

Shebbear Community School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the jobs I have tackled this week has been wading through data on attendance. As you can imagine, the Covid outbreak in the autumn has had an extremely negative effect on the overall attendance figures. Whereas in the last school year we achieved a fantastic final figure of 98.3% this school year we are currently down to just over 90%. The good news is that this figure is already going up and with continued good attendance, we should get back to the expected figure of 96% by the end of the school year.

The main task I have had is differentiating between lower attendance as a result of a Covid absence and lower attendance that has just made even worse by a Covid absence. In the case of the latter, I will be contacting parents/carers in the coming week about this.

It is easy to not notice that absence days are creeping up and it does sometimes come as a shock when I contact parents. Obviously, the majority of absences are unavoidable such as if children have been sick. However, others can be avoided. Some of the most common ones are feeling tired, feeling a little unwell or avoidable appointments (I appreciate this last one has been more of a challenge of late as getting dentist appointments, as an example, has been very difficult). As a rule, send the children into school. If they go from feeling a bit unwell to actually being unwell, we can always contact you to collect them.

Remember that the expected level of attendance is 96%+. This equates to a child missing about nine school days over the whole school year. When attendance dips below 90%, the children are said to be persistently absent and are normally referred to the Education Welfare Officer. 90% attendance equates to about 20 missed school days over the year or half a day a week. Missed attendance at this rate across 7 school years (between Reception and Year 6 would see the children



Upcoming Events

February 21

Half term week

March 3

World Book Day

March 21

Parent consultations this week

Learning Awards

Teddy – Ryn and Tika

Panda – Oakley H and Spencer

Koala – Henry and Jago

Astor had most house points this week



missing nearly a whole year of school and, therefore, education.

Given the disruptions they all have all suffered over the last two years, good attendance in the coming weeks and months is essential. Thankfully, for most children, this is the case and I appreciate your support in this.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Alford

Other news this week

Football at GTS: Our school team had a successful morning at GTS on Thursday taking part in an inter school tournament. They played five matches, winning two, drawing one and losing two. They played really well and scored four goals across the tournament and only conceded three. Overall the school finished in fourth place. Our wins were against Langtree and Monkleigh respectively.

The Queen's Crown: Thank you to everyone who completed and sent in a crown design. They have all been mounted and will be on display this Sunday as part of a special service to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Queen ascending to the throne.

Reading Challenge: It has been lovely to receive your photos showing the children reading in unusual places. If you have yet to submit a photo don't forget that we need to receive these by Tuesday 1st March. They can be sent directly to either the Panda class email or the school office.

Governing Body: The next meeting of our governing body is on Monday 7th February here at school. As always, you are welcome to attend the Part One section of the meeting.

Outstanding Arrears: As we approach half term, it would be appreciated if any outstanding dinner money or voluntary contributions (such as swimming) could be paid into the school office as soon as possible please.

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>

Up-coming Term Dates:

Half Term is the week of the 21st February

The last day of term is Friday 8th April.

Summer term starts on Monday 25th April

May Bank Holiday is on Monday 2nd May

