

# Dates for your Diary

- **Monday 25th February** - Return to School
- **Thursday 7th March** - World Book Day
- **Thursday 7th-Friday 8th March** - Year 3 Residential
- **Friday 15th March** - Red Nose Day
- **Thursday 21st March** - Year 5 Music Concert - TCS
- **Wednesday 27th March** - Year 2 Funfest -TCS
- **Friday 29th March** - Year 3 Bake Sale
- **Thursday 4th April** - Year 6 Penpal Event
- **Friday 5th April** - Last Day of Term
- **Tuesday 23rd April** - Back to School

## Easter Holidays

### Advance Notice

**Monday 17th June** - Sports day

## UNIFORM POLICY

We would like to give parents advance notice about a small change to our uniform policy from September 2019. From that date, we are asking that all children have at least one jumper or cardigan with the school logo on it.

We appreciate that these cost more than plain red jumpers you can get – and the latter will still be permitted as uniform. However, we would ask that all children do have a logoed jumper or cardigan for our more formal occasions as a school, such as concerts, or the children are presenting the school externally.

For full details of our uniform policy, please see the school website.



### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER?

Shaldon Primary works in partnership with Devon Primary SCITT to train new teachers. They are holding an open evening on Thursday 7th March at Trinity School in Exeter if you would like to find out more.

Please email [slawton@dpsscitt.ac.uk](mailto:slawton@dpsscitt.ac.uk) or call 01392 790 164 for more information. [www.dpsscitt.ac.uk](http://www.dpsscitt.ac.uk)

## Dear Parents

It is amazing to think that we are already halfway through the school year. One of the best things about my job is being able to speak to the children in class about their learning, and to look at their books. And although the time seems to have flown by since September, it is great to see the progress that all the children have been making this year—both academically as well as in their wider personal development.

This has been particularly evident through our current learning journey, where the children are developing artistic skills to enable them to showcase the village through collage.

Alongside becoming better artists, the children are being challenged to become more reflective in their learning—always considering how their work could be improved. This is an important 'life' skill, and it has been great to see how the children have responded so positively to this challenge. (Please do pop in and see your child's work if you get the chance.)

Another challenge that children in year 6 have been set is to raise money for their Tall Ships experience in the summer. Over the next few weeks, they will be selling their products and

services after school on Fridays—please do support their efforts.

Speaking of fundraising, I do appreciate there have been quite a lot of calls on your generosity recently, with Tall-Ships, FOSS events, and charitable collections. In an era of tightening budgets for all school, your help really does make a difference by helping us to provide a rich curriculum for the children.

You may have noticed the work that has been going on at the front of the school, where we have some new, expertly crafted raised beds. I would like to thank Bill Block and Simon Girling for their hard work in making these

over the last few weeks. The top soil has arrived today and Mrs Yeldham will be working with the children to plant the beds out when we get back after half term.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that Breakfast and After school club will continue into 2019/2020. Although regular bookings always get priority, more parents are using it for one-off or ad-hoc childcare requirements, so please do call the team via the school office if you would like to use this and we will do our best to accommodate you. I hope you have a good half term break.

*Jonathan Coe*

Headteacher

## UNSUNG HERO

Ivor Watts has been a true hero to Shaldon School for many years. He is our longest serving governor, having been on the board for over 20 years; he comes in to see the children every month for our 'Open the Book' Assemblies; and is also part of our PenPals project. Thank you Ivor for everything you do for the school.



## ONLINE SAFETY

In January, the NSPCC ran a session for parents looking at how to support children with on-line safety.

The internet is part of everybody's life these days, and developing strong ICT skills and awareness are an important aspect of child development.

Whilst the school covers internet safety through its curriculum, it is also important that parents are informed, and able to have conversations with their children, about how to stay safe online.

If you were not able to get the NSPCC session, there are lots of useful resources and links to help you on their website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



## WHERE MY WELLIES TAKE ME

To support their current learning journey, pupils from Years 2, 3 and 4 went on a 'Welly Walk' around Shaldon to get ideas for all the lovely places that make our village so special.

The walk was inspired by a beautiful book called 'Where my wellies take me.' The children have used this text to create their own welly walk writing, setting out what they found on their trip and using this to help develop ideas about which parts of Shaldon they could show in their artwork later this term.





