
Friday 15th March 2024

Shebbear Community School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully the children enjoyed having a non-uniform day today. As ever, there were a variety of takes on this but they all looked good. We didn't collect donations at school but you can do so by visiting the Comic Relief website: <https://donation.comicrelief.com/>

Mrs Hawker and myself have spent lots of time over the last week or so planning the school budget for the next year. Each year the school is allocated a sum of money in order to operate the school for the year ahead. This is predominantly based on how many children we have in the school. From here we need to calculate the costs for the year ahead. The largest chunk of this is for staff salaries so we also have to plan our staffing structure for the next year.

As you can imagine, it can be quite a challenge balancing what you want, what you need and what you can afford! If we have got our sums correct, I think we have found a good way forward and will have, ready for September, an effective staffing structure.

School budgets remain high on the list of headteacher concerns across both the county and the country. One of the biggest factors has been the decline in birth rates in recent years – it turns out the lockdown of 2020 didn't result in the expected baby boom (possibly spending all that time together at home had the opposite effect). Fortunately, we seem to be bucking the trend at the moment and our numbers remain buoyant. I work closely with Mrs Elston at Little Bears so we normally have a good idea of who to expect in the future.

Once the budget has been approved by our governors, I should be able to share with you our staffing plans for September.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Alford
Headteacher



Upcoming Events

March 26

Whole school cricket day

March 27

Easter church assembly

March 28

Last day of term

Award Winners this week

Teddy Class – Poppy,
Darcie and Mac
Panda – Mason and
Wilomina
Koala – Barnaby and
Casey



Drake had the most house
points

Whole school attendance
this year is 95.4%

Other news this week

Attendance: For this week: 96.9%

Whole school –

Teddy – 96.63%

Panda – 97.89%

Koala – 97.14%

Parents' Evening: It was good to see lots of you in school this week for the parent and carer consultation meetings. I hope that you found them useful and informative. If you were unable to make it this week, please do let your child's class teacher know and it should be possible to set up an alternative date.

Tag Rugby: Pupils in Panda class will be taking part in a tag rugby tournament at GTS on Tuesday morning. Hopefully it will be as exciting as the England versus Ireland match last Saturday! Good luck to all those taking part.

Cricket Day: On the last Tuesday of term (26th March) we will be welcoming the cricket coach Martin Bryce into school. He will be working with all of the children across the day and will introduce them to the joys of cricket and hopefully encourage them to take it up as a sport.

Easter Church Assembly: On Wednesday 27th March we will be visiting St Michael's church during the day to have a special Easter assembly with Reverend Warren. We have been practicing the song 'Sing Hosanna' and I mentioned to the children that their adults at home may well remember this song from their own school days. The singing was certainly enthusiastic so do enjoy having a family sing song at home to this all-time classic.

End of Term Menu Change: Unusually, the term ends on a Thursday (28th March) with Good Friday being the following day. There will be a menu change on that last day with the normal fishy Friday replacing the advertised lasagne.

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:

Spring term ends on Thursday 28th March

Summer Term Starts on Monday 15th April

Bank Holiday on Monday 6th May

Whitsun half term is the w/c 27th May

Non-pupil day on 17th June

Summer term ends on Tuesday 23rd July

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

SSSG: The SSSG will be running an Easter Disco on Thursday 28th March from 5 - 6.30pm in the Village Hall looking to help raise funds towards additional learning materials for the school - namely, additional outdoor learning equipment for the outdoor classroom in Teddy class and additional tablets to support learning across Koala and Panda. All details of the disco are on the poster attached (thank you Mrs Richards!!) we hope to see you there!!

The SSSG would also like to take this moment to thank everyone for all their ongoing support already this year. The combination of the cake sales and the Christmas Fayre already this year has meant that we have been able to provide first aid training for years 1 to 6, which is booked to take place in the summer term. Of course, the information shared in these sessions are great life skills but also living rurally as we do can be additionally important. Many thanks to you all for making this happen and to the school and Mrs Andrew for organising. More details to follow soon.

On that note, the work of the SSSG throughout the year is focused on having a direct positive impact on the school and the pupils, but we can't do it with the volunteers who give up their time to support and run the events. If you are able to give any time to helping on the day at any upcoming events, or would like to understand further how you can get involved please do reach out to either myself, Selina and Lynn. If anyone is around to help on the evening of the 28th that would be greatly appreciated.

SSSG Virtual Balloon Race: The SSSG have joined a Virtual Balloon Race hosted by eco racing. This is a fundraiser to raise funds for the School. The race starts on 31st March 2024 and runs for 7 days. Balloons cost £3 each. £2.25 goes to the SSSG.

There are lots of charities in the race, so your balloon is racing loads of other balloons. The race prizes are:

1st £100,
2nd Amazon Alexa/Echo Dot 4th generation.

The SSSG are also doing prizes for the 3 fastest SSSG balloons with these prizes:

1st £10,
2nd £8,
3rd £5.

You could win a race prize and an SSSG prize.

For more info on how the race works and buy a balloon, check out the link.

Name and decorate your balloon to make it easier to track when the race starts. Link Below.

Please name your balloon and have fun designing it.

<https://ecoracing.co/.../shebbear-school-support-group-2606>

The race will be tracked daily and the leader board will be posted on the Facebook event page.

<https://fb.me/e/1UYh78bD8>