



December 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

We've all had such a wonderful autumn term and are so grateful that we've been able to stay open for all of our class bubbles. Not only have the children made terrific progress since returning from lockdown, but I've been so impressed with the depth of their learning – from the Stone Age to the Aztecs in KS2 and our Year 6 children have written speeches to rival Greta Thunberg and Barak Obama! Our governors, along with myself, Miss Weyman and Mr Hind judged a Year 5 public speaking competition recently, and we were all completely amazed by the depth of knowledge demonstrated

by the children. At this time of writing, our Year 6s are busy putting the final touches to their speeches on climate change and I'm very confident indeed that they will be every bit as impressive.

Following the success of our October Wellbeing challenge in autumn 1, we decided to follow up with the November Eco Challenge, and the photos and messages from children have been amazing. The spring term will be all about promoting reading for pleasure, reading widely across different genres, so get ready for a reading-based challenge when we return.

Our outdoor areas have really improved too, and we can't thank our parents enough for giving so much of their free time and resources to help make this happen. We are really looking forward to getting on with our gardening, planting and outdoor learning after Christmas!

Finally, I'd like to say a massive thank you to Kat and the volunteers who form our PTA group, FOSS. Despite juggling the limitations of a pandemic, they have done so much to provide our children with such fabulous events as the sponsored walk to Lapland, our online Christmas family quiz night and of course, who could forget the Halloween Dress-Up Day. Funds raised by FOSS have been a vital life-line for paying for our KS1 outdoor learning equipment, reading books and IT equipment. We are so appreciative of your support of the FOSS-organised fundraising in school. I hope you all enjoy reading our newsletter and finding out more about everything that has been going on in school.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing and restful Christmas break,

Best wishes,

Jenny Stewart Headteacher

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Follow us
on Twitter

We have a new Social Media team, comprising a group of tech-savvy super keen Year 6 children, who regularly upload photos and content under the watchful eye of Mr Claridge.

Many thanks go to Charlie, Tilly, Felix and Grace for their brilliant work and dedication!

Good luck Mrs Edge

We would like to offer our very best wishes to Mrs Edge, who will be moving on to complete her training as a wellbeing practitioner next term. We will still get to have Mrs Edge joining us in school later in the year, albeit in her new role.

Good luck Mrs Edge!



Music at Shaldon

This half term in Music lessons, we have been learning Christmas songs for our virtual performance.

We have welcomed back our peripatetic music teachers after the second lockdown. It's great to hear music making in the school again.

Recently, we excitedly welcomed 2 musical guests into some of our classes. Kip and Elfyn played music from around the world, visiting and playing music from Belgium, Spain, Paraguay, Wales and England.

Year 5 have been practising a special song, New Born King, for a massed virtual choir experience with Teachers Rock, along with 6,500 other children from all around the country.



After School Club

With the run up to Christmas, after school club children have started to get in the Christmas spirit. It's always a magical time of year for us all! The children have been busy making advent calendars, Christmas cards, wreaths & enjoying some festive music. On behalf of the after school club team we'd like to wish you a very Happy Christmas & prosperous New Year.

Lisa Betts





Reception

In Reception, we started by continuing with our learning question, 'What makes autumn special.' We discovered that during the month of November there are many interesting events that happen. We first looked at the history behind the well-known saying, 'Remember, Remember the 5th of November. We discussed the notorious Mr. Guy Fawkes and his devious plot against the King and the significance of firework displays around the country.

November the 11th soon followed with Remembrance Day. We talked of the importance of this date and the reasons behind the wearing of poppies. We even created our own poppy wreath that we held proudly during the listening of the last post and the two minutes silence. During this time, we thought about all the things that we are so grateful for today.

Our last look at Autumn involved us exploring the 'Festival of Lights' and discovering how this festival, otherwise known as Diwali is celebrated by many. We read the story of Rama and Sita which tells us how eventually good overcame evil and to support this learning, we created our own rangoli patterns and diya's too which were lights that were lit to help Rama and Sita find their way home.

As Christmas fast approaches, we are now busy learning how we can retell the special story of the Nativity. We have listened to different versions and have been busy learning songs and scripts to help support us in our retelling. We are very excited about sharing it to our virtual audience.

We are very proud of all our reception class who have already completed their first term of school.



It's a bright and sunny forecast in Year 1 this term...

