



March 2021

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

**I can confidently say that this has been the most unexpected term of schooling any of us has experienced! Despite a last-minute government announcement on 4th January, the staff and children have coped amazingly well with the transition into and out of lockdown.**

I think it's a real testament to the character and strength of our children, that they have taken everything in their stride so well.

The 8th March was a real high for all of us in school, as we welcomed the children back in, and I wanted to really celebrate their return to school in this newsletter.

Our teachers have all shared photos and anecdotes of what their class has been up to since returning, and I hope you enjoy reading about their achievements.

As ever, we have so much to look forward to in the summer term. Our newsletter will share more information about our plans for a new outdoor climbing trail, our live cooking lessons and well-being therapy sessions.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone when we return on 19th April.

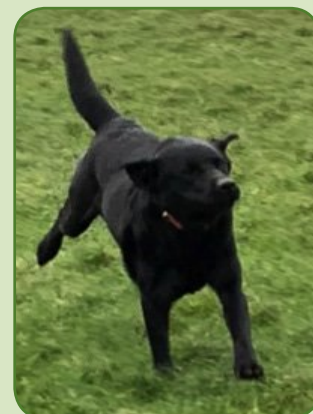
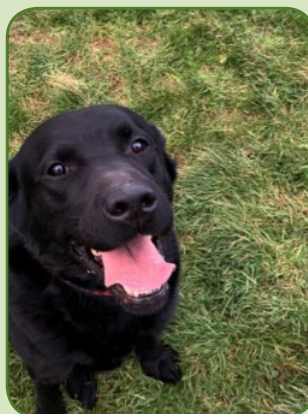
Best wishes,

*Jenny Stewart*

Headteacher

## New additions to Year 6

Our Year 6 children made a strong case for accepting two new additions to the Year 6 classroom this term. As part of our focus on pupil well-being, the children felt that looking after Mrs Stewart's labradors, Cosmo and Nelson, would be a great way to ensure they are getting brain breaks, exercise and plenty of fresh air throughout the day. Our Year 6s have done a brilliant job of looking after them on their visits to Shaldon. The children have reported back that they have felt so much calmer and more relaxed having them around. Cosmo and Nelson have been very happy in their new classroom, although by the afternoon they spend most of their time asleep in the reading corner... nice to know it's not just children who can find the school day tiring!



## Outdoor Climbing Trail

A huge thank you to parents who have very kindly donated towards our outdoor climbing trail! We are hoping to have the trail installed over the May half term holiday, and so it will be ready for when the children return. If anyone is willing to support our fundraising, we would be incredibly grateful for your contributions!

We are well on our way to reaching our target of £6,550. Thanks again everyone for all of your support with this!







# Reception Class New Arrivals!

Since returning to school from lockdown Reception class have been eagerly awaiting the hatching of 12 eggs which were kindly donated by Lewis Bloor, a local Shaldon resident. On Tuesday 30th March we were greeted very early in the morning with four new additions! A further four hatched during the day which caused great excitement and happiness! What a wonderful conclusion to our learning this half term 'can we empathise with Christians and their joy of new life at Easter time.' We also made pop up Easter chick cards and daffodils to wish our families and friends a happy Easter.





# Pop-up Fun in Year 1!

Since returning to school from lockdown Year 1 have been trying to answer the question, 'How can I make a pop-up book?' We started off this learning journey by asking a real author and illustrator, Mr Hodgson's younger brother, Rob Hodgson, how it's done. He gave us some brilliant words of wisdom. We then got to grips with the question and clarified what we were trying to achieve. We looked at some really exciting pop-up books in class. Mr Hodgson brought in one book from home that was a favourite of his when he was a boy. It was called Haunted House by Jan Pienkowski. The moving parts in the book were truly

spellbinding! We agreed that our books would be designed for our friends next door in Reception Class. Everyone was itching to get started and try out some of the moving paper mechanisms which we had seen in some of the amazing pop-up books that we had looked at. We'll continue this learning journey after the Easter break.

