



Shebbear Community School Newsletter

Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see all of the children back in school on Monday. Hopefully we can have an uninterrupted summer term and start enjoying some normality again. The children have seemed positive about being back and I am sure the sunny weather has helped lift their spirits. I am sure it will be a good term ahead with lots of learning and some fun too. I particularly hope that our Year 6 pupils enjoy their last term at Shebbear before moving onto secondary school later in the year.

The Reception allocations for September were released earlier this week. If you applied for a place, you should have been notified. Please let us know if not. We will have 11 new pupils joining us which we are very excited about. The induction programme is being planned and should start soon.

Have a lovely weekend.

Nick Alford
Headteacher

Reading Garden Area: Many thanks to Leanne Marshall, Selina Woolcott and Katie Kirk along with their respective children – James, Henry, Annie and Rachel. They gave up part of their holiday to come into school to stain the wooden benches in the reading garden. They have also re-planted the raised bed and planted some other shrubs. It all looks fantastic and the new playtime arrangements means everyone can now see the fruits of their labour.

Term Time Holidays: One side effect of the lockdown and restrictions of the last 12 months has been an almost total absence of term time holiday requests. Put in simple terms, the Department for Education (DfE) say that children should not be absent from school for any other reason than illness or exceptional circumstances (for example, a family bereavement). I do consider all requests – these should be in writing, using the school form – but tend to approve very few. They will normally be recorded as unauthorised absences and may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer to issue a fixed penalty notice. When completing your form, you must state what the exceptional circumstances are. Factors that contribute to the final decision are the child's current attendance record, keeping any days of absence to a minimum and any previous absences for holidays. I appreciate that some holidays may have been cancelled from last year and rearranged to a different date. In these circumstances, we would normally ask to see some supporting documentation.

I can assure you that I do try to be understanding but I think that all schools are currently very mindful of how much school has been missed in the last year so I would urge you to keep any requests for holiday absence to an absolute minimum.

Clubs: Dance club started last Monday and had a good turnout. There are a couple of spaces spare, if you are interested. Football club is running again on Friday afternoons with Saints South West.

Curriculum Letters: Hopefully you will have received information from class teachers about the topics being covered this term. It is always a good idea to go through this with the children so both you and they know exactly what they will be learning. Any extra input will always be useful in helping them build their knowledge and could be as simple as watching linked episodes of Horrible Histories on TV, looking at sites such as BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> or any of the video lessons on the Oak National Academy website <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>

St George's Day: We did assemblies in classes about St George and why he is the patron saint of England. The children were interested to find out more about his life and the myths surrounding him. This link has more information about him for those interested:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Saint_George



From Hatherleigh Cricket Club: 'Summer is on the way and that means that Hatherleigh Cricket Club is restarting all of its training for boys and girls of all ages. On Friday evenings we offer softball cricket for children aged 8-11, as part of our new Dynamos programme and on Saturday mornings, we have an hour of cricket fun for those children aged 5-8.

Mondays are all about the girls and we have girls only training at 5:30 followed by women's training at 6:30pm.

Our club has a great family feel and as restrictions are eased, food will be on offer and the bar will be open on a Friday evening.

If you would like any more information please email Ann-Marie on hathjuniors@gmail.com'.

Please see the attached poster.