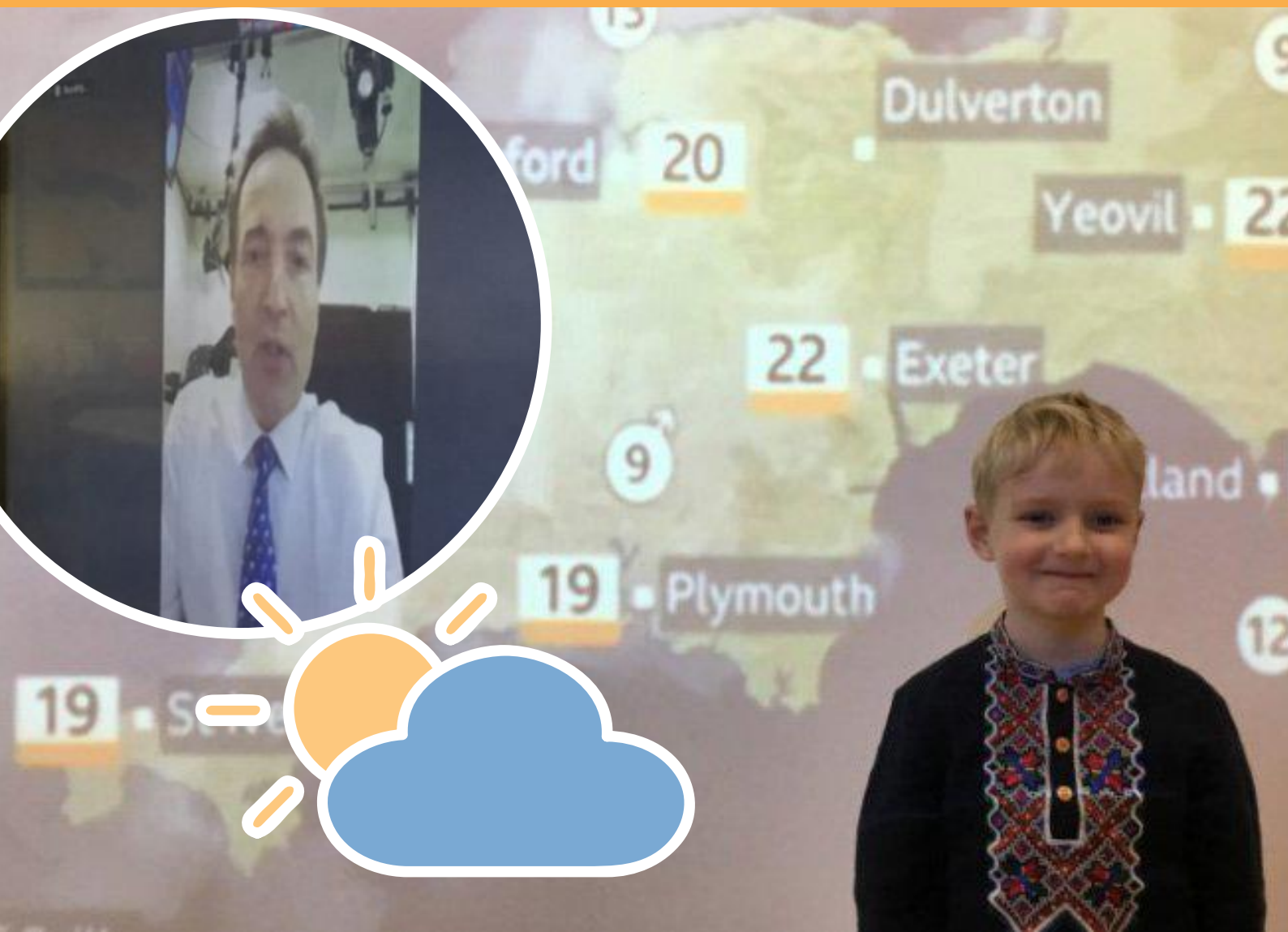
Year
1


The children in Year 1 have been trying to find out how to become a weather presenter this half term. Their outcome task was to produce a high quality weather presentation to camera using the knowledge and skills developed over the course of their journey and articulate this with confidence and clarity.

There seemed no better way to find out how to go about doing this than asking a real weather presenter. So, we hooked up a Zoom meeting with BBC Spotlight senior meteorologist, David

Braine, and he explained how. He gave the children such a clear direction and offered some really helpful 'top tips' that stuck with us throughout the journey.

