
Friday 29th September 2023

Shebbear Community School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

After this week, I can certainly testify to the fact that Covid is still around, and while I feel much better now, I felt pretty rough for a few days. As I write this on Thursday, we do have a few cases in school but they seem to be quite limited in number and mainly confined to Koala Class. It's timely reminder to keep up the handwashing/sanitising habits we got into during the pandemic.

There is no requirement to either test or isolate anymore. However, the guidance is suggesting to do so where possible. Our school policy is that they should avoid school for three days from the day after you test positive or start showing clear symptoms – this is for children. For staff working in school it should be five days. For me, I started showing symptoms on Friday, tested on that day so have isolated until coming back to school on Thursday.

Absences for Covid are now recorded as absences for illness and not coded in a special way as was the case a year or so back. It means they are included in absence reports. As I am sure you are aware, I am keen to maintain good attendance across the school, however, we also want to control any possible spread of Covid. It's a fine line but it also reflects the importance of not missing days of school needlessly for things like holidays, feeling tired and so on. We never know when a few days off school are going to be unavoidable. For most children with good attendance in the first place, two or three days off for Covid, chicken pox, a sickness bug and so on, will have less impact on their absence levels for the year.

Fingers crossed that everyone avoids it!

Have a good weekend.

Mr Alford
Headteacher



Upcoming Events

October 3

Panda Multi-skills at
GTS

October 4

Harvest Festival

October 5

Open Day

We didn't have an
awards assembly this
week.



Babbage had the
most house points

Whole school
attendance this
week is 91.42%

Other news this week

Attendance: Teddy class had the best attendance this week with 96.77% followed by Panda and Koala who have both been affected by the cases of Covid.

Author Visits: On Thursday, we had two author visits. In the morning Tom Palmer did a virtual talk to the older children about his books and how he goes about writing them. He also answered some of the excellent questions asked. Later in the day, Suzie Lavery worked with Teddy class and the children made some very colourful binoculars. Many of the children are now enjoying reading their books.

Census Day: Next Thursday is an important day for schools not least in determining funding for the year ahead. You can help us by ensuring as many children as possible in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have their universal free school meal. Vikki has done a special menu that includes pizza and sausages. Hopefully lots of you, even if you don't do so normally, will have your free lunch on that day.

Rabbi Claude: I learnt a valuable lesson this week, to always clarify what 'next Thursday' means. We were due to have an online session with our friend Rabbi Claude who was going to talk to the children about Judaism and the recent events of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Unfortunately, there was a mix up in what constituted 'next Thursday'. Suffice to say, the talk will now be next Thursday (5th October).

Phonics: On Wednesday morning we had a visit from the Devon school improvement service. They were here to check our phonics provision for our early readers. They observed some phonics sessions and spoke to some of the children and staff. I am pleased to say that they were pleased with what they saw and that the Twinkl phonics scheme we used is being well implemented and supporting the children to become good readers. Thanks to all those involved.

Panda Multi-Skills: On Tuesday morning, the children from Panda class are heading over to GTS for a morning of multi-skills. They can wear their PE kit to school including a school hoodie or sweatshirt/cardigan. More details should have already been sent to you.

After School Football Club: As you may know, we have had real problems with our Friday afternoon sports coach and therefore after school football club. I am pleased to report that we have recruited a new coach and he is due to start next Friday and plans to start the after school club again – we will circulate more information when we have it. The new coach also does some work at Halwill school and comes highly recommended.

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:

Autumn half term is the week of the 23rd October

Term ends on Friday 15th December

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 is a non-pupil day

Wednesday 3rd January is the first day of the spring term

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

Harvest Festival: This will take place this coming week on Wednesday 4th October starting at 9.15am. All of the children will be involved and parents/carers are welcome to attend. We would ask that families restrict themselves to two adults per family as the hall has limited space. Please let us know if there are any accessibility needs or you need further details.

We will be happy to take donations of canned/packet foods which we will pass on to a local foodbank.

Koala Class trip to Cobbaton: Mrs Gough has arranged for Koala children to visit Cobbaton Combat on Wednesday 18th October. Letters giving details were sent out yesterday.

Measuring the height and weight of children in Reception Year and Year 6: Please see the attached letter for Year 6 and Reception parents giving details about this programme (this has also been sent directly to the families involved). They will visit us in the New Year to take the measurements.

Uniform Orders: Mrs Hawker has received a number of requests for school uniform items and will be placing an order next week. If you would like any items then please let her know and these can be added to the order. The next order will then probably not take place until the New Year.

Open Days: We are running two open days for parents/carers who have children due to start school in September 2024. These take place on Thursday 5th and Tuesday 10th October, both with a 9.30am start. If you know someone who may be looking for a school place for next year (or sooner) please do let them know. Places can be booked via the school office.

Easy Fundraising:

This week, thousands of good causes have been paid by #easyfundraising. You can help Shebbear Community School - Beaworthy receive their payment next time by using easyfundraising to shop online with over 6,000 shops who will donate to us for FREE every time - this will make a BIG difference to us! If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet please sign up now, it only takes 2 minutes.

Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/shebbearsch>