

July 2020

# Shaldon Primary School

## 2020 MEMORIES

Dear Parents,

Oh my goodness, how time has flown! I simply can quite believe we've come to the end of our school year – and what a year it's been! I don't think anyone could have predicted the challenges we've faced in recent months, but I feel strongly that this year has been one of so many successes as well.

This newsletter therefore will focus on all of our happy memories of the school year. Our teachers and teaching assistants have been busy thinking about their best bits of 2019/20 to share with you here, along with their goals for next year.

For me, this year has been tremendously exciting and a real non-stop rollercoaster. I've been welcomed so warmly by the school community and have been constantly amazed by the ingenuity and passion of our pupils. When I had to think about my best bit of this year, it was so difficult. Some of my highlights were going to see the Year 3 children on residential at Dewerstone Cottage, as well as the Year 6 Pen-Pal portrait event. But then again, when I think back to the autumn, I am still so amazed by our choir, when they performed at the Teignmouth Jazz Festival – not to mention our Teacher's Rock Choir performing at Exeter Cathedral! You'll have to read on to see what I have chosen as my overall, "number one" memory!

Our last newsletter focussed on sharing examples of children's high-quality home learning and since then our children have just kept on working harder and setting themselves personal goals to beat. I simply can't thank you all for your incredible support of our children and our staff. We are so looking forward to having the children back in September and our new teachers have been busy planning some terrific learning experiences.

On a more bitter-sweet note, we say a very fond farewell to Miss Young, Mrs Smith and Mrs Yeldham, who will leave us at the end of this year and who we thank immensely for their dedication and commitment to our school; see our dedicated section on this, further on in the newsletter.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the teachers and all the staff at the school, to our wonderful volunteers, supporters, and to the FOSS committee for all their support and hard work this year.

I very much hope you all enjoy this round up of our staff's personal highlights of 2019/20 and from all of us here in school, I'd like to wish you a relaxing, wonderful summer break. We can't wait to see the children back with us on 7th September!

With my very best wishes to you all,

*Jenny Stewart*

Headteacher





# RECEPTION

My favourite memory this year was our class assembly where the children in Reception were able to show off all their knowledge about dinosaurs that they had learnt. Our dinosaur enquiry led to so many fun experiences with the children, we enjoyed making dinosaur soup, digging up fossils and learning all about the different dinosaurs.

My goal for next year is learn how to be a mummy.  
Something fun that I would like to learn would be to paddle board.





# YEAR 1

During the last few months we have constantly heard of how so many people have become heroes by helping others during the Corona Virus epidemic. Year One proved that they were heroes long before lockdown during our topic on the Blue Zone. The children came to the rescue of the vegetables that had been captured by the Evil Pea. Year One saved the day and had lots of fun doing it when they created their own Super Vegetables! I have never seen so many children excited by vegetables!



Year 1

I have taken all of the Supertato and all of your vegetables hostage in my evil lair. They have no-one left to help them!

Do you have any other superveg who can help?

Mwa ha ha ha ha ha!





A large group of Year 2 children in red school uniforms are standing in a church hall, decorated with international flags and a globe, for a Harvest and Christmas sing. A girl in the foreground holds up a notebook with her bird research.

# YEAR 2

My favourite memories of Year 2 were helping them learn their sings for Harvest and Christmas. We've had such fun singing together and their own invented dance was hilarious! As a class of children, they have been a joy to teach. The learning they produced in lockdown was incredible – especially the Garden Birds enquiry.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

LO: I can conduct my own

I have been observing  
these are my findings:

When did you see it?	Where did you see it?
How long was it?	What was it doing?
What was it like?	What colour was it?
What was it doing?	What was it doing?
What colour was it?	What was it doing?
What was it doing?	What was it doing?

New knowledge I have learnt  
• birds have different names  
• different types of birds  
The most common bird I  
saw was a... sparrow

I am curious to learn more about... a sparrow

make observational notes

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Lesson present my findings

Wood pigeon

English doves  
commonest birds in the garden  
English doves: grey, black, white  
English doves: grey, black, white

These are the birds I saw in my garden.  
I have carried out observational  
noting and taken research  
to find this information.

The wood pigeon is the largest and  
most common pigeon. Its call is  
like a ho-ho-squaw and  
makes it easy to identify.

A female wood pigeon lays more than  
two eggs.

A large group of Year 2 children in red school uniforms are standing in a church hall, decorated with international flags and a globe, participating in a singing event. A girl in the foreground holds up a notebook with handwritten notes and a drawing of a wood pigeon.

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Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Lesson present my findings

Wood pigeon

English department  
composition observation notebook  
15.12.19 Observation: core data notes

These are the birds I saw in my garden.  
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to find this information.

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# YEAR 3

My favourite memory from this year was walking with Year Three along the River Teign. It was a beautiful Autumn day where everyone got plenty of exercise and learned a lot about rivers to boot.