During the final week of this learning journey the children brought in their best 'weather presenter clothes' and performed their individual presentations, which were superb. The children all spoke with clarity, with confidence and used some impressive weather-related vocabulary – great job again Year 1!





Year two have had a busy old term with a fascinating science journey followed by an intriguing Christmas conundrum.

In our science journey, we had to write a guide for an alien who wanted to visit Earth. We had to find out all about how the human body worked and what we need to eat to keep healthy. Mrs Smith showed us how the digestive system worked but luckily it didn't smell as much as the real thing.

More recently, we've been wondering whether it would be better to go to Mexico for Christmas. At the time of writing, we haven't made our decision yet but we've had great fun finding out where Mexico is, what the weather is like and how they celebrate Christmas. It certainly will be a tricky decision and we'll have to make it soon. Just in case we do end up going, Year Two will be preparing some decorations for a Mexican Christmas party.



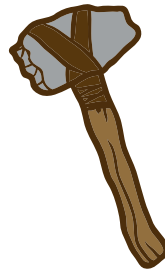
Year
2



Mexican Christmas

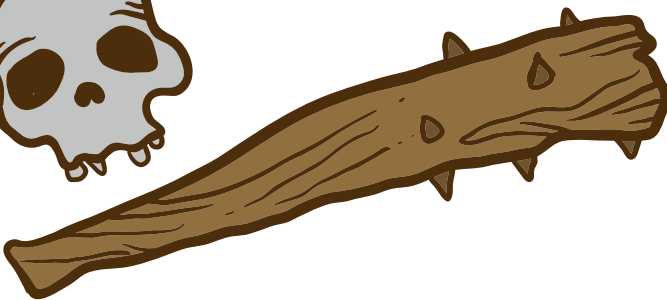


Year 3 Stone Age Historians



Year 3 started the half term as children from the Stone Age, and got to experience some of the challenges of living in Palaeolithic times. The following 4 weeks were spent working as historians, examining evidence, asking questions, and conducting research to find out all about life in the Stone Age.

The class showed great determination throughout, as they gathered information to write their engaging, fact-filled non-chronological reports. After passing a challenging interview, the class was awarded their certificates for becoming historical experts, and they swiftly transformed into scientists. Studying the bones and muscles in the human body gave Year 3 a strong foundation for understanding the importance of a balanced diet and how different foods can affect different parts of the body. After conducting research, collecting data, and learning all about keeping healthy, the class created and wrote their own plant-based recipes to send to The Happy Pear.



Anglo-Saxon Menu

This half-term we learnt all about the Anglo-Saxons, including Alfred the Great and his family. The children did a lot of research and explored this mighty warrior's enduring legacy. They also discovered what their daily lives, religion and culture were like. One of the most exciting moments was our Anglo-Saxon meal, which consisted of many of the dishes they would have cooked so many years ago. Some children even had seconds!

Our class has now started exploring light and shade, which will help us answer our enquiry question, which is all about the moon and its different phases. We had a treasure hunt in the dark using only torches, but thankfully all groups were able to find the jewels due to their reflective nature. The children will now learn more about the moon's movement around our planet and present their findings to the class next door. Some are already planning their models, posters or slides!



Year
4



Year
5

Aztec Journey



In year 5 this half term, children have delved deep into the world of the Aztecs. In particular, we have been looking at two leaders and trying to answer the question, 'Who was the better leader, Montezuma or Cortez?'

We looked at the journey that Cortez made through Mexico and the decisions and mistakes that the leaders made. The children decided who they thought was the better leader and wrote a persuasive speech about them.

They then had the opportunity to perform them in front of the governors. Six children were chosen to go through to a 'final' where Miss Weyman, Mrs Stewart and Mr Hind had the difficult task of choosing a winner; Finlay Geldard was the deserved winner, but all of Year 5 performed admirably!

Above is a picture of the finalists - Fin unfortunately was self isolating at home, but still managed to win via Zoom!

After School Sports Clubs



Back to School! Stay Active!

Supporting children with a safe return to school, and getting them back into a routine.

With Premier Education, children will be safe, active and together, with the aim to build confidence, self-esteem & stamina through fun and engaging games & activities in our sessions.

premier-education.com



**Safe.
Active.
Together.**

Every session promotes teamwork, togetherness, problem solving and the importance of being active.

