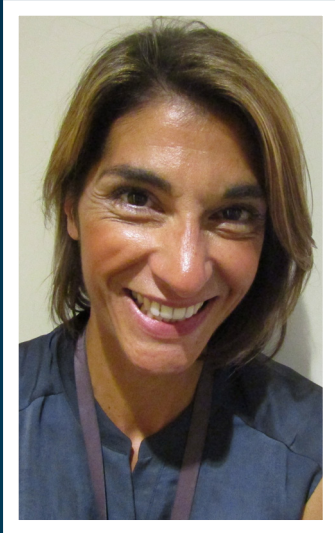




December 2022

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic autumn term we've had! It's been wonderful to see our new children in Reception Class settle in to the start of their school life; they have all achieved so much and are doing so well, not only with their learning but in the formation of new friendships, which I am sure will last long after they have moved on from Shaldon Primary School.

All of our classes have been doing a brilliant job with their community outreach programmes. From the fundraising for Rowcroft, to our

partnership with Teignmouth Community Larder, we can honestly say that our children have made a huge impact on our community. This makes such a difference in instilling a sense of what it means to give to others and is particularly timely as we enjoy the Christmas period.

Christmas is such an exciting time to be in school. Watching all of the children practise their songs and readings for our performances has made us all feel so proud of them. We hope you enjoyed the performances as much as the children have enjoyed taking part!

Thank you all for your continued support of everything we do in school, from your volunteering to your generous charity and food donations. I hope you enjoy reading the round-up of our latest news and events in this newsletter, and would like to wish you all a happy, restful and fun-filled Christmas break!

Warmest wishes,

Jenny Stewart

Headteacher



Reception Class



It has been another wonderful half term in Reception class – full of exploration, discovery and determination when pushing those learning balloons. We have worked as expert geographers, exploring our immediate environment and reflecting on what makes Shaldon GREAT! We discussed the important roles that people have in our community and thought about the similarities and differences between a village, town and a city. Our learning took us off in all sorts of directions... we even met an unusual creature called Blue from a place called Gurgleville. He was lost and needed our expert help to find his way home. Luckily, through all our geography knowledge and skills we had developed, we knew how to assist! We created the features of a map to help Blue remember what Gurgleville looked like – turns out it was very different from Shaldon! Snow topped mountains, waterfalls and even a volcano! Once we had supported Blue with our kindness, we created a 3D map of our local area and worked collaboratively adding all the special features of Shaldon.

More recently, we have been wondering what the word 'celebrate' actually means. We have explored how people celebrate special times in different ways – like birthdays and weddings. We looked at wonderful stories like *The Scarecrow Wedding* and *Birthdays around the World*. We discovered that in Australia, some children celebrate their birthday through eating Fairy bread – so we gave that a go too! Through preparing our Nativity, we also explored how Christians celebrate Christmas. During this time, many peculiar things have been happening in the classroom. Lots of sparkly dust was left all over the floor and we had no clue where it came from... was it magic? Turns out, it was the Christmas fairy! She had lost her sparkle and came to us to help her find it... looks like she has come to the right place! Well done Reception family. Happy Christmas.



