



July 2023

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers

Quite literally, if you had blinked for too long, you would have missed this year! None of us in school, can believe we are at the end of term already. The last summer term is always so much fun, and we have plenty of photos to share with you over the coming pages.

For me, one of the highlights of the year has been the ACE choir, in which children performed at the Princess Theatre, along with the other schools in the trust. Our children sang so beautifully, and we were all incredibly proud of them. Many, many thanks to Mrs Fletcher and Miss Stevens for their support and encouragement of the children.

It's been a super year for outdoor learning and wider opportunities, thanks to Mr Rees and the Forest School experiences. Our outdoor learning areas have also been updated, including the Reception and Year One outdoor areas. Next year, Mrs Jones-Whyte will be installing an outdoor growing area for our new Reception class. Our allotment is looking wonderful, thanks to Mr Rees and the children who attend gardening club. I am also delighted to advise that we will renew our contract with Kinetics, for our PE lessons. They will also continue to provide afterschool and breakfast sports clubs.

Huge congratulations go to all of our children and adults across the school for their impressive rates of progress and academic attainment this year. Mr Hodgson and the team have supported the children brilliantly, and I'm delighted to announce that 100% of Year One passed the phonics screening check this year. Mrs Last and the Year Six children also achieved incredible results in their end of KS2 SATs tests. We know how hard everyone has worked, and we were thrilled to see the children gaining the results they deserve, attaining well above national averages in every subject.

Finally, I can't thank our amazing FOSS team enough. They have provided so much for the children this year, such as Mini First-Aid, Chrome books, theatre visits, outdoor sports equipment, the discos and class parties as well as our lovely, glossy new dictionaries. The summer fayre was a major success, in which a staggering £2,500 profit was made! However, none of this happens on its own, and so if you are a keen volunteer and have some time to spare, we would be very grateful indeed for your help.

As the year draws to a close, we will say farewell to Miss Stevens and Miss Fell, and wish all the very best to Mrs Last who begins her maternity leave in September. Mrs Last will be re-joining us later in the next school year, in the summer term. The transition afternoon was very much enjoyed by the children on the 11th July, and we are very excited to be welcoming back Miss Pottage, Miss Alam and Miss Heyward next year. It was wonderful to see how excited the children were, to be meeting up with teachers they are already familiar with.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break. I hope you have a lovely rest, lots of quality time together, and can't wait to see everyone again on Wednesday 6th September.

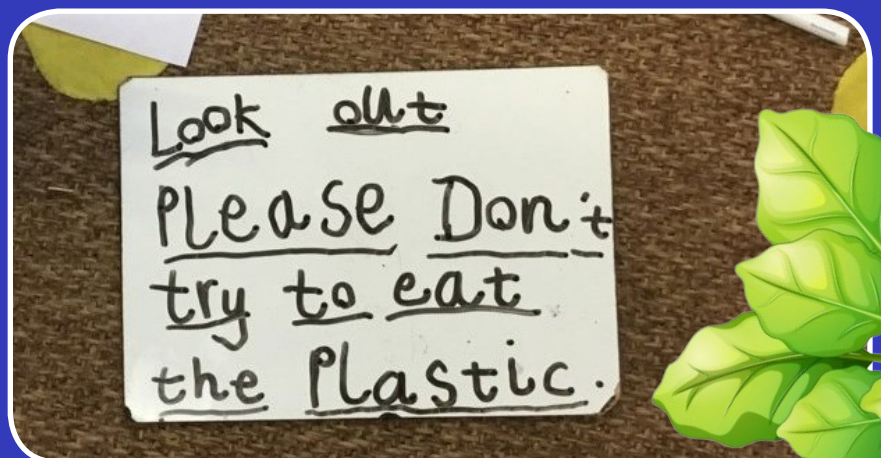
Best wishes,

Jenny Stewart Headteacher

Reception

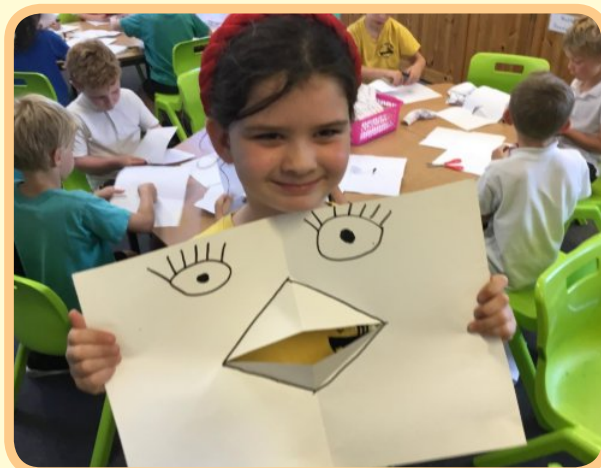
What an action packed lead up to summer break. The children, as ever, have been working so hard – taking their learning deeper and pushing those learning balloons in all areas of learning. It was lovely to finish our scientific enquiry with Miss Alam exploring the importance of bees and creating our bee hotel on the school grounds... and just like Goldilocks – what better way to eat some porridge than with some cut up fruit and a squeeze of honey! Some great cooking skills of pouring, measuring, mixing and stirring taking place.

