

PANDA CLASS

AUTUMN TERM 2026

NEWSLETTER

Dear Panda families,

We hope you all had a great summer holiday and that the children are refreshed and ready to get learning! Thank you so much for the kind gifts at the end of last term which were very much appreciated.

As you are aware, the children will continue to have the benefit of two main teachers this year. Mrs Evans will be teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Wednesday afternoon will be Mrs Wren (music), Mr Younger (French) and LJD coaching (PE) with Mrs Wood teaching on Thursday and Friday.

This term, there will be a visit from an author, Harvest festival, council elections, Remembrance Day, Children in Need and of course the Christmas performance!

Author visit – We will be visited by PJ Bell on 30th September to talk to Panda and Koala. In class, we will be reading one of his books 'The Beanstalk Murder' and the children will be given a book on the day – generously organised by The Appledore Book Festival. Should you wish to purchase any other of his books, then these can also be brought in on the day to get signed.

The school elections will be a chance for the children to practice their oracy skills and we hope many of them will decide to try for a position at the beginning of October.

All children will take part in the Christmas performance nearer the end of term and, again, we hope to see many of the children wanting to audition for a speaking part, although there will be non-speaking roles for those who do not.

Listed below are some of the areas of learning that your child will be covering this term, so you will be able to discuss their learning at home. If you have any books, artefacts or personal experience of any of the below, please let me know.

Science

Rocks, Fossils and Soils
Light

RE

Buddhism
Christianity

Design and Technology

Christmas stockings

Art

Hannah Hoch - collage

Geography

Climate zones

History

Anglo- Saxons and Scots

Computing

The Internet

Stop frame animation

PE

Invasion Games: Football & Tag Rugby

Gymnastics: Shapes & Sequences

Dance: Creative Choreography

Object Control (Throw, Catch, Dribble)

French

Getting to know you

Colours

Panda Class weekly activities

Reading – Your child will have **two** books – one will be either be a Read, Write, Inc. book or a free reading book, depending on your child's ability. The other will be a book that they can read during Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) and will be chosen by your child to aid their reading for pleasure and be kept in school. Please continue to read with your child at home (at least 3 or 4 times a week from their reading book but daily is preferable – especially if you know that your child needs a little more support). Of course, any other reading is a bonus! They will have their reading records checked weekly (on a Monday). **Please write a comment and sign each time you hear your child read** and this will earn them extra house points and ensure both the reading book and reading record are in your child's bag EVERY DAY. Children will need to complete most of the home learning each week in order to earn Golden Time at the end of each half term.

They will be part of a guided reading session at least once a week as well as reading individually – either on their own or with an adult.

Spelling – Each week your child will come home with a set of spellings to learn. These will be tested every week on a Thursday.

PE – Please can your child wear their PE kit in on a **Tuesday and a Wednesday**. This is their house colour t-shirt and black/navy shorts/tracksuit trousers. They should be wearing either their school jumper or school hoodie and NO earrings. If your child cannot take out their own earrings then please do it at home before school.

House Points will be awarded to children who complete homework on time, read at home and demonstrate the Shebbear Golden Rules: Be a Good Learner, Be Kind and Helpful and Be Honest and Respectful. These will be placed in a box in the classroom so a winner can be picked each week.

Class Rewards can be given to the class for special reasons. If the class collect all of them, then they will be rewarded by a special treat/activity of their choosing (within reason).

Home Learning - In class, the children will access the Nessy Reading and Spelling programme at least once a week (approx. 20 mins). At home, the children will be required to complete another 20 mins – making 40 mins in total in order to gain house points. We can access these totals from their accounts

Some children have completed Nessy and these children can complete other English tasks such as:

- Learning their 3/4 statutory spellings
- Touch typing activities
- Vocabulary Ninja Words (children can ask for these)
- Writing stories or information texts

These will need to be written in their reading records and signed by an adult when completed

Maths

This will be set weekly and will usually take the form of a game on Active Learn (please ask if you are unsure of the login details) – there will be a bronze, silver and gold level to complete. Sometimes a worksheet will need to be completed. This will be checked before Monday mornings so please make sure it is completed in good time. All children should know their login details.

The children can also access TTRockstars (a multiplication programme) from home, which will really aid their mental maths recall. Year 4 children will be undertaking the multiplication recall test in June so it would be great to get in as much practice as possible. They can do this by going onto this website:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Please contact the school office if you would like to talk to me about anything – We are usually available for a quick chat at the end of the day.

Kind regards

Mrs Evans & Mrs Wood

Website: www.shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk