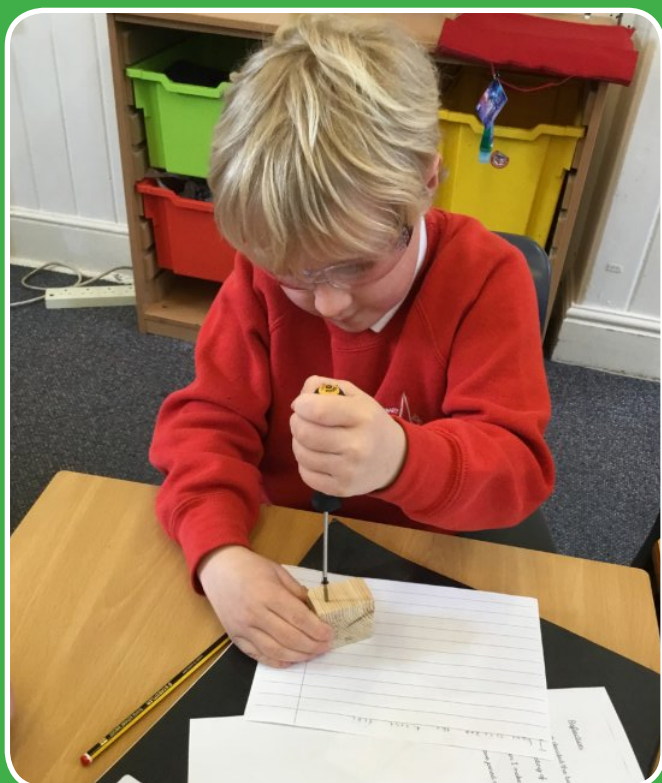
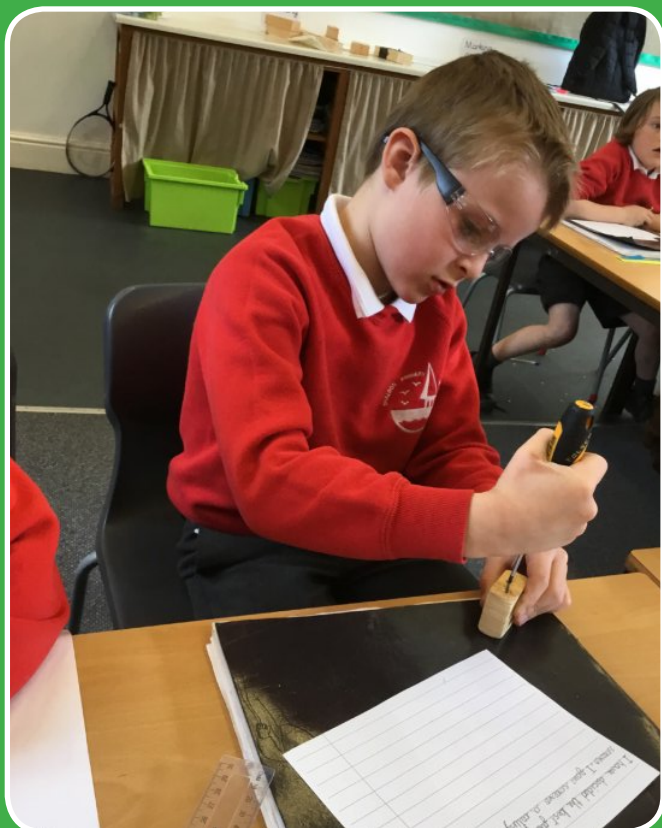
This picture shows Cleona and Sophia with some of the books we looked at. The other pictures show the Year 1 children having a go at making the 'box fold' pop-up mechanism.





This term, Year 2 have been busy designing and making a tool that will solve one of the greatest problems of our time. How to retrieve errant balls from the roof. We've been practising our sanding, sawing, screwing and measuring skills and have come up with a mighty design which will hopefully solve all our problems (well at least some of them that are ball-related). The children have had a fantastic time learning new skills and I'm sure are enthusiastic to help out with DIY jobs around the house.

## Year 2







# Year 3

Year 3 have managed to squeeze a lot of scientific learning and skills into just 4 weeks. To investigate the variables that effect plant growth, the class designed their own scientific experiments in small teams (research groups). After creating their hypothesis, each research group worked hard to water, observe and measure their sunflower plants, to collect their important results. Throughout this journey, the children have shown honesty and diligence in collecting and interpreting the results of their experiments. It has been excellent to see each of them growing and flourishing as scientists, alongside their growing plants.





# Year 4

Our Geography enquiry is going really well! Our question is 'Should we care about the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest?' The final outcome will be to write a persuasive piece, convincing readers about the importance of protecting natural resources and the consequences of deforestation. The children have already done some map work, explored the features of a good persuasive text and worked in groups to find information about all that makes the Amazon unique. We have also explored the causes of deforestation and its impacts to the rainforest, as well as the rest of the world. Our last week will be all about what we can all do to help protect the forest and the environment as a whole. I'm looking forward to hearing the children's ideas and to reading their fantastic pieces!





This half term we have been trying to answer the enquiry question "How can I use design and technology skills to develop an existing product?" Seeing as though everyone has to wear a facemask we decided to try and design and make our own one. We wanted to find out what problems people have with masks and then design one that would fix it. We learnt how to write a design specification and how to sew and built a prototype and final model. We have also enjoyed our welcome back to school 'Where's Wally' fun run as well as world book day. Here are some great photos showing how much we are all glad to be back at school!

# Year 5





Since returning to school after lockdown, Year 6 have thrown themselves into their learning and have enjoyed a wide range of experiences across the curriculum. We have been learning how to demonstrate that we can think and work like a scientist through our learning enquiry. After speaking with a couple of experimental physicists, the children developed a better understanding of what it means to think scientifically and plan a high-quality experiment.