Our final learning enquiry has been so wonderful to explore with the team "How can we show compassion to our blue planet?" The children have expressed their viewpoints with passion, talking with clarity about protecting our oceans and preventing plastic pollution. They have developed a deep understanding of the important roles we have to help look after our natural world. We have discussed big themes such as pollution, recycling and how to be a responsible and caring citizen. As always, the team have impressed us with their knowledge, curiosity, kindness and questioning – they are certainly Year 1 ready! We are so proud of you Reception family!



Pop-up fun in Year 1

What an exciting time it's been in Year 1 this half-term! We have been working as designers, planning, making and evaluating different paper pop-up mechanisms in preparation for making our very own pop-up books. We looked at mouth folds, box folds, lift-the-flaps and sliders and had so much fun exploring these in class with our friends. To accompany the books, we wrote fantastic adventure stories, building on the great writing which we did in the spring term. We set next step targets and worked hard to address these in our writing. The progress we've made in writing this year has been so impressive. The stories were then added to the books and shared with our friends in Reception Class. They absolutely loved them. What a treasure the books are - to keep and cherish forever. Well done Team Year 1, fantastic work, as always!



Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy this half-term! The children have really enjoyed their Design and Technology enquiry of using plan-do-review to make their product. I am sure you will agree, their improved smoothies tasted delicious! Thank you to being great sports by coming in and supporting your lovely children.

Our computing enquiry was a great success. The children loved learning about how to use Office Word to produce a reflection on what they had learned.

Our science enquiry about animal food chains has been really interesting. It is wonderful to see how much the children already know about food chains and why some animals are called predators.

In maths, we have been focussing on revisiting some areas of the curriculum, such as telling the time and 2-step number reasoning challenges with the four

operations. The children have shown me how they have really improved in terms of maths fluency and how they can remember the correct strategies in various problem solving activities.

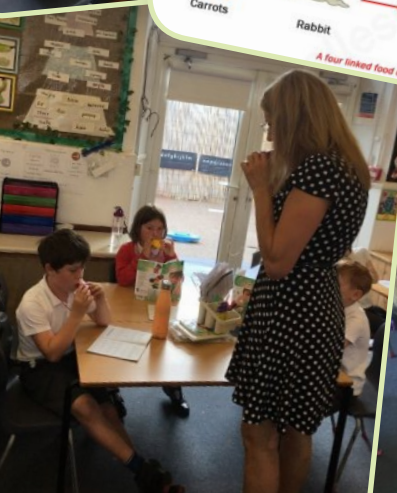
Class Novel

We have been reading Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes as our class novel. Bit of a mixed review on the alternative versions of our favourite traditional tales!

Forest school has been a massive success and the children will enjoy more outdoor fun next year.

In music, we have been learning to play the Ocarina! We are learning the song; London's Burning.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers for our school trip, for also reading with the children and offering your help with Forest School. You are all very appreciated!



Year 3 have had a fantastic final half term of the year. There have been lots of exciting things happening, as well as lots of amazing learning. We started with a computing enquiry, creating animations on Scratch and learning about coding. The children were really engaged in this and demonstrated amazing citizenship as they collaborated together and shared ideas. The final outcomes were of really high quality and everyone enjoyed the computing.

We then did a DT enquiry, our enquiry question was 'how can I create a salad?' Again, Year 3 demonstrated incredible compassion and drive as they worked together in teams of 4 to make salads following recipes. After reviewing this first attempt, the teams selected one salad to remake as part of the Plan, Do, Review process. After this second attempt, the children wrote reflections explaining what they had learned and reviewing their salads.

To finish off this last half term, we are focusing on a Science enquiry exploring liquids, solids and gases. The children have completed scientific diagrams of the water cycle, and they have learned about fair tests. They have been challenged to design their own fair test, to test changes of state between liquids and solids and solids and liquids. It is really lovely hearing the scientific vocabulary being used in class discussions, and amazing to see so much drive in the classroom even in these final weeks.