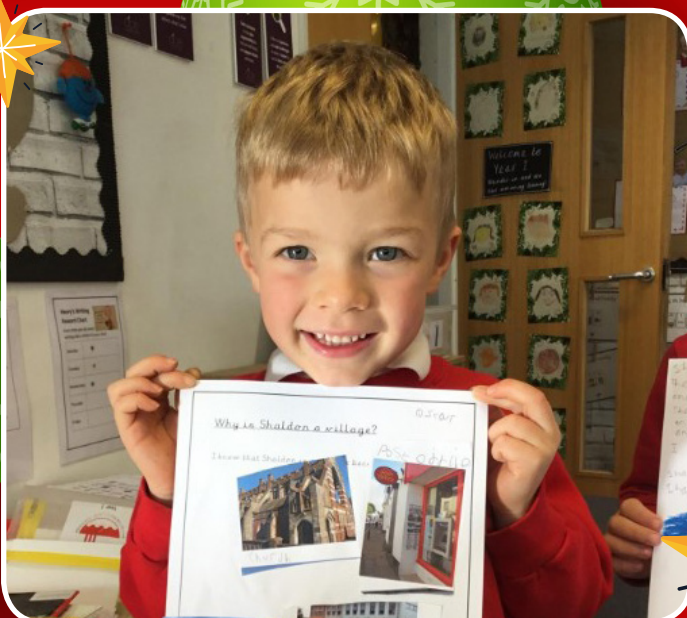
Year 1

Shining Stars

What a busy half-term it has been in Year 1! We're all so proud of the way in which the children have adapted to life in Year 1 and how they have become such confident and determined learners.

We have had two learning enquiries over the past seven weeks. Our first question was, 'Why is Shaldon the best place to visit?' This focused on key geographical knowledge and skills linked to the concept of place. We were thinking about what kind of place Shaldon is and how it differs to other places we know, like Exeter. Our outcome was an attraction leaflet all about the features of Shaldon that we think are most appealing to visitors.

Our second learning enquiry question was, 'Why is Christmas important to Christians?' There were two outcomes: a written recount of the first Christmas and a fabulous Christmas performance at St Peter's Church. Wow, the children in Year 1 have just been incredible. What a fantastic way to end such an incredible first term. The writing progress is staggering and the show in the church was marvellous. Well done team!



Year 2



Year two have been incredibly busy this term! We kicked off with a geography enquiry which asked the question: Why do people come to Shaldon on holiday? The children loved exploring the offerings of their local area. They produced an advert and thought of the most awesome vocabulary to entice people to the area. In fact, the children were so proud of their work that they have asked that I send it home to parents and carers. I will do this at our open afternoon.

We then learned about the British Values, in particular, mutual respect and tolerance. We asked the question: why are British Values important? The children enjoyed articulating their answers to peers and adults. We considered how our leadership value traits aligned with the British Values and made comparisons. We learned about the story of Sulwe and wrote a story of our own about feeling different.

We are now learning about how people of different religions celebrate this time of year.

YEARS 3



Year 3 have had an amazing first term. We started this half term with a Geography enquiry, which allowed us to investigate the course of the river Teign. We learned lots about different locations along the Teign, including Fingle Gorge and Teignmouth. This was followed by an enquiry focussing on British Values. After thinking about how we use the values in school, children produced poems about our class. These last two weeks have been dedicated to an RE enquiry. The question we're seeking to answer is, 'How does Hanukkah show what matters to Jewish people?' As well as an assembly, Year 3 have been lucky enough to have an expert visitor come in and talk to them about the faith of Judaism and the festival of Hanukkah. They are looking forward to creating an outcome of an informative poster, complete with lots of bright and beautiful illustrations.

There's been lots going on in terms of our character education, too. Year 3 showed great leadership when they held an assembly about the Teignmouth Community Larder. There was amazing citizenship on display during the Rudolph Run, as children encouraged each other to run the whole 5k. Within the classroom, children have worked collaboratively and shown great authenticity in their learning as they seek to problem solve together.

Next term, we will be looking at rocks and fossils in science. This will allow us to make links with our Geography learning, and there will be plenty of opportunities to carry out experiments. We will then be looking at art, the focus of this will be lino printing. Finally, next half term will end with a two week narrative writing enquiry based around our school values.



Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have been developing our skills as geographers through our in-depth study of the Alps. We have learnt about how this vast mountain range was formed, the eight different countries that these mountains are spread across and how the climate changes across the course of the year. Then, we applied our knowledge of the climate to think about the impact that this would have on different tourism activities.

We learnt to use mind maps to help us organise our ideas and record our thinking this half term and has created maps for our geography and our RE enquiries. When we invited parents in to our open classroom event on the 9th December, we taught them all about mind mapping and showed them how to create one by following the seven key rules.

