



# Spring 2020 NEWSLETTER



**Dear Parents & Carers**

**It has been fantastic to see the wonderful learning going on in school so far this term. As children have been investigating the human body as scientists, they have had the chance to get involved in all sorts of gory and gruesome experiments!**

We had the amazing Stephen and David Flynn, aka The Happy Pear in school to kick-start our term of 'Well-being'. The children have amazed us with their increased awareness of looking after themselves, both physically and mentally. So many of our children have really been inspired by their learning, to the extent that they are voluntarily litter picking on their way to school and collecting packaging to recycle! As ever, we are so proud of them and their awareness of the world around them.

We will be holding class elections for our new Eco-School Council during our first week back and I'm really looking forward to meeting the class representatives from across the whole school. Our Eco Councillors will then be responsible for working with the rest of their class to improve our school and then sharing their work in assemblies.

Our class-led assemblies have been really well received so far this term. A huge thanks to Mr Claridge, Mr Rees and Mr Brice for starting us off in Spring 1. A very well-deserved congratulations go to the children in Years 6, 5 and 3 for speaking so well and sharing their learning so enthusiastically with their parents. I hope those of you who were able to join us enjoyed listening to the children and finding out a bit more about what we've been up to. If you haven't had chance to make it to one of class assemblies yet, keep an eye out for our regular updates.

As we look ahead to the rest of the spring term, we are very excited about World Book Day – please note that we will be holding ours on Friday 6th March, to coincide with the FOSS School Disco. Children are invited to come into school wearing a costume based on their favourite book or character in return for a voluntary donation of 50p. We are raising money this year to help refugee children. The children in Year 6 were so moved by their class novel, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' that they wanted to do something proactive to help children in need.

For the rest of this term we will be focussing on geography, building on much of the knowledge and skills we developed in the autumn. We will focus on international "Bluezones" (such as Sardinia, Okinawa and Loma Linda in California), discovering why these are some of the happiest places in the world to live. After Easter, we will be focussing on Design Technology, as we think about how we can design and make a product to sell at our very own Farmer's Market. Some of you may have heard about this already, as some of our children have been visiting Farmer's Markets already this term. The children have been so excited by their learning, that we are going to spend the first part of the summer term looking at the process of researching, planning, designing and making products that could be sold at our own school-based event.

We are also planning to tidy up and improve our outdoor learning area and allotment. If anyone has any spare time, great ideas, expertise or any materials they don't need, please get in touch as we'd be very grateful for your help and would love to hear from you.

Thank you so much for your on-going support!

Best wishes,

*Jenny Stewart*

Headteacher



*Reception and Year 1 would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in FOSS for funding our new reading books. We are loving our new books and finding the stories much more interesting and engaging. They are really supporting our phonics too!*

# South Dartmoor School Sport Partnership Y6 Netball Finals



The finals have been postponed twice but we finally got to play despite the still showery weather. There were some excellent passages of play demonstrating great passing and movement off the ball.

They worked hard in defence and attack to get the ball into the D and score. We lost out on being in the playoffs by goal difference but essentially we came 4th in the partnership. Well done!



## Spelling Bee

Five of our children recently participated in a Year 4 Spelling Bee at Trinity School against teams from seven other local schools.

Our Shaldon Honeybees worked in pairs and took it in turns to compete in 5 different rounds. They took part in conundrums with words such as knowledge and education and also had to work out how many different words they could make using the letters from the word educational. They used whiteboards to show the audience how to spell words such as solemn and had to choose the correct definition of homophones. Our Shaldon Honeybees came third overall so congratulations for such an amazing achievement.



# Pen Pals



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Collaborating with Volunteering in Health, bringing together elderly residents in the community with our pupils, and with shared hobbies and interests, the conversations flowed easily. This fantastic project, now in its fourth year, demonstrates kindness and gratitude within our community and continues to go from strength to strength. Currently, our children are busy learning to play the violin with the help of Kip Pratt and will invite their penpals in to hear them play in a concert in March. Later on in the year, the children will host a cream tea afternoon with outdoor summer games while continuing to write letters to each other which is always received with much enthusiasm.

# Breakfast & After School Club Update

We've had a busy start to the New Year, celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentines Day.

Whilst also thinking about our well being, the children have enjoyed yoga, dancing and making fruit kebabs. Already this term we've enjoyed making pancakes and are looking forward to making St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Easter Crafts.

Please email Lisa Betts on [asc.shaldon@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:asc.shaldon@acexcellence.co.uk) if you have any further questions or to book your child into Breakfast or After School Club. Regular bookings can be made in advance for a whole term or ad-hoc bookings can be made on a day to day basis. After Easter we will be changing so all bookings will be made through Parentpay so will be as easy as booking school lunches.

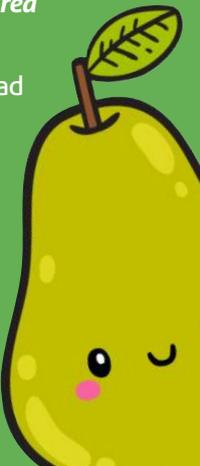


# Happy Pear Visit



The Happy Pear visited Shaldon at the beginning of the spring term. The visit has enhanced the children's learning about health and wellbeing. It also began our exploration of this term's enquiry question 'How can our local area become a Blue Zone?'

