We went to the beach on a beautiful day to see where the proposed railway is going to be built and find out first hand how much we might lose. We have had visitors that support the campaign to save the beach come and speak to use as well as members of network rail to say why it needs to be built. Pupils in the class decided if they were for or against the railway and wrote persuasive letters to send out.



Tall Ships Fundraising - Year 6

Year 6 have started to think about their fundraising ideas for Tall Ships and will be hosting a Tall Ships mini fayre on Friday 20th December.

Children will be completing a bag packing event at Morrisons on the 21st December and are hoping to make a great start to their fundraising target of £7500.

Teachers Rock



On a Thursday at the end of November, 15 members of our school choir participated in a massed Teachers Rock Youth Choir, with children from all over Devon and Somerset in Exeter Cathedral.

It was an absolutely amazing occasion. Our children sang incredibly well, along with 300 other school children and 100 adult educators. It was another sell-out concert, with an audience of over 700 people. They sounded electrifying. It was an inspiring occasion and a privilege to be part of it. Our TRYC Shaldon School



group sang an individual Christmas song to this vast audience, showing courage and musical ability, with determination and passion. Their faces lit up with joy at the end of the song, once they realised that they had wowed the audience with their singing.

Teachers Rock aspires to provide young people with a unique opportunity to interact with their teaching staff in a positive, collaborative and liberating environment. It was certainly an inspirational and entertaining evening of excellent music and singing.

Botanical Gardens

Last year, children from year 5 had the chance to go to the Botanical Gardens for the day and develop their poetry writing skills.

The outcomes from these lessons were put on display in a poetry trail around the gardens. The organisers of this day came into school this half term and talked to us about how well the class had done and presented them with leaflets showing their work. They also showed the class a professional video of the day which can now be found online; search Write Botanical Poetry Trail.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCMM0vOk-hk>





Netball & Cross Country



All the children played with great enthusiasm working hard to gain points for the their team.

They improved with each game and gained really valuable experience on a very chilly evening at TCS. There were ten teams from the local Teignmouth schools and our C team came 9th. B team 7th and our A team played extremely well to achieve a well deserved first place. Very well done to all.

The SSP Cross-country was eventually run after an extremely wet couple of months. The route was through varied terrain at Haldon Forest which included a challenging uphill section. All the runners pushed hard to gain points for the team which is reflected in a brilliant second place overall. They will now go onto represent the Dartmoor SSP at the Devon School Games. Shaldon pupils came 5th, 6th and 9th overall.



Horrible Her-stories comes to Shaldon

On Monday 25th November three students from Exeter University visited to perform their version of Horrible Her-stories to the whole school.

Their play was centred around three Devonshire witches who were determined to play pranks and cause mischief to certain female historical characters including Cleopatra, Boudicca and a suffragette.

After the whole school performance, Class 4 were fortunate enough to take part in a drama workshop that involved playing a number of warm up games such as 'surf baguette!' They then split into six groups of five where they had time to prepare their own mini play linked to a famous female historical character. Each group was given a piece of paper naming the female character and facts about their lives which needed to be included in the mini play.

Each mini play also had to include at least three freeze frames. This was a great alternative way for the children to learn facts about some of these famous female characters including Margaret Thatcher, Mary Shelley and Amelia Earhart. The mini plays were then performed to the rest of the class and thoroughly enjoyed by all. These are some of the things Class 4 said about their drama workshop experience.

"I really loved it when we did the workshop and we got into groups of five and had to act out a particular girl character from history."

"I enjoyed watching the play and especially taking part in the plays."

"My favourite part was using the props in the play."

Local Artist Visits Year 6

Class 6 spent a whole day working with local artist Lisa Richards. They were tasked with designing and constructing a new art installation for the school hall. The work focussed around the third book, Return, in the Aaron Becker trilogy that was the writing inspiration for our story week after half term. The children used a wide range of resources and techniques to create their impressive three dimensional art piece that can be seen on display in the school hall.



Letter from the Minister of State for School Standards



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Miss Cheryl Weyman
Shaldon Primary School
Bridge Road
Teignmouth
Devon
TQ14 0DD

/ November 2019

Dear Miss Weyman,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievements in the 2019 phonics screening check. Your excellent teaching of phonics is something I hope to see replicated across the country: decoding skills are the foundations for pupils to progress to reading fluently, for purpose and for enjoyment.

There is a substantial body of evidence that demonstrates that systematic phonics is a highly effective method for teaching children to read. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 97 per cent of pupils at Shaldon Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top five per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 88 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of teaching pupils to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in literacy, from which they can develop excellent vocabulary and cultivate a love of reading that can last a lifetime.

Thank you for your commitment and success in teaching the next generation to read so effectively.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Reception Nativity

As we reach the end of another busy term, we are very proud of Reception and Year 1 for their amazing effort.

They have worked hard to get ready for their Christmas Nativity 'Whoopsie Daisy Angel'. It has been wonderful to hear the children singing the songs and learning their lines. The children were all very excited to perform to their grown-ups and get them into the Christmas spirit. We hope you all enjoyed it. Merry Christmas!



DATES for your DIARY

Mon 6th January – Return to school

w/c 6th January – Year 6 Bikeability (Session 1)

Friday 10th January – Year 4 Forest School (for 5 weeks)

Wednesday 15th January – Year 5/6 Football Tournament

Thursday 16th January – Year 2 Dance Festival

Tuesday 21st January – Year 4/6 Gymnastics Festival

Friday 24th January – FOSS Bag2school Collection

Friday 24th January – Year 4 Bake Sale

w/c 27th January – Year 6 Bikeability (Session 2)

Wednesday 29th January – Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Friday 7th February – FOSS Pub Quiz (tbc)

Friday 14th February – Last day of the half term

HALF TERM

Monday 24th February – Return to school

FOSS Update

Wow, FOSS have had a busy term!

We started off by dipping into the FOSS funds to buy a minibus. An amazing achievement, we think you'll agree!!

The Halloween Disco, with some superb fancy dress outfits (including a star appearance from Baby Shark) raised £350 profit.

We held a very busy Quiz night, hosted by The Ferryboat Inn, raising £160 profit.

The children designed wonderful Christmas Cards - we're still waiting on the commission but expect this to raise £140.

Y5 hosted their cake sale, raising £75.50.

The icing on the Christmas Cake was the Twilight Christmas Fair - a huge effort from the committee and volunteer helpers - it was a fantastic event, we hope you all enjoyed it! We haven't had time to add up yet, but we hope to report £1000 profit.

Thank you for your continued support. New committee members are always welcome - contact us on foshaldonschool@gmail.com if you'd like to be part of our team!



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