



October 2019 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

I'd like to start this, my very first Shaldon newsletter, by saying a huge thank you to the children and parents for the wonderfully warm welcome you have all extended to our new teachers and myself. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone on the school gate each morning and have been genuinely touched by all of your kind words of support.

The children have settled in brilliantly to their new school year and we have started our autumn term with such a buzz of excitement and enthusiasm. There are so many things to be proud of already; from the children's fabulous singing at our Harvest Festival to the outstanding quality of writing in their learning journals.

As we have been focussing on History as our main curriculum subject this half term, it has been fantastic to see the children becoming immersed in the theme of 'Exploration'. Our teachers have really pulled out the stops to design an exciting, engaging History curriculum for all our children, ranging from Shackleton in Year 6 to the Vikings in Years 3 and 4, and even our Year 1 children have been learning all about Sir Francis Drake.

I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of what we've been up to so far this half term. Please also take note of the key dates we have listed for next half term, especially in the run up to Christmas!

Best wishes,

Jenny Stewart Headteacher

Reception Update

The new term is well under way with all the children settling in extremely well at Shaldon. They are all forming or re-establishing friendships and are following the routines whilst exploring the indoors and outdoors of their new learning environment.

The children have started with great enthusiasm for their learning which is very positive. They all look very smart in their school colours, thank you. Our learning this term has been all about exploration answering the question of 'Why do people choose to explore?' The children have been learning all about the job of a paleontologist, they have been exploring the world of bones and fossils. The children in Reception can now explain how important paleontology is, they can tell you what they have discovered. We recreated our own fossil dig area and will be making our own dinosaurs using bones.



Teachers Rock Youth Choir

Fifteen of our choir children have started rehearsing after school, as part of the Teachers Rock® Youth Choir.

Coming up at the end of November, our Teachers Rock® Youth Choir children will perform in Exeter Cathedral, as part of an exciting massed youth choir, alongside over 200 primary and secondary school children from all over Devon and Somerset, along with Devon and Somerset adult educators of Teachers Rock®.

Teachers Rock® is a flagship vocal learning platform which aims to inspire, develop, educate and empower

people of all ages, embracing cultural diversity and giving them a route to building confidence for personal development.

For more than a year, children from our school choir have participated in Teachers Rock® Youth Choir events, ranging from concerts in Exeter Cathedral, Exeter University, Armed Forces Day in Plymouth, a CD recording and launch concert, a music video recording session and an audition for Britain's Got Talent. There are more exciting opportunities planned for the future.

Community Arts Garden

In just over the six weeks summer holidays, the Guerrilla Gardening Group transformed a rundown and unused area next to Alexandra Terrace into a community arts garden.

The gardening group was started by Tegan Comer's (Year 4) dad, mum and two other families. This small group of three adults and three children worked very hard to create a fenced off childrens area, two bedding areas and a number of planters, made from stacked tyres on the themes of lighthouses and minions. Children in the neighbourhood were given MDF figures of butterflies, dragonflies and bumblebees to decorate which were also used to decorate the planters. They are now awaiting the delivery of a Peacock mosaic, which has been created with a group of local retired people especially for the garden. Two local artists, including Laura Wall have also been invited to contribute pieces for the garden.



The garden project has raised a lot of local interest and support and the group have been supported and thanked by the Chairman of Teignbridge council, the Major of Teignmouth and a group of local councillors.

The groups' work has not stopped just at creating the garden they have also cut back hedges, cleared the gutters of the road improving parking and access and their next project is to clear the back lane at Bitton Avenue so there is better access for all. Congratulations to all those who have taken part and brought the local community together in this worthwhile project that has really made a difference.

Visit from Clive Pig: author & historian story teller

What a treat we had when Shaldon school had a visitation from the historian story-teller- Clive Pig. Classes 1, 3,4 and 5 were lucky enough to meet Clive Pig who supported their learning journeys on exploration.

In classes 3 and 4 he shared his exciting tales of the Vikings. Dressed in a true to life Viking costume, he entered the room with shield in hand, ready to share sagas all about adventures past.