*Mr Brice*





# YEAR 4

Our Year 4 children were such superstars, coming 2nd in the local Spelling Bee this year! The children have had so many inspiring experiences, from Forest School to sports tournaments. But I think they'd agree that the best was when they got to be Vikings for the day!





# YEAR 5

My favourite memory of year 5 was going to the Teignmouth beach to learn about where the proposed railway might be built. It was great seeing the children so engaged with something that was happening near to them. We had great discussions when we came back and led to some fantastic learning about debates and letter writing. It also helped build our character trait of Citizenship by trying make a change in the world. Some of the children were able to write letters to Sir David Attenborough and Prince Charles and get replies from them.

During the summer I am going to continue the learning that I started during lockdown. I began learning how to play the ukulele and know around 10 chords now. I was working on learning French through an app on my phone and spent loads of time at my allotment growing food.

*Mr Rees*





# YEAR 6

Class 6 - you have been immense this year. Throughout the course of the year, you have worked tirelessly and shown what incredible young people you are. The way that you have grown and matured as a class is to be admired and you should all be proud of yourselves for the way that you have brilliantly represented our school during your time at Shaldon.

It is gutting that your time in Year 6 was cut so short this year but I am confident that you will all go out into the world and show how you're ready to tackle whatever life throws at you! We have some great memories of the year, from the exhibition we held for our Shackleton learning experience to the way you gave Network Rail a grilling over their plans for Teignmouth Beach.

Stay in touch and let us know about your achievements in the years to come! We are all very proud of you.

Making a Positive Difference  
to the world around







As another school year draws to a close, it is time to say 'goodbye' to our Year 6 children and some of the families we have known for many years. This year marks the final year of the Rodwell family at Shaldon Primary School. Naomi has been a pillar of the school community for many years and began walking Jade, the first of her five children, over the bridge to Shaldon more than seventeen years ago in 2002 and Jade, Joseph, Jack, James and Jinnie Rodwell have been attending Shaldon nonstop since then! Their attendance has been exemplary and Naomi has been integral in ensuring that their children have been in school nearly every day since September 2002. Incredible determination and dedication from the whole family and you will all be missed.



# P.E.

Lots of wonderful performances and success this year again in PE but my standout very proud teacher moment was at the cross-country in the Autumn. A convincing win from Oliver Rowbury who is a fierce competitor with excellent endurance. There was such a great team spirit with everyone keen to improve and they did with a brilliant 2nd place!! Well done to all the children across the school who are always so keen to do PE and keep active you have loved teaching you. Keep it up.

*Ali Young*





# MUSIC



What a very different year this has been for all of us! Many musical events were arranged, but then had to be cancelled at in the run up to Christmas because of too many winter illnesses and then from March this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's such a great shame that we couldn't entertain the school and wider community with our musical talents within the school, but music has still thrived and many of our pupils have still been music making at home and online. We have had virtual choir rehearsals, online instrumental lessons and many of our pupils have recorded themselves performing songs and instrumental pieces. One of my favourite times this academic year was when some of our pupils went up to Exeter Cathedral to perform with the Teachers Rock Youth Choir. Our children sang with over 300 children from all over Devon and Somerset, along with over 100 educators, to an audience of over 700 people. We all definitely raised the roof with our singing and have happy memories of the day. It would be great if we could get music reverberating around the school again next academic year.

At the beginning of lockdown, I had hoped to learn sign language, but unfortunately, this did not happen as I was too busy learning how to use the virtual world and to continue to teach Music in such a different way. I would like to try to learn sign language during next year and use it in school and perhaps try to use it in our Music making.

*Mrs Price*





# HAPPY PEARS





# FOSS UPDATE



FOSS fundraising has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, so we haven't been particularly active over the last few months. We are looking into ways that we can still keep fundraising, but in a remote or virtual way. If you have any ideas, please let us know!

We are looking for new recruits all the time - but particularly from September, as committee members step down or leave the school with their Y6 leavers. The word 'committee' sounds scary, but it really isn't - we're just a group of like-minded parents who want to raise funds to enhance our children's time at the school. If you are interested in helping out, or joining the committee, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Currently there is only one date for the diary, until we are clearer on the future of fundraising events:

**24th September - Bag2School collection**

**Contact us on [foshaldonschool@gmail.com](mailto:foshaldonschool@gmail.com)**

**Follow us on Facebook - [@friendsofshaldonschool](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofshaldonschool)**





# GOVERNORS



Our children in school have been very busy making cards to say a huge thank you to James and Rita, our governors, who have served the school so brilliantly. James and Rita's terms of office have come to an end and we can't thank them enough for all of their incredible support.



## Well done Theo!

Theo in Year 4 has raised nearly £350 for Rowcroft by baking and selling biscuits and cakes to family and friends during lockdown.





