



Shaldon Primary School December Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, there is so much for us to look back on and be proud of.

New initiatives started this year, such as Beach School, plus weekly trips to the Botanical Gardens and Teignbridge House. Every class has been engaged in community fundraising and outreach this term - from the Community Tree art project to the Rudolph Run - and we have all been so proud of the way our pupils make a positive difference to each other and the wider school community.

We are looking forward to the opening of our new kitchen in January. Having the facility to serve the children a delicious, freshly-cooked meal will make such a difference, especially during the cold, winter months! It has also been wonderful to work in close collaboration with the Pre-School team, ahead of them being part of our school next September. The Pre-School team have contributed to our newsletter this term, and we are so looking forward to continuing to work with them after Christmas.

Many thanks for all of your kind messages following our 'Outstanding' judgement in our recent Ofsted inspection. The whole team were thrilled to receive such an incredible result. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our amazing team and the incredible support of our trust, who continue to work tirelessly to ensure our children receive the highest possible standards of teaching and learning.

I hope you enjoy reading the round-up of news and events from every class, along with some delightful photographs that serve as a reminder of just how much our children have achieved this term.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas,

Mrs Stewart



Reception Class

What a WONDERFUL first school term the children have had. New friendships made, learning balloons continue to grow each day and the classroom really does feel like home.

We have enjoyed lovely experiences together such as making friends with our fantastic Year 6 buddies who look out for us at social times when things get busy at school. We also enjoyed an Art session with them using oil pastels and chalk to create pumpkins! Next week, we will be reunited with our buddies in another craft session painting festive pebbles.

We have focused on communication and language in our classroom home and what better way to celebrate this area of learning than with an INCREDIBLE Nativity performance using our big, strong voices to project in the big school hall. It was a lovely way to show how our confidence has blossomed over the term and truly delightful to see the children having the best time whilst performing together.

Whilst learning and thinking about 'What makes Shaldon GREAT?' we reflected on all the people in the community that help us like the butcher, baker, people who run the ferry, postman, lollipop lady... and we were super lucky to have Isobel's Dad who is a Police officer Special Constable join us with his police gear and car! We learnt how police help to keep us safe and sound.



Year One

Year 1 have been busy this term. We became scientists and went on an autumn walk around the Botanical Gardens; the children had to search for all the signs of autumn. We collected various leaves, sticks, and pinecones to create autumn art.

In November, we were very lucky to have a visit from Elwyn's dad, Joe, who is an artist. He came in to talk about an exciting community art project, 'The Community Tree', and how we are going to collaborate with him. We had to think about how nature/trees make us feel and any memories we have around nature. We were able to link Joe's visit to our writing, thinking about how we can explain how amazing autumn is.

Finally, the NATIVITY! The children have worked incredibly hard practising the songs and their actions. It was such an amazing show and a wonderful way to end the term.



Year Two



What a fantastic term we've had in Year 2! Although we're only one term into the year, we have already created so many special memories, from Exciting Writing days, the Rudolf Run for Rowcroft and our amazing Christmas nativity, The Simply Nativity.

Our Exciting Writing experiences have been so much fun. There was the Battle of Cutlass Island, where we fought a terrifying pirate battle at sea, the Mystery of the Missing Chair, where we were detectives trying to work out where Mr Hodgson's chair had gone, and our epic voyage to the Moon. These experiences ignited such creativity and the resulting writing was just incredible.

In the run-up to Christmas, we took part in the annual Rudolf Run for Rowcroft, running laps of the playground, being cheered on by our grown-ups who bravely came out in the rain to help us round. We were the last class to run and by the afternoon the weather really was against us – but we did it nonetheless!

Then the term was topped off with our glittery nativity performance at St Peter's Church. What a show it was! Everyone excelled themselves and showed just what stars they are. What a brilliant way to end a brilliant term!



Year Three

Year Three have had a very busy start to the year! We were lucky to have had the chance to visit the Farmwise event at Westpoint in Exeter. The trip was timed in conjunction with our kitchen build and new menu. The children learnt about how food begins its journey and how it ends up on our plates. The children were asked their opinions about our new school menu and it was an insightful trip for this reason.

During our Science enquiry about the rock cycle, the children enjoyed a walk to our local beach. There, they collected rocks to test their permeability. This would allow the children to investigate about what the rock formation of Shaldon is.

We have been thinking about cultural diversity and have followed the story of the great, Harriet Tubman. The children then wrote some fantastic memoirs based on liberation.

Here in Year Three, we are very proud to support the Teignmouth Community Larder. We collected the whole school donations for Harvest Festival and enjoyed handing them over. We are also collecting for the same cause when we hold our fayre. The children are excited to know that their collection will mean that families that may not be able to afford many things, will have gifts for Christmas.