Mesmorised, the children sat listening to tales about giants and elves, gods and goddesses, being taken on explorations on long boats whilst chanting traditional songs along the way. He cleverly brought the past alive with his wonderful energy and role play while all the time imparting knowledge and giving opportunities for children to develop their curiosity.

After a fun packed session of knowledge through story telling the children then had a chance to use their imagination and develop their own Viking sagas. The only rule was the facts had to be true. Hence, a few alterations had to be made! The children had a fantastic time developing their stories accompanied by props and sound effects. They finished the morning by performing their work to one another which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It was a truly fun packed morning which the children won't forget in a hurry.





Viking



Trip



At an impressively early hour in the morning, Year Three and Four climbed aboard their coach for a long and arduous journey, deep into the wilds of Dorset.

After many hours of I spy, they arrived at a fairly non-descript school in a sleepy village not unlike the one they'd left. Once off the coach, they climbed the hill and soon left the 21st century behind. Through the gates at the top of the lane was another world entirely. First the stone age and then, all of a sudden, they were in the age of the Vikings and Saxons.

Year Three were housed inside a full size longhouse and Year Four were based in an enormous Saxon roundhouse. Each year group split into three groups and spent the day at work, making and doing many things just as the people of the time would have.

Year Three practised their archery (with wooden arrows), wove some willow strips to make some mini hurdles and tried on some Viking armour back at the longhouse. Meanwhile, Year Four were being put to task with tough manual labour. They ground their own grain to make flour, stretched and scraped animal skins to turn them in to leather and hammered away at the forge to create their own knife.

To round off a successful day living as Vikings, Year Three unwound by playing some traditional games in the sun, whilst Year Four enjoyed the bread they had ground the flour for, kneaded together and cooked on an open fire. The journey back was one which should be forgotten for many reasons but, sufficed to say, everyone made it back to Shaldon tired but nonetheless content at a good days' work.

Forest School



Year Six have been exploring the woods on the ness in their forest school sessions this half term. We have focused on survival and exploring skills. They have had a go at fire lighting, testing different tinder, making cordage, map making, following trails and sending Morse code messages, sneaking games and making their own assault course, water filtering, den building and of course making hot chocolate using the Kelly kettle. Their enthusiasm and creative approach

enabled them to overcome many issues, testing different methods and approaches and using excellent communication skills to listen to the ideas of others. Their ingenuity and teamwork was especially apparent in the den building session, where so many creative solutions were found for the same brief. They also managed to find time to set up and test some rope swings. It's been a pleasure to work with year 6!

FOSS Update

Update on the minibus: Last academic year, FOSS had raised enough money to replace one of the School Minibuses. Since then, the school have been working hard to source the right make and model – we're nearly there!

If you missed the Bag2School collection, the next one is January 24th.

Please log on to [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com) and take a look at how you can raise FREE money for the school. It's a really simple way to raise money for FOSS without putting your hand in your pocket – every click counts!

Christmas Cards: the children have been working hard at designing their festive artwork – we look forward to helping you turn them into personalised greetings cards to support our fundraising. Remember to order online by 28th October and return your order forms by 30th October.

Halloween Disco is on 1st November. Fancy dress

is encouraged. Prizes for the best grown up's fancy dress!! Reception – Year 2: 3.30-4.30 and Year 3-6: 4.45-5.45. £3 per child to include unlimited squash or water, and a goody bag.

Don't forget our Quiz night on 11th November at The Ferryboat Inn. Further details to follow.

We're working very hard already to plan our Twilight Christmas Fair – Saturday 7th December, 3pm-6pm. If you're able to help in any way, please get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support and please keep an eye out for further dates, fundraising ideas and events on our Facebook page and eco-wreath making evening coming soon.

Kathryn Bax, Danni Farley, Emma Hunt, Sarah Fryer, Helen Bird, Amy Squirrel and Sue Miller – aka the FOSS committee, always looking for new members to join our team.

Contact us at foshaldonschool@gmail.com or via facebook @friendsofshaldonschool.



Pixie's Holt Residential

The Pixie's Holt trip on Dartmoor was a great experience for the children this year and we had some amazing weather to go with it!