Year 3 have also been thinking about our links with Teignmouth Community Larder. As well as designing posters and putting them up around school, the children helped to plan and deliver a Key Stage 2 assembly about the types of food and items that can be brought in for the larder. In thinking about this, they have shown lots of empathy and responsibility.

The children have also been really enjoying swimming every Wednesday, they have listened really well to their instructors and everyone is demonstrating excellent progress.

Year 3



Year 4



Hasn't the summer term flown by! Year 4 have had a really positive final term this year and have continued to work exceptionally hard in all areas of their learning. As a class, we have studied a wide range of subjects: geography, computing, French, science, and DT, as well as continuing our excellent maths, PE and swimming lessons.

As geographers, we learnt about the Matsigenka tribe from the southern Peruvian Amazon Rainforest. Children learnt how the Matsigenka use the Amazon Rainforest in a sustainable way and how they have a deep-rooted, spiritual connection with the world's largest rainforest. Year 4 also learnt more about the risks that are facing the Amazon and the shocking scale of the deforestation that continues to threaten the Amazon.

In our computing enquiry, children learnt to use Scratch and were able to design and build their own interactive game for a partner to play. Children learnt how to code movement and use variables to allow their sprite to move smoothly around the screen. As part of the programming experience, children had to design their own sprite, background and instructions for their game. They also had to produce an alpha build of their game before evaluating it, redesigning it and creating a beta version before tweaking this and finally producing their final draft.

As scientists, children have been learning more about light, sound and electricity. We've discovered that light must travel in straight lines and travels at around 300,000 kilometres per second! However, sound travels in waves and is caused by different objects vibrating. If an object vibrates with a lot of energy, it creates a louder noise, whereas if it vibrates with less energy, a quieter sound is produced.

We also had a brilliant trip to Buckfast Abbey this term to take part in their well-being 'Take 5' festival. The children learnt more about how to look after themselves physically and mentally and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the historic Abbey.

The class have had a fantastic end to their time in Year 4 and should all be incredibly proud of themselves for how hard they have worked this year!



Year 5 have had a very busy term, with some fantastic enquiries and also lots of extra-curricular activities! Here's a look at what they've been doing...

Year 5

DT Enquiry

The children started the half-term with some cooking! They were absolutely fantastic and had a lot of fun. Their aim was to create a series of balanced meals that would fit into a healthy diet. Between them, they created 9 fantastic meals using the plan, do, review process. After their first attempt, they evaluated their recipe and decided what to change or adjust in order to improve it. It was lovely to see all of the children exclaiming that their recipe was even better the second time! During the cooking enquiry, the children developed skills such as boiling, dicing, chopping and flavouring. I am very proud of how hard they worked at all that they achieved. Some of them even went home and cooked dinner for their families!

Science Enquiry

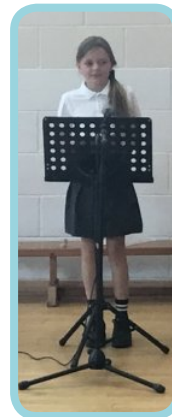
Our second enquiry of the term was science, which was all about States of Matter. The children were using their scientific skills to plan and conduct experiments to teach them all about solids, liquids and gasses, and changing between these states. A particular focus was on writing hypotheses and repeating investigations to make them more reliable. We also had a message from the COO of South West Water, who asked them to think about how they can filter water, separating the liquids from the solids- they definitely rose to the challenge!

Swimming

The children have been swimming each week this half-term, and they have loved it! They have developed both swimming and life-saving skills, whilst having loads of fun! They were a real testament to the school.

Youth Speaks

On top of all of their learning, Year 5 also took part in the Youth Speaks public speaking competition. Each of them wrote a speech on a topic of their choosing to present to our panel of judges. I was absolutely blown away by the standard of these! A lot of children were very nervous, but they all faced their fears and gave a fantastic performance. Well done to the 7 children who made it to the final! These children then had the chance to work with Crown Court Judge, Stephen Climie, to improve their public speaking skills even further.





Design and Technology

What an action packed term year 6 have had! The children started this term focusing on food design and technology, with aim of answering the question: 'How can I design a recipe that is suitable for someone with dietary requirements?' As our school value focus has been on citizenship, the children carefully considered how they were going to show compassion in this enquiry. To enable them to do this, they learnt about what it meant to be a vegan, vegetarian or to have a gluten-free diet. Having this information would allow them to make suitable adaptations to a pasta dish for others. Before making those adaptations, they completed an empathy map considering the following questions:

- What do they think and feel? What matters to them?
- What do others say that might have an impact on them? Where do they go for support?
- How are they influenced by the environment?
- What do they say and do?

