
Friday 8th September 2023

Shebbear Community School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the children back in school this week ready and raring to go after their summer break. Everyone seems to have settled back into the swing of things quickly including all our new Reception children who have had a good first few days.

As mentioned in the email I sent earlier this week, the new playground markings are in place and being well used by the children. I don't think any of us expected to start the term with such warm weather but the children have dealt with it well and I think we are all making the most of it while we can. Hopefully no lost jumpers so far – all the ones I have picked up this week were very clearly labelled so a gold star to those particular parents/carers!

There are plenty of things to look forward to and many of them are detailed below so they can be pencilled into your diary at home.

While the sunny weather may not last too much longer, I am confident that the positive start to the school year will continue right through until next July. Hopefully it will be a great year ahead with lots of learning and fun along the way.

Wishing you a very good weekend.

Mr Alford
Headteacher



Upcoming Events

September 11

Y6 Bikeability – 2 days

September 18

Y6 Swimming starts

September 20

Paignton Zoo trip

Awards and house points results will start next week.



Other news this week

SOE3 Form: You should have received this today. Can I please ask that you complete and return as soon as possible. The form gives blanket permission to the activities and trips that go on over the year. As an example, the children will all probably have sporting opportunities at GTS and Shebbear College at various points over the year. It means that we don't have to send new forms out each time. Obviously, we will inform you of any trips and you will always have the opportunity to ask questions or even withdraw your child – for example if we organised a skydiving trip for Teddy class (no plans there by the way). There may be some trips/activities where we will need to seek additional permission e.g. an after school fixture. The forms will be kept securely in the school office and you can contact us at any point in the year if circumstances change. The forms can be handed in to the office or via your child's class teacher. Many thanks.

Attendance: The start of a school year is always a good time to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance. There has been much coverage in the media regarding declining attendance since Covid. More than one in five children (nationally) are persistently absent meaning they have attendance of below 90%. This equates to 20 or more days of absence over the year.

I always try to stress that I am not saying to send your children in when they are ill. However, illness or a medical appointment should be the only reasons children are not in school. Occasionally there may be an exceptional circumstance such as a bereavement, but holidays in term time or days off for birthdays etc do not come under this category. Devon County Council are keen to raise attendance across the county and schools have already been informed that they will be taking a much tougher approach on the parents/carers of pupils with low attendance or those taking term time holidays including the issue of fixed penalty notices. The expectation is that pupils should have attendance in excess of 96% for the school year. It means more than about seven days of absence will mean this would not be achievable. If you have five days off for a holiday, you can see that getting to this level of attendance will be a real challenge.

Below, I have given you a comparison of percentages and how this equates to the number of days of absence. This is based on a school year of 190 days.

99% - 2 days over the year

97% - 6 days

94% - 12 days

92% - 16 days

90% - 19 days

85% - 30 days

Remember that 90% attendance equates to half a day a week of absence meaning a pupil starting school now will miss a year of school by the time they reach Year 9 if this level was maintained over time.

Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01409 281220

Email: admin@shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk

Website:

<http://www.shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk/>

Safeguarding: Any concerns should be reported to Mr Alford who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In his absence contact Mrs Gough or Mrs Evans.

Ofsted Parent View:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Latest Ofsted report:

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50188808>

Up-coming Term Dates:

Autumn half term is the week of the 23rd October

Term ends on Friday 15th December

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 is a non-pupil day

Wednesday 3rd January is the first day of the spring term

Full date list can be found here: <http://www.shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk/parents-carers/term-dates/>

Secondary School Admissions: Parents and carers of pupils in Year 6 will need to complete and submit their secondary school application by the 31st October. The link to the Devon school admissions site is here: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

It is important that you do apply for a place as even if your child has older siblings at your school of choice already this does not guarantee a place. Parents and carers will find out where their allocated place is on the 1st March 2024.

The deadline for applying for a primary place in 2024 is normally around the 15th January. Again, more details on the Devon admissions site.

Y6 Bikeability: This takes place next Monday and Tuesday for the children who have signed up and been accepted. Do please check the details regarding the suitability of the bike. They are normally very strict and do check the bikes and helmets carefully.

Paignton Zoo Trip: Do look out for the letter giving details of this visit. We are having a whole school trip to Paignton Zoo on Wednesday 20th September. We aim to leave on the dot of 9am meaning the children will need to be in school by 8.45am. We should be back at about 4pm. Once you have received the letter, please give your permission for your child to go on this trip using the School Money app which will also allow you to make the appropriate payment.

Appledore Book Festival: Once again we have managed to sign up a couple of authors to visit school as part of the Appledore Book Festival. They will be coming on Thursday 28th September. The two authors are Tom Palmer and Suzie Laverty. We do have a few copies of their books which can be bought through the school office or class teachers – please see individual class letters for details.

Other dates for your diary:

Wednesday 4th October – Harvest Festival

Week of the 23rd October is half term

Week of the 13th November – parent consultation meetings

Friday 17th November – Children in Need

Tuesday 28th November – Dogs Trust Visit

Wednesday 6th December – KS2 Christmas show (afternoon and evening)

Friday 15th December – Christmas service and last day of term

Further dates to follow.