

# Shebbear Community School

## Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

### School Industrial Action Update

You may have seen earlier in the week that members of the NEU teaching union have voted to take strike action over a number of days in the coming weeks. Members of the NASUWT and NAHT unions (which are the other teaching unions represented in the school) did not meet the required threshold to instigate strike action although both unions are, I understand, considering re-balloting members. Members of the NEU within the school have informed me that they do NOT intend to take any industrial action during the proposed strike dates. Therefore, Shebbear school will not be affected and will be open as normal.

However, I think I speak on behalf of all of us in school in saying that we do support many of the issues that have been highlighted. Pay for school staff along with other public employees has gone down over time in real terms. While we are luckier than many, there has been a noticeable decline over a number of years.

Similarly, school funding generally has declined in real terms. An example of this were the pay rises staff awarded earlier this school year. Traditionally the school would have received additional funding to meet the costs. This was not the case and the money has had to be found from our existing budget. Matters such as this will have an impact on the school over time and, like most schools, we will have some difficult financial decisions to make in the future.

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## Upcoming Events

### January 23

Football tournament at GTS

### February 1

Football match at Shebbear College

### January 13

Half term week

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Awards were given this week to the following pupils:

Teddy Class – Macsen, Jack and Willow

Panda Class – Annie and Wilomina

Koala Class – Kade and Rupert



So while we are not taking any strike action at Shebbear, this shouldn't distract from financial challenges many schools will face in the coming years and the impact it may have and I would encourage you to raise these issues with your local MP if you feel equally concerned.

Best wishes,

Mr Alford  
Headteacher

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## Other news this week

**Attendance:** I am pleased to report that we have had an excellent week of attendance across the school that is already making our overall attendance figures look much better. Teddy class have done particularly well so big congratulations to all and keep it up.

I have seen things from the other side of the fence this week. My own daughter has had a nasty tummy bug which is why I have been in and out of school rather than the normal in. She's much better and has gone back to school today.

**Sports' Report:** Our netball team played in a tournament held at GTS last Monday. While we didn't win any games (we did draw one) everyone played in a good spirit and there were clear improvements as the tournament progressed. We have some further matches coming up later in the term.

Sadly the football matches at Shebbear College were a victim of the weather but have been rearranged for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The football team are playing in a tournament at GTS on Monday so good luck to them.

**Y6 Residential:** Thanks to everyone who has returned their slips about the London residential in the summer. We have had a very positive response and all things being equal, the trip should be able to go ahead. More details of the next steps to follow.

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## 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:

Week of the 13<sup>th</sup> February is half term

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March is the last day of the Spring term

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April is when the Summer term starts

Bank holiday for the King's Coronation on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Week of the 29<sup>th</sup> May is half term

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