We have also been thrilled to welcome Kip back into school. He has been working with the children for the past 3 weeks to teach them how to play three different songs on the violin. The class have worked extremely hard in these sessions and have made incredible progress. Well done Year 6!

# Year 6





# Music at Shaldon

During the third lockdown in the Spring Term, Music curriculum teaching was transferred online, as was most teaching within the school.

**Key Stage 1** children learnt about African drumming and created their own drum rhythm patterns, singing action songs and finding the pulse in a variety of music recordings.

**Key Stage 2** children learnt how to read musical rhythms, learning the difference between crotchets, quavers and minims, using animal and plant names to help them remember the different rhythms. They have started to write their own rhythm phrases and are becoming budding composers.

At the school, we offer instrumental music lessons, in addition to the instrumental opportunities available to children as part of their curriculum music lesson in school.

Our instrumental teachers are very experienced and dedicated.

Lessons are billed directly by the peripatetic teacher and vary in cost depending on length of lesson.

If you are interested in discussing further, please contact the teachers directly.

## LESSONS ARE AVAILABLE IN

### Piano



**Helen Sargent**

email:  
hes242@gmail.com

### Brass



**Lisa Price**

email:  
lisa.price@acexcellence.co.uk  
Cornet, Trumpet,  
Baritone, Trombone  
(pBone), Tenor Horn,  
French Horn & Clarinet

### Guitar



**Ginnie Cutler**

email:  
ginniecutler@hotmail.com





*Join us for*

# COOKALONG FRIDAYS

FUN, INTERACTIVE, PRACTICAL  
COOKING SESSIONS  
LEARN NEW SKILLS  
TRY NEW FOODS

Friday 23rd April • Friday 30th April • Friday 7th May



# FOSS Update

The FOSS team have been cautiously planning for the next term, to work around relaxing government restrictions. We hope to be able to put on a huge summer party at the end of term, in July, and some smaller events running up to that too.

As a very small team, we keep coming up against the same issue. We have loads of ideas but not enough people to make them happen. Could you help? You may not want to be on the committee but you could help us with organising/setting up/shopping. Let us know - many hands make light work!



## Friends of Shaldon School

[www.facebook.com/friendsofshaldonschool](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofshaldonschool)

✉ [foshaldonschool@gmail.com](mailto:foshaldonschool@gmail.com)

## 6 REASONS TO JOIN FOSS!

### for the children

Become a role model to show your child you value their education. The events we plan will improve YOUR child's school experience.



### for you

Volunteering is a rewarding, sociable experience. You'll meet new people and feel great because you've made a difference!



### for the school

Help the school raise funds. Have a voice in the purchases that are made with these funds, to support the children.



### be connected

You'll be closer to what's happening in school. You'll also meet other people who share common goals!



### it is fun!

We aim to enjoy ourselves in all our roles. From planning events to running a stall, it's all good fun and for a good cause.



### keep FOSS going

As parents leave the school, we need new members to keep FOSS going. Join the team or offer to help on an ad-hoc basis. Many hands make light work!



## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

### join the committee

There's only 7 of us! The more people we have, the more we can do, the more money we can raise.

### sign up as an ad-hoc volunteer

Don't want the commitment of attending meetings? Let us know if you're willing to coordinate or help with fundraising activities. Organise a disco, help on a stall at the summer fair, run a cake sale, pick up supplies for events...



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Thursday 1st April**

**FOSS April Fools Break The Rules Day -  
Last Day of Term**

**Monday 19th April**

**Return to school**

**Monday 3rd May**

**Bank Holiday – School Closed**

**Thursday 6th May**

**FOSS Bag2School collection**

**Friday 28 May**

**Last day of term**

**May Half Term**

**Monday 14th June**

**Return to school**



*Photo taken pre-covid when governors  
were allowed to visit the school.*

## Governance

This term I, alongside Karl and Simon (Curriculum and Standards portfolio governors), were honoured to be invited to observe a virtual 'Diamond Nine' exercise with a selection of children from year groups 2-6 answering the question 'What are the most important things in life?'. The Diamond Nine is an oral language strategy that challenges children to work together to evaluate and collectively prioritise nine ideas, opinions or pieces of information into what they consider highest to lowest importance. This activity encourages rich, focussed discussions as children are expected to reach a consensus within their group before sharing and justifying their choices with the rest of the class. In most cases there is no right or wrong order; the learning will come from their discussions and negotiations.

The children were engaged and keen to share their thoughts and could articulate well why they thought a certain way. I observed the attributes of healthy thinkers during this activity in that the children could justify their thinking, change their minds and explain why, express their personal values with confidence, and show resilience with no upset if their opinion wasn't taken onboard by the group. I saw confidence that it is ok to have a different opinion and for others to not always agree with your own.

*Suzanne Wilding*

Vice Chair of Governors