



Shebbear Community School Newsletter

Friday 14th May 2021

Covid-19 Update: The Department for Education (DfE) issued updated guidance earlier this week. The main change was around the use of face masks for children, which didn't apply to primary settings anyway (although they are still required on the bus). Many of the other restrictions remain in place including forward facing desks, staggered start and finish times, remote assemblies and so on. One thing we will be reintroducing from next week will be the corridor coat pegs. Although this only sounds a small thing, it will free up space in the classrooms and be a way to test some of the logistics for the reintroduction of normality in schools. Hopefully, this miserable weather of late will soon shift so there won't be a need for coats anyway. In the meantime, we do continue to ask that children minimise bags that come into school – PE Friday will continue to the end of the school year and be reviewed from then.

Learning Awards this week:

Teddy Class – Tika and Wilomina

Panda Class – Annie K and Rachel

Koala Class – Jago and Henry

Drake were the winning house

School Photos: We have arranged for the school photographer to visit us on Wednesday 23rd June. She will be taking individual, family and class pictures. More details to follow.

Remote Learning: We have had a few children off ill this week (mainly colds) and the question about working remotely has been asked. We do have a remote learning policy which can be found on our school website. The policy says that children who are isolating, due to Covid symptoms, are expected to carry out home learning while they are away from school – presupposing they are well enough to do so. If children are ill for other reasons, work can be undertaken but we need parents/carers to let us know. We would not want to force children to undertake work if they are unwell and not up to it. However, illness comes in many forms and if they are well enough to carry out their work, we can put something in place via Google Classroom or Class Dojo. Depending on when we are informed of an absence it may not be possible to post work immediately, however, we will endeavour to do so as quickly as possible and, in the meantime, the children can undertake some Nesy or Active Learn work.

Menu for Next Thursday: There is a change to the published menu for next Thursday. Instead of the planned pork meatballs or tofu and vegetable kebabs, it will be sausages or pizza instead, both being served with wedges and beans or vegetables. Jacket potatoes will also be available along with a selection of cup-cakes. The menu change is to encourage as

many children as possible, particularly those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who are eligible for the universal infant free school meals, to have a school dinner on that day. Our funding to provide school meals is based on the numbers having a hot lunch on that day, so it will really help us if we have a 100% take up. Thanks in anticipation.

Reception Induction: With the easing of some restrictions, I have been able to show some families around the school in the last week or so. They have all been families of children who are joining us in September and are new to Shebbear School. We will be sending out details of the Reception induction visits very shortly and look forward to seeing everyone. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help in the meantime.

GTS Open Day for Year 5 Pupils: Just as we are thinking about our new Reception children, Great Torrington School (GTS) is looking ahead to the children who will be joining them in 2022. To support this, they are having an Open Day on Friday 2nd July. The children should bring home details about this today, but do let us know if you need any more information or if you don't receive a copy.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Alford
Headteacher