

Shebbear Community School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

After another really strange year, we finally reach the last day of school in 2021. As I write, you get the sense that the start of 2022 won't be much easier although hopefully we won't be into the realms of another school closure as we did 12 months ago. If the national situation does change, do keep an eye out for any communication from the school, particularly as we approach the start of term on the 5th January.

On the plus side, we have finished the term in a good way with a Christmas cracker of events this week. The theatre trip to see Cinderella on Tuesday was fantastic. It is hard to express how much joy could be seen on the children's faces as they watched the show. After all the challenges of this year, not least the last few weeks, it was lovely to have a few hours of fun. The children were really well behaved both during the show and when eating their lunch afterwards. One of the staff members even commented on this and also how good they were at picking up their rubbish at the end!

Wednesday was another jam packed day of festive fun with Christmas lunch followed by class parties. We also had a visit from Father Christmas who handed out presents to all of the children. Hopefully they will all enjoy their new books (don't forget the Christmas reading challenge – see below).

After school we had the rearranged Christmas fair. The heavens were kind to us and we had mild and dry weather. It was a fabulous event that was really well supported. There was a lovely Christmassy atmosphere with the lights and music. Santa had a grotto in the reading garden which looked lovely. Many thanks to Selina and everyone from the SSSG who helped organize and run such a super event.

The last event of the year is the church service this afternoon. As I write,



Upcoming Events

January 5

Term Starts

January 10

Panda class swimming

January 19

Football vs Shebbear College

Learning Awards

Teddy – Ewan and Jake

Panda – Reuben and Libby

Koala – Rupert (from last week) and Evie for getting her Platinum house point award for 200 points.

House point winners were
Christie



it hasn't taken place yet but I am sure it will also be great.

All it remains for me to do is to wish you all a very happy Christmas break. Thanks for all your support this year. Likewise, thanks to all the staff for their hard work and dedication to the school in often very challenging circumstances over the last 12 months. Thanks to our governors too, including for their kind donations towards the Christmas gifts for the children.

It has been a real school community effort this year and I really appreciate your contribution to this.

Take care and see you in 2022.

Mr Alford

Other news this week

Covid 19: I am sure that everyone is aware that the new Omicron variant is currently infecting people at a very fast rate. The booster programme has been ramped up to get as many over 18s to have their jab by the end of the year. As we currently stand, there are NO plans to close schools in January. Obviously, we will monitor the situation following the Christmas break and should there be any changes such as a move to online learning, we will let you know. We are well geared up should we need to do this and we would be able to provide devices to those who need them and I am guessing that key worker places will need to be made available. I would imagine that we will need to keep some of the current measures in place such as class bubbles and mask wearing around school for adults. Let's hope that all of this will not be necessary but I would advise monitoring the news and, if needed, any information sent from the school.

Cobbaton Combat Museum: Children in Koala class had a double whammy of trips at the start of the week. On Monday they visited the Cobbaton Combat Museum as part of their World War 2 topic. This trip was rearranged from a few weeks ago when we were at the height of our Covid cases. The children had a great time enriching the learning they have been undertaking in class. As with the theatre trip, I am pleased to report that the children's good behavior was commented on. Thanks to Mrs Gough for organising, Mrs Quance for driving the mini-bus (thanks to Shebbear College for

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.

Up-coming Term Dates:

Non-pupil day on Tuesday 4th January 2022

Spring Term starts on Wednesday 5th January

Half Term is the week of the 21st February



Panda Class with the Christmas cards for homeless people

for lending said bus) and to Mrs Rayer for attending too.

Dance Club: This will start on Thursday 13th January from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. Letters will go out after Christmas. Art club will start again on Monday 10th January.

The 12 Reads of Christmas: Details of our Christmas reading challenge have gone home with the children this week. It would be great if as many children as possible took part and completed their bookmark with at least 12 reads over the Christmas break. Do please encourage the children to take part and keep their reading up over the Christmas break.

Christmas Cards: As part of their PSHE lessons, the children have been learning about the importance of thinking of others. Earlier in the term we thought about the importance of treating everyone fairly and respectfully regardless of who they were. In the last couple of weeks, we have been looking in particular at the plight of homeless people, especially at this time of the year. We discussed the importance of being grateful for what we have and the challenges others sometimes face. As part of this, the children have made Christmas cards which are being passed on to a few local homeless charities. All being well, these will be distributed to some of the folks who make use of the drop-in centres who provide hot food and some respite from the cold. It was lovely to see the thought that many of the children put in to making them and their keenness to help bring a smile to the faces of others.

Non-pupil Day Reminder: Don't forget, in case you need to make child care arrangements, we have a non-pupil day on Tuesday 4th January meaning the spring term starts on Wednesday 5th. Monday 3rd is a bank holiday in lieu of New Year's Day being on a Saturday this year. If you are already thinking ahead, spring half term is the week of the 21st February.