In our RE unit this term, we looked at what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. We were visited by Ravi who was able to tell us more about Hindu symbolism as well as show us traditional Hindi clothing. When we looked at our RSE enquiry, we studied the poem The British by Benjamin Zephaniah. We learnt all about what it means to be British and why it is important to celebrate the multicultural nation that we call home! After learning more about the poem, we learnt more about the cultural background of children and staff at Shaldon and then created our own poems inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah.



Year 5



We have had a fantastic half-term here in Year 5! Here are some of the things we've been up to.



Geography Enquiry

We started the term with a geography enquiry all about why people leave their homes. This included case studies on Ukraine and Venezuela. The children developed their geographical skills as well as their knowledge. A highlight was drawing migration to the UK on globes! I was so impressed with how the children showed empathy during this enquiry, whilst thinking about how it must feel to be forced to flee. They also produced some fantastic newspaper reports on the subject of migration to the UK.

RSE Enquiry

We also completed a RSE enquiry all about disability, during which the children were reading 'Wonder' by R.J Palacio. They were tasked with writing an opening paragraph of another book in order to inspire Palacio to write a sequel. This enquiry allowed them to explore some stereotypes and prejudices surrounding disability, which was really interesting.

Leadership

We have been focusing on leadership this half-term, specifically determination, authenticity and integrity. The children have really embodied this, showing such determination in their work. Throughout our thought-provoking enquiries, they have also shown great integrity and authenticity, being honest about any stereotypes they held and working to banish these.

Our Fundraising

I was absolutely blown away with the children's work on our fundraising for Mind this half-term. They organised our Family Fun Sale by themselves, donating and creating things to sell. Through their hard work and your generosity, we managed to raise over £500!

Forest School

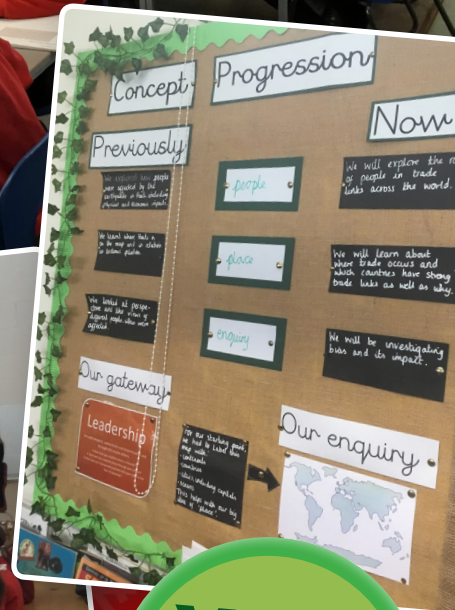
This term, it was our turn to have Forest School with Mr Rees. It was absolutely fantastic! The children developed a whole range of skills, whilst having a huge amount of fun.

Year 6 have been working as geographers this half term, considering how to answer the enquiry question, 'Why are the most resource-rich countries often the poorest?'

Drawing on our big ideas of people, place and enquiry, the children started their learning by gaining a solid understanding of the term 'trade'. They tracked the journey of cotton from being collected, processed, manufactured, distributed and then sold. They looked at the function of The World Trade Organisation and the pros and cons for countries being part of this international establishment. They were able to apply their theoretical learning to real life as they investigated how trading had changed with Russia recently and the impact this was having on imports into the country as well as exports out to other countries.

After establishing that South Africa is a country with a massive rich-poor divide, the children went on to learn about child labour in countries such as India and Bangladesh, who are cotton producing countries. Statistics such as the fact that there are 160 million children involved in child labour worldwide, with 58.6% working in agriculture, were established by using sources from UNICEF and World Vision. These figures shocked the children, who were very keen to write a persuasive campaign against child labour.

Here is an example:



Year 6

Stop Child Labour!