After settling all our things into our rooms, we ventured out into Dartmoor to go on a five mile walk. It was a good test of our stamina and leadership skills, even if a few of us had some trouble crossing the rivers. We made it to some great climbing rocks with spectacular views. We then went back out during the

night for a walk in the woods experiencing total darkness. On day two we had the chance to go make our way into the cave system near Buckfastleigh where it got even darker and then back out into the glorious sunshine to test our archery skills. There was a disco in the evening and on the final day we went back out into the woods to make some amazing bug hotels. A massive thankyou to all the staff involved and well done to all those who pushed themselves to the limit on each activity!

Year 6 Elections & Forest School

Class 6 have had made a great start to their final year at Shaldon. The year started with the elections for our new Head Girl, Head Boy and two Heads of School Council.

Lots of the children put themselves forward for these roles. They all had to plan and rehearse a campaign speech before standing in front of the class (and Mrs Stewart) and explain why they should be elected for the different roles. Their speeches were fantastic and full of passion! As a class, the children then democratically voted for the candidate they thought would represent them the best. Nadine and Alanah were elected Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. Elliot and Wilfred were chosen to be our Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy whilst Thula and Oliver were voted in to be the Heads of School Council.

This half term, the children have been curiously exploring History and have learnt about Sir Ernest

Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition that lasted from 1914-1917. As part of their enriched curriculum, they have been taking part in Forest School every Friday afternoon. In the woods, they have been learning survival skills such as fire lighting and shelter building which has helped them to realise how challenging surviving in the wild can be. Understanding how it can be a difficult to keep warm in the sunny autumn afternoons has really demonstrated how challenging it must have been for Shackleton and his crew to survive for years in Antarctica!



DATES for your DIARY

Mon 28th October – Return to school

Fri 1st November – FOSS Halloween disco
(KS1 – 3.30-4.30pm / KS2 – 4.45-5.45pm)

Mon 4th - Fri 8th November – Year 1 Parent consultations
(times to TBC ON 28/10/19)

Tues 5th November – Parent consultations (3.30 – 6.30pm)

Weds 6th November – Parent consultations (3.30 – 6.30pm)

Fri 8th November – FOSS Year 5 cake sale

Fri 15th November – Children In Need

Thurs 21st November – Year 5 phones concert for parents (9.30am)

Fri 29th November – Flu immunisations

Sat 7th December – FOSS Twilight Christmas Fayre (3-6pm)

Tues 10th December – Christmas Celebrations in St Peters Church
(2.15pm & 6.15pm)

Fri 13th December – Christmas Jumper Day for Save The Children

Tues 17th December – Nativity performance
for Reception & Year 1 (2pm)

Tag Rugby Success

KS2 children took part in a Tag Rugby event hosted by NARFC which encouraged the children to show honesty, respect and teamwork.

YR3/4 spent some of the afternoon learning more about the game and improving their skills. They then played matches and achieved a well deserved 3rd place. Harry J was a brilliant captain, Koha top try scorer and Phoebe managed, accidentally of course, to fully tackle the largest boy on the pitch!

After a sluggish start the YR5/6 team found their mojo and won all their pool matches. They then played off against the three other teams who also came first and fought hard to gain second place overall. Some great individual performances particularly from Harry Williams. Very well done to all.



We are delighted to have received the Sportsmark Platinum Award in recognition for our longstanding record in delivering high quality PE and School Sport.

We have been awarded Gold every year since the award began and our Platinum Award is now in the bag for 2018 – 2020. It recognises that we are offering a broad range of opportunities both competitive and non-competitive for all our children. Our after school clubs are well attended, children are encouraged to be active at lunchtime and are signposted to clubs in the community. The award recognises that we have taken

steps to enable our children to be physically active for a minimum of 60 minutes a day as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer. Many of our children are extremely active and recognise what they need to do to improve their long term health. There is always more that can be done and we would welcome parents support in helping our children with their activity goals. Research has shown that the days they are least active are weekends. So how about getting out together to walk, run cycle and play.

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