# FAVOURITE MOMENTS



The Happy Pear who delivered an assembly on healthy eating is a fond memory of mine this year. There was an excitement and a buzz within the hall. A funny moment was when children invited the adults to try insect as a good source of protein! I wasn't brave enough but Miss White was! This gave me the inspiration to try and grow my own vegetables. I would like to have a go at paddle boarding next year.

*Angela Gibbons*



I have many great memories of this past school year but one of them I need to mention is making a colour wheel with my bubble. I didn't let on that although art is my favourite subject, I have never made a colour wheel and guess what the challenge was? Yes, it was to make one....

The children had gone on their lunch break so I frantically trawled the internet for 'how to' videos. I had paper plates and paint but that was it. I needed to find out how to divide the plate in to equal sections. I folded the plate in half, then quarters, then eighths and so on. It gave me 16 sections and I only needed 12! I found some compasses and had a practice using a ruler.... It worked!

The children came back after their lunch and we set to it. We worked systematically, very carefully measuring each section and holding our compasses steady. We watched a video of how to make a colour wheel and again, working systematically, we did it! By the end of the lesson, we had all learnt to divide a circle in to equal sections accurately using a compass and could make 12 different shades from only 3 primary colours. I did let on to the children later that I'd never made a colour wheel before and we'd ALL learnt some new skills that day.

*Mrs Rowland*

Working in early years is a real treat because you constantly have memorable days with the children as they grow and change so much at that age. I have to say that last week when we were being scientists was one of those times. We were making a rainbow by soaking a piece of paper towel that had been coloured in with pen. As I dipped the paper in the water and the ink "grew" the room exploded with gasps and shrieks as the rainbow spread.

I really enjoy swimming and so over the next year I am going to try and improve my open water swimming. Maybe you will see me bobbing along off Teignmouth sea front!

*Lou Williams*



One of my most memorable memories of this year has to be winning the Diabetes UK award. I couldn't have been more prouder of Bobby & myself! This coming year, I'd like to further my studying. I love learning something new. You never know it could even be juggling!

*Mrs Betts*



I have two great memories from this year. My favourite memory (out of work) during lockdown was exploring the local environment without any people around! I walked for miles and found dirt tracks I never knew existed, views of Teignmouth that I'd never seen before and I even discovered Combe Valley nature reserve for the first time! (Even though I've lived in Teignmouth for eight years!) My other favourite memory was seeing the children at school again for the first time after lockdown (in my bubble). I really missed them. We took the parachute out on to the field to play some games. Unfortunately a large gust of wind caused it to mushroom in to an umbrella and we were nearly lifted off the ground! I loved seeing the awe and excitement in their faces which reminded me why I love working with children. With the passing of our dear friend Janet Gordge, my goal for the year will be to try and find the joy in everything. Janet was full of joy and I want to carry on this value in my own life as she was such an inspirational lady.

*Mrs Brooks*



I have so many happy memories of this year – but I think my absolute number one was when 'The Happy Pear' came in to talk to us all about the importance of looking after ourselves. I really enjoyed their cookery demonstration and the handstand competition! It was terrific seeing the children's laughter and delight when Dave and Steve were flipping pancakes in the school hall.

*Mrs Stewart*



# SUMMER SAFETY

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As parents will be aware, we are busy preparing to welcome all our children back to school in September. In order to do this, we are ensuring that we are keeping the government guidance very much in mind. In particular, we are working to implement Public Health England's 'System of Controls':

- 1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school**
- 2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual**
- 3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach**
- 4. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach**
- 5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible**

These controls also apply to any summer holiday provision that children attend. In particular, it is important that parents are aware for the need to minimise contact between individuals and to maintain social distancing wherever possible (see point 5).

For this reason, it would be safest for parents to be selective about any provision that you use over the holiday, and aim for your children to mix with a small consistent group of children or friends, rather than to use a number of different settings e.g. child-minder, sports provision and activity camps.

We all need to maintain vigilance at this time, as some areas of the country are currently experiencing outbreaks and spikes of infection, and testing appears to show that an unexpectedly high number of people may carry Covid 19 without any symptoms. As lots of tourists arrive in Devon over the summer break, it would be great if we could all continue to ensure that we maintain the low level of risk that is currently in the local area.

I would like to wish you and your family a happy, healthy summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

# FAREWELLS

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We say a fond farewell to Miss Young, our Sports Lead, who has decided to step down from her role. Miss Young has been such a dedicated member of our team, and has encapsulated so much of Shaldon's drive and excellence over the many years she has been with us. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking her for her amazing work and dedication to the children over the years.

Mrs Yeldham is retiring this year too, and I know that her support, warmth and wisdom will be sorely missed by so many of us.

Mrs Smith has been a real asset to our school, stepping in mid-year, which is never an easy task. Mrs Smith has really done a brilliant job in supporting Year 1 with their phonics in particular and more recently has gone above and beyond to support the children who were in her 'bubble' during lockdown. Thank you Mrs Smith and good luck in your next role!