Sessions will be delivered outside so that children can get lots of fresh air which provides vital vitamin D!

We have wet weather contingency plans for any days that the weather won't allow us to be outdoors.



Sessions Information...

Shaldon Primary School After-School Clubs

Tuesdays: Year 4-6 Dodgeball

Wednesdays: Year 1-3 Multi-Skills

Dates: 3rd November-8th December 2020 (6 Sessions)

Time: 15:30-16:30

Price: £24.00 per course

How to Book...

Go to www.premier-education.com/parents and search for your child's school using our handy school activities finder.





Climate Change

This half term, Year 6 have been busy learning about the impact of human activity on the environment. We carried out research in Geography, in order to answer the question,

'How can I inspire others to act in response to the climate change crisis?'

Year 6s are now able to explain how climate change began, starting from the Industrial Revolution in the 18th Century, right up until present day. They are also able to explain the greenhouse effect, and the difference between natural and man-made greenhouse gases. We have also reflected on the importance of leadership in inspiring others to take action. Taking inspiration from Barak Obama, David Attenbrough and Greta Thunberg, Year 6 children looked at different models of leadership. They discussed how they could

be authentic and show integrity, by using their own unique skills and talents in the best possible way and encourage others to reduce their carbon footprint. The photos attached will show you their investigation into ocean acidification. The children showed such passion for this subject and I was really thrilled to see how they carried on reading and researching independently at home. Every morning, the children would be racing into the classroom to tell me some more fascinating facts they had discovered! On the 11th December, we said goodbye to the amazing Mr Boyd, who worked with me during Mr Claridge's absence. As an Australian, he was full of amazing facts about the impact of climate change in Australia and the children were always fascinated by his anecdotes! Thank you so much Mr Boyd and we all hope you can come back and join us again soon!



Dates for your Diary

Friday 18th December

Last day of term

Monday 4th January

Return to school

Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January

Year 6 Bikeability (session 1)

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th January

Year 6 Bikeability (session 2)

Thursday 4th February

FOSS Bag2School

Friday 12 February

Last day of term

February Half Term

Monday 22 February

Return to school

FOSS Update



FOSS have had a quiet term, compared to this term last year. At the beginning of term we were concerned that we may not be able to do too much - however, we have managed to work around Covid-restrictions with some alternative fundraising ideas.

- The children have walked over half-way to Lapland, and donations for sponsorship are coming in... currently up to £75.
- The online quiz was great fun, and was enjoyed by teams from 21 household (including 3 staff) teams, raising nearly £100.
- Our Halloween event, in place of the usual disco, was a huge success with the children, teachers and parents - raising £250.
- We've had a couple of Bag2School collections, raising over £100.
- We have put our 'Secret Room' on-line, via our Facebook page, and have raised over £100 so far.
- The Christmas Party day is set for the last day of term, we've provided crafts and party bags for each child - following on from the success of the same format for Halloween.

We don't just fundraise though - we do what we do because we like to see the children getting enjoyment out of our efforts. Whilst the Christmas Party and Halloween Party days had a fundraising element, the look on the children's faces is what makes the behind-the-scenes hard work worth it!

Ordinarily, we'd offer reduced-price Panto tickets - with things being as they are, we have purchased an online-screening of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', to be shown in class bubbles during the last week of term. The online reviews from other schools watching it have been fantastic, so hopefully the children (and staff) will love it!

We have spent some of FOSS money contributing to the new allotment at the end of the field and to the KS1 outdoor area. We are well on the way to purchasing Chromebooks for the children to use at school.

A very big THANK YOU to all who have supported our efforts during the last term. Thank you also to the members of the FOSS team, who give up their spare time to make these things happen. Merry Christmas!

Kathryn Bax, chair of FOSS (PS. new team members always welcome :-)

Governance

This term I was lucky enough to be invited, along with the other Governors, to judge the Year 5 Public Speaking Semi Finals. The theme was based around the Aztecs and the children were tasked with presenting a persuasive argument to the panel – "Who was a better leader - Montezuma or Cortez?"

The stakes were high and the competition, fierce but they all delivered a truly fantastic performance. We were so impressed. Clear and confident, boat loads of interesting facts, balanced arguments and a real sense of drama and excitement.

If anyone was nervous we really couldn't tell!

Simon Girling – Chair of Governors