Each and every day, children are suffering; there is no doubt we can make a positive change. 160million children are involved in child labour worldwide, with 79million employed in hazardous work. Can you really sit back and let this continue? Most girls in countries like India and Bangladesh, who are promised quality accommodations and sound wages, do not actually get this. Then they are trapped into years of child labour.

Not only does this mean children are being exploited, but they are also missing out on their education. Shockingly, 58.6% of children work in agriculture, 25.4% of children work in retail and services and 7.2% of children work in manufacturing. Consequently, the relentless cycle of poverty never ends – this simply cannot carry on.

Additionally, children are employed in the cotton industry (at all stages) which is a harmful job because of white cotton dust and pesticides that they are exposed to; this can lead to breathing problems and cancer.

These children are seen as obedient and are mainly employed because of their small fingers, which don't ruin the cotton plan when they are picked. The average garment payment in Bangladesh is 68 dollars a month. Are you really that careless? If you stop and think before you buy, if you wear second hand clothing instead, if you check where your clothing originates from, then you too could help to put an end to child labour.

You could even make a change at home – no matter how small, which would make a huge change to these poor children experiencing child labour. It's easy! Did you know that this has been happening since the 19th century? All you need to do is support charities like UNICEF. Start today. Don't waste any more time.

FOSS Update



We've had a busy term running events for our school community to enjoy, starting off with the really successful Halloween Disco. A huge thank you to all the parents who gave their time to help out, we couldn't have done it without you and we really appreciate the support. That raised £150 after expenses were paid.

A cake sale raised £120 - a wonderfully chaotic 20 minutes at the end of a school day shows such support for FOSS, and gives away how much children love cake!

Thank you for donating unwanted clothes to Bag2School. The collection this term raised £75. The next one is on 25th January.

The main fundraising focus of this term is always Christmas:

We have coordinated the design and creation of some lovely Christmas cards for the children, raising close to £200.

We have been lucky to have the support of an ex-parent who purchases panto tickets in bulk on our behalf; this allows us to pass on a considerable saving to you on the ticket price (£10 instead of £25+), and £1 of that ticket price goes to FOSS. This has raised £196.

We set up our Secret Room present shop, to provide over 300 pre-booked gifts. The children do love the experience, and we love being able to make it happen. They came, they shopped, they wrapped and they left happy - there's always such a buzz at school on

secret room shopping day, the children are so excited to come along. The FOSS team shop all year round for it so it's a long-term commitment to the cause!! This year we raised around £200 and we hope you enjoy the gifts waiting for you under the tree.

We have run a lovely, festive gingerbread house workshop. We were joined by 18 families who made wonderfully creative houses (whilst eating the sweetie decorations!). This is not a huge fundraiser, raising around £70, but definitely something that the children (and adults alike) enjoy doing - and that is something we enjoy being able to provide! We had lots of lovely feedback and would love to extend this to more families next year.

At the time of writing, we are still to host a wreath making workshop (estimated £100 profit) and to draw our hamper raffle (estimated £250 profit). Thank you all for your hamper item donations on the non uniform day to allow us to put together 24 lovely festive hampers to be won.

All of these funds raised will go towards Chromebooks to ensure there are enough for a class, without children having to share. We have also been adding books to the library to increase the choice available. We've been delighted to support the book raffle launched recently too, supplying £125 worth of books to stock up the book basket the raffle winners choose from.

Thank you for your continued support with our fundraising efforts. Happy Christmas!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday 16th December

Last day of term

Tuesday 3rd January

Return to school

Monday 9th – Thursday 12th January

Year 6 Bikeability (Session 1)

Monday 16th – Thursday 19th January

Year 6 Bikeability (Session 2)

Wednesday 25th January

FOSS Bag2School collection

Friday 27th January

FOSS Year 4 cake sale

Friday 10th February

FOSS non uniform day

Last day of term

February Half Term

Monday 20th February

Return to school



Rudolph Run!



Huge congratulations to all the children who ran and fundraised for Rowcroft in our Rudolph Run. We raised £1,375, making us the top fundraising school for the second year running!