## Sporting Round Up

Following our e-safety assembly by the NSPCC earlier this term, Years 1-6 have been participating in the Big Buddy Workout to help raise some money to say thank you to the charity. KS1 enjoyed a Mini Olympics with tennis skills, football, hurdles, howler throwing and relay. KS2 worked hard on a Fitness Circuit designed to increase their heart rate to an effective level. Well done to everybody involved for the passion and enthusiasm shown in completing the challenge.

Meanwhile, years 3,4 and 6 have enjoyed three sessions of dance with Kelly Moloney, our School Sport Co-ordinator who leads Dance at TCS. Years 3 and 4 used The Vikings as their theme and Year 6 were taught some moves from The Greatest Showman.

Children from years 5 & 6 have also been busy representing the school in competitive sport over the last month. Thirty one children took part in the second round of the TLC Football League with our A team achieving 3rd place overall. The Year 5 team showed great promise, again with some close results and will definitely be a force to be reckoned with next year. Well done to all the children who were so keen to be part of this and gave their best!

Two teams of year 5 and 6 children competed in the annual SSP Netball Tournament. Despite the fact that we haven't been working on netball this year, both teams did fantastically well with the A team joint winners of their pool. The B team came a worthy second place in their pool. Miss Young is very proud of how they all performed and especially how well they transferred and applied their knowledge from one game to another.

## What Makes Our Planet Special?

This term, year 1 have been considering the question 'What Makes Our Planet Special?' as part of their science learning. The children have already discovered that we live on the only planet in the solar system we know to have animals and humans. Through exploring in their own zoo role play and doing lots of very scientific thinking, they have been able to identify many wild animals, classify them into groups and will even identify what they eat and what environments they live in. They will be presenting their findings to the children in Reception class after half term.



## Celebrating Chinese New Year



Our Reception children have been celebrating the Chinese Year Of The Pig by enjoying noodles, prawn crackers and fortune cookies. They learnt to count to 10 in Chinese and wished each other Happy New Year in Chinese at registration.

The children listened to a story which explained why this is the year of the pig. The children discussed the different animals associated with Chinese years and decided every year should be the year of the dragon because dragons can fly quicker than they can swim!

Like the rest of our school, our youngest pupils are also learning to collage, and they have been putting these skills to the test by making Chinese new year cards. They have chosen to either cut squares or tear squares in order to make a collage of a pig.

## School Speed Watch

Pupils from year 5 took part in a School Speed Watch with Neighbourhood Beat Manager Rob Harvey and PCSO Saul Bunce. The concept is that speeding motorists are asked probing questions by school children close to their school as an alternative to prosecution. They are given the opportunity to address their driving behaviour and explain to pupils the reason for their speeding. The aim of the initiative is to deter drivers from future speeding and the risk of collisions or worse. It also taught a valuable lesson to year 5 which will hopefully stay with them until their driving years.



The pupils stood outside the school at the side of the road and monitored cars entering Shaldon across the bridge. When a car drove over the speed limit, the children alerted PC Harvey who flagged them down and got them to pull over where year 5 children questioned them on their speeding, supervised by PCSO Bunce. During the course of the day, 36 motorists were stopped for driving over the speed limit. Over two thirds had children of their own and all were very apologetic for their speeding. School Speed Watch will be back in future, so please make sure you stick to the speed limit in Shaldon!



## Learning From The Experts

Our school-wide learning journey question this term is 'How can I become an expert in collage to showcase our village?' The journey began with the children finding out and discussing all the different things that make Shaldon so special. As art is a key component of this experience, the children then began collecting their ideas for their collages in Art Journals. To help the children to develop their journals, we were fortunate to have a visit from a group of Art students from Exeter College who inspired the children and shared their own expertise.



The children are now learning about, and practicing, a number of core artistic skills that will be useful in creating their collages such as tone, colour, line and perspective. After half term, each class will have a visit from an artist who will help the children to experiment with different techniques and materials to use on their collage.



### Reminder : School Closure Notification

Although we always try and keep the school open, we did have to shut the school twice last year due to the snow. If it is necessary to close the school due to weather or for any other reason, we will always make the decision to do so by 7.30am at the very latest (and earlier wherever possible). This will be communicated by text message to all parents on the number that we have on file. We will also have information on our website, and register the closure with local radio stations.

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