**'they' refers to vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free diets, depending on who they decided to make the dish for*

Working in their groups, the children planned their recipes, considering how to make a roux and how to chiffonade within their methods. They then began cooking their dishes. After their first attempt at the beginning of the week, the children then evaluated their dishes and made changes ahead of their next cook. The outcomes looked and tasted wonderful, well done year 6!

Junior Youth Speaks

At Shaldon Primary School, we firmly believe that our children should be competent speakers and they should be able to present articulately. Pupils from Year 5 and 6 participated in the annual Junior Speak competition, organised by the Teignmouth Rotary Club – a competition designed to offer young people experience in public speaking. The children were asked to prepare a speech on a subject of their choice, with or without the use of props. The heats were held and the finalists were chosen based on 4 criteria: presentation, content, confidence and delivery. Everyone was then fortunate enough to be able to work with Crown Court Judge Stephen Climie to perfect their presenting skills. Stephen gave the children one headline comment to help improve their presentations and the finals are being held on the 18th July.

Year 6 End of Year Celebrations

We have had a great time celebrating the end of year with a range of activity days for the children including a ranger day at Dawlish Warren, a forest school day and a Bear Trail day! Thank you to our parent fundraising committee for ensuring the children have had a wonderful end to their primary education.



PERIPATETIC MUSIC

Piano lessons are with Helen Sargent (CTABRSM) who has been teaching Piano with us at Shaldon for many years. To book lessons, add your child to the list or if you have any queries, please contact Helen on piano_matters@icloud.com or 07941072001. Lessons are held in school time on a Monday.

Lessons cost £11 for 20 minute individual lesson and is invoiced by the term.

Children must have an instrument on which to practise at home and the first term is usually a trial period.

Next term Ilana Jacobs will continue to offer the following music lessons in school:

Individual singing, piano and recorder lessons:

20mins weekly sessions, £11 a lesson, during school time, any age group, payable termly (£132 per 12 week term). I'm also happy to do a combination of lessons (e.g 10mins each of singing and recorder etc) and potentially two children can share a lesson.

NB Re piano lessons: if our piano teacher Helen Sargeant has any spaces available, I'll pass on your details to Helen. However, Helen has limited spaces, so if not, piano lessons will be with me.

Group Recorder Club:

15mins at a morning break, weekly, any level, £30 total for the 12 week term (= £2.50 a session). This will be a small group of up to 6 children. If necessary, I'll run two groups - Beginners and Continuation. We'll work on group skills, playing together, musicianship skills, following a conductor and improvising.

Group Ukulele/Guitar/Song Lunchtime Club:

25 minutes at a lunchtime working together learning chords to play songs together. Open to guitarists/ukulele players who already have some knowledge of chords, and a few people who'd like to sing songs with guitar/ukulele accompaniment. The emphasis will be on building group music skills, learning songs, and enjoying playing music together!

£36 total for the 12 week term (= £3.00 a session) Small group of up to 9 children.

To book or for further information email me on ilana_jacobs@yahoo.co.uk or call 07971 706485





FOSS Update

This half term is always a busy one for FOSS and this year has been no different! We started off with a successful Father's Day shop providing just over 100 gifts to our excited shoppers. We then had a Bag2School collection raising £60. We then held our amazing Summer Fair which raised an incredible £2500. We also provided refreshments at Sports Day, the Youth Speaks final and the Leavers Assembly.

As well as raising money, we've been spending too. We have purchased football goals for the field, netball posts for the playground and giant Lego blocks for the Year 2/3 outdoor area and we've paid for a Yearbook for every Year 6 leaver (a lovely keepsake and reminder of the children's time at Shaldon Primary School!). We have continued topping up the school library too.

We will be holding our AGM on Friday 15th September at 9am in school - all are welcome to hear what we've been up to and to see what we have planned. We are fast approaching the time when some of our current committee members' children will be leaving the school so we need people with younger children to join up to learn the ropes! It's not just meetings and paperwork - we craft (e.g. decorate bags for Father's Day shop, make games at the summer fair), we design posters, we fetch and carry, we bake (occasionally!), we shop, we man stalls, we coordinate, we run events.... You may be able to offer help in many ways and every little bit helps make up the bigger picture - many hands make light work! Please do get in touch if you'd like to know more, if you're interested in helping or joining up or come along to the AGM to find out more.foshaldonschool@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support with our fundraising efforts.

FOSS x

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 6th September

Return To School

Friday 15th September

FOSS AGM 9am

Friday 22nd September

FOSS Return To School Disco

Friday 20th October

Last Day of Term

Half Term

Monday 30th October

Return To School