The whole school loved the Happy Pears' visit and had lots of fun during their assembly. Year 2 particularly enjoyed the pancake demonstration! The children learnt about how to eat healthily and how to look after themselves. Afterwards, in class we discussed how the Happy Pear had taught us about healthy lifestyles. The children had lots of questions which were great starting points for class discussions.



# Sports Crew



**Our Sports Crew are doing a great job in leading active play for other children at lunchtime.**

There is a rota of activities that the children can get involved in which includes Handball, Skipping, Hoola hooping, Dodgeball and zooming about on trolleys. Lots of fun and great for health and wellbeing. It's recommended that Primary age children should be doing a minimum of one hour physical activity each day so this helps contribute to that.

## Year 6 Tall Ships Fundraising



**Over the past few months, Year 6 have been working hard to stretch their entrepreneurial skills and they have begun the process of fundraising for their Adventure of a Lifetime!**

To date, they have raised just over £3,000 which means that they are nearly half way towards their target. On the final Friday of each month, they will hold a Tall Ships Fundraising Fair where children from all the different classes will be able to visit and spend their pocket money. The class are not just fundraising to raise money for the Tall Ships Adventure, they are also raising money which will pay for them to complete a sailing course at Coombe Cellars where they will learn how to sail a dinghy. The whole class really appreciate your ongoing support with their fundraising efforts!

## Spelling Shed Success

**The children in all year groups have been very busy collecting honeypots and working towards becoming Royal Bees on a weekly basis.**

They have enjoyed using the spelling shed games as another tool to help them with their spelling whilst knowing and realising that they still need to practice writing them down regularly to remember them.

Since the launch of Spelling Shed we have seen a great improvement in weekly spelling test scores. The regular practice has shown that many children are showing more confidence and are challenging themselves to take on more difficult game levels than they started on. Many children often go above the weekly amount of games set for homework and this has helped towards the whole class's success of achieving the weekly top spelling class in the school several times. Well done especially to Class Four for all your hard work and success in being our Top Class for several weeks consecutively. Keep collecting your honey pots and having fun with spelling!



# FOSS Update

During January and February, FOSS ran a Bag2School, Y4 Cake Sale and a Pub Quiz - giving a total profit of £291.34. Funds raised by FOSS have been used to purchase up-to-date KS1 phonics books to the tune of £1400 - a fantastic achievement so soon after the new minibus, we are sure you will agree.

Don't forget to help us fundraise from the comfort of your own home - use our easyfundraising link when you shop online and stikkins commission code. We also now have a reusable party-pack to hire for a £5 donation - eco-friendly and fundraising!

The FOSS committee are always busy - mostly behind the scenes - organising events for the school community to enjoy and to raise money to benefit the children at school. We could really use a few extra members on the committee as all of this effort falls to just a few people, representing just 2% of parents! Get in touch [foshaldonschool@gmail.com](mailto:foshaldonschool@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved.



# Farmers' Market Trip

Year Three took a trip to Exeter Farmers' market to investigate fresh local produce.

This linked to our learning about healthy lifestyles. We learnt about the importance of buying locally produced food, which cuts down on food miles and ensures we get fresher produce. The stallholders were delighted to speak to the children and were very complimentary about their engagement and interest. Well done Year Three!



## Helen Foundation Workshop

On Thursday 12th March Year 2 will be taking part in a Helen Foundation supported workshop facilitated by Daisy an Arts Inspired Learning organisation in the school hall.

The workshop will focus on a part of A Midsummer Night's Dream for the day. The children will play games to warm up, talk about the story and make objects and locations come to life with physical theatre and sound.



a charity supporting young people's

aspirations

IN THE

arts

in Teignbridge, Devon

- ★ school awards
- ★ school arts days
- ★ individual bursaries
- ★ major arts projects



# DIARY DATES

## Monday 2nd March

Parent Consultations

## Wednesday 4th March

Parent Consultations

## Friday 6th March

World Book Day and  
FOSS World Book Day Disco

## Friday 6th March

Year 4 Parent Assembly at 2.30pm

## Thursday 12th – Friday 13th March

Year 3 Residential

## Thursday 12th March

Year 2 Drama workshop in school

## Friday 13th March

Year 2 Parent Assembly at 2.30pm

## Friday 20th March

Year 1 Parent Assembly at 2.30pm

## Friday 20th March

Year 3 Bake Sale for FOSS

## Wednesday 25th March

Year 6 Pen-pals Violin Concert

## Wednesday 25th March

FOSS AGM – 2.30pm in school

## Friday 27th March

Wear A Hat Day for Brain Research  
UK – Children can wear a hat to school  
with donation of £1 per family

## Friday 27th March

Reception Parent Assembly at 2.30pm

## Friday 27th March

Tall Ships Fundraising in the  
playground & Bake Sale for  
Brain Research UK

## Friday 27th March

Last day of term  
Easter Holidays

## Tuesday 14th April

Return to school

## Friday 24th April

FOSS Bag2School

## Friday 24th April

Tall Ships Fundraising in  
the playground

## Friday 1st May

Year 2 Bake Sale for FOSS

## Wednesday 6th May

Year 5 to Take 5 Festival

## Friday 8th May

Bank Holiday VE Day  
SCHOOL CLOSED

## Mon 11th May – Thurs 14th May

Year 6 SATS

## Thurs 14th May – Fri 22nd May

Year 2 SATS

## Friday 15th May

FOSS Quiz Night – TBC

## Friday 22nd May

Tall Ships Fundraising in  
the playground

## Friday 22nd May

Last day of term