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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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# Shebbear Community School

## Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Two weeks of the new term have already flown by and everyone is very much back into the swing of things following the Christmas break. I have always felt that the spring term, although traditionally the shortest, is the most important one in terms of children progressing with their work. They should be fully settled in their class, hopefully refreshed after the holidays and normally it's the quietest term in terms of other distractions such as trips and the warmer weather.

On the non-pupil day, I met with all of the teachers to discuss the progress of each pupil across the school. As part of this we identified the children who are making really good progress (of which there were plenty) and those who may need some additional support or a nudge to get them moving.

Our aim is to get as many children as possible to what is known as their 'age related expectation' by the end of the school year. This means, that by the end of their respective year, the children are able to work at a particular standard in reading, writing and mathematics which is appropriate for their age. At this point in the year, we are identifying if the children are 'on track' to achieve this by July and, if not, what we need to do to address this. In some cases, children are working above the expected standard for their age and the teachers aim to ensure they are suitably challenged as a result.

Regular reading at home, completing homework and accessing the online packages such as Nessy and TT Rockstars all contribute in supporting the children to progress further.

The other thing that really helps is ensuring the children are in school every day. This has been a challenging week in that regard, particularly for Koala class who have had very high absence (over 50% off yesterday) as a result of a bout of Strep Throat and Scarlett Fever.

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## Upcoming Events

### January 15

Y6 SATs meeting

### January 18

School census day

### January 30

Wonderstruck  
Science Day

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Award Winners this week  
Teddy Class – Elise,  
Poppy, Thea and  
Charlie  
Panda – Max and  
Ewan  
Koala – Beth and  
Sam

Drake had the most  
house points

Whole school  
attendance this term  
is

95.12%

Fortunately, it doesn't seem to have spread to other classes and you will see this from the attendance data below,

The illnesses the children have experienced are examples of unavoidable absences. I know many of the children have been quite poorly and clearly not up to being in school. What has helped some is having a previously good attendance record with no avoidable absences in there. The days they have missed this week will, therefore, have less of an overall impact on their attendance when we get to the end of the year.

Remember, in order to achieve what is regarded as good attendance (96%+), the children should miss no more than about seven school days over the year – this takes into account unavoidable absences for illness.

On a positive note, 42% of the children reached the end of the autumn term having missed no more than one day of school with 30% having achieved 100% attendance.

We have been reminding the children this week about the importance of handwashing and care when you sneeze or cough. Hopefully this bout of cold weather will kill off some of the germs doing the rounds.

I did see this article on the BBC website about these matters that you may find useful: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67894937>

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,  
Mr Alford  
Headteacher

## Other news this week

**Attendance:** For this term so far:

Teddy – 96.58%

Panda – 97.50%

Koala – 60.95%

**Christmas Reading Challenge:** I was really pleased that so many children handed in their Christmas Reading Challenge bookmarks – it was just under 60% of the children across the school. Everyone who completed the

## Useful Links

### School Contact Details

**Tel:** 01409 281220

**Email:** [admin@shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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:

Spring half term is the w/c 12<sup>th</sup> February

Spring term ends on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Summer Term Starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Whitsun half term is the w/c 27<sup>th</sup> May

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

challenge received a certificate and then all of the book marks were put into a hat to draw the two winners. They were Bella in Year 1 and Solomon in Year 4. They each received a £10 book token.

**Year 6 SATS Meeting:** All Year 6 parents and carers and children are welcome to come to this meeting after school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 3.35 p.m. when Mrs Gough will chat through the procedures for the SATs exams in May and, also, how best to support the children between now and then.

**Menu Change Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** Please note that it will not be lasagne or vegetarian lasagne next Thursday but sausages and pizza. We would encourage all Teddy class children to have a school meal as this is one of the two days in the year that the meals taken are counted and result in additional funding for school. If you have already booked your child's meal please can you either amend it or let the school office know the revised menu choice. Thank you.

**Book Tokens:** Some of the children will be bringing home book tokens from the Shebbear Fortescue Charity. These are only for children who live in Shebbear parish and who were on roll for the whole of the academic year 2022/23. Unfortunately, this means that some children will not receive a token, however these are the rules of their constitution from many years ago and cannot be changed. Tokens can be spent either in Bude or Bideford at the book shops mentioned on the token. They must be used by the end of March this year.

**Wonderstruck Science Day:** On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January we will welcome back into school and organisation called Wonderstruck who provide science themed days for schools. Some of the older children may recall their previous visit some years ago. It is always exciting with lots of bangs and whizzes. More details to follow.