Year Four

It's been a busy half term for us in Year 4. Not only have we been busy with our everyday learning, but we have also been spending time rehearsing for Shaldon's 'Carols on the Green'. It was a pleasure to attend this event on behalf of Shaldon Primary School to support the children in singing 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' and 'Merry Christmas Everyone'. The turn out on the evening was amazing and we had some lovely feedback from the community. My favourite comment was 'having the school singing on the green brings the whole community together every year. It's lovely!' It was brilliant to see children from both Year 4 and the wider school community at the event.

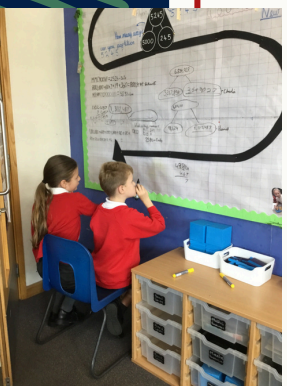
We have also been rehearsing for our annual Christmas performance where we sang 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday' in the Church to our families and friends. This was such an enjoyable experience for the children and adults of the school and community. The children got so much out of this event and developed in terms of their musicality as a class and a key stage.



Year Five

This term, we have embraced the wonderful experience of Beach School. Learning in our beautiful coastal environment has been an incredible adventure. The children have been exploring how the natural surroundings can complement and enhance their classroom learning. Even with the variable weather, their ability to engage with the outdoors has been impressive, and it has sparked curiosity and excitement that enriches their educational journey. Furthermore, I am so proud of the determination the children displayed during the Rudolf Run for Rowcroft Hospice. Participating in an event that supports a good cause not only demonstrated their resilience but also instilled a sense of responsibility and community spirit.

Looking back, this first term has proven to be quite remarkable, filled with significant accomplishments. I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead for us in Year 5. Your involvement and encouragement have played an essential role in our success, and I sincerely appreciate your continued support.



Year Six



This half term has been an incredibly busy one in Year 6 - the children have been working incredibly hard in class but we have also had many other experiences across the half term to share our learning with others in our community. Our Year 6 pupils proudly represented Shaldon Primary School at the village Remembrance Service on 11th November. Our Head Girl and Boy laid a wreath at the cenotaph, honouring those who have sacrificed their lives for our country. The entire class observed a respectful two-minute silence, reflecting on the importance of peace and remembrance.

Our budding entrepreneurs have been hard at work on the Fiver Challenge! They've been collaborating to create fun and innovative crafts and games to sell at the Christmas Fayre, aiming to raise as much money as possible. Some of the creative ideas include handmade Christmas decorations, board games, and unique gift items. It's encouraged the children to think about different ways to manage their money and keep a closer eye on finances!

Towards the end of the half term, we were delighted to be invited by Shaldon Methodist Church to decorate a tree for their Festival of Trees. Guided by Mrs Rowland, our talented artists designed beautiful clay tiles inspired by the Twelve Days of Christmas. Each tile tells a unique story, showcasing the children's creativity and artistic skills. We all visited the church to hang our decorations on the tree, adding a touch of festive cheer to the community.

We are delighted to include a news round-up from our friends at the Pre-School, who will be part of our school from September 2025!

Pre-School

What an exciting term Shaldon Pre School have had! A few children went on a bus to Teignmouth library where they were able to explore what a library has to offer. Some children went on the ferry boat to see where the lifeboat station operates - how lucky are we to live where we do!

We celebrated soldiers, past and present, with poppies at the memorial, which the children then placed within the garden area.

Most recently, we have been creating Father Christmas Art work to decorate St Peter's Church. How lovely to be so involved in our local community.

At the end of this term, we say a fond farewell to Julie Youd. We are so grateful to Julie for the care and nurture she has brought to so many children, and wish her the very best of luck in her retirement!

We are delighted to be welcoming our new Pre-School Manager, Claire Savva, who starts after Christmas. Claire has already been popping in to get to know the children and the team, and has been planning some very exciting learning to get the new year off to a wonderful start.

The Pre-School joined Reception Class on the 6th December, when we had a visit from the police. Many thanks to Isobel's daddy for organising this for us!



Welcome, Claire!





Dates for your diary

Friday 20th December

Last day of term: Home clothes plus Christmas jumpers can be worn (optional)

23rd Dec – 3rd Jan: Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 7th January

Return to school (Monday 6th is a non-pupil day)

Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th January

Year 6 Bikeability (Group 1)

Monday 13th – Thursday 16th

Year 6 Bikeability (Group 2)

Wednesday 15th January

Whole school science workshop – donated by FOSS

Friday 24th January

FOSS year 4 cake sale

Tuesday 28th – Wednesday 29th January

Whole school mini first aid training – donated by FOSS

Monday 10th February

Year 5/6 football match

Friday 14th February

Last day of term

New School Menu

Further to our recent letter, here is another look at our spring term menu!

Week 1

Meal of the Day

Monday
Spring Vegetable Soup
& Build Your Own Sandwich/ Wrap

Tuesday
Taco Tuesday

Wednesday
Shaldon Family Roast
(Butcher's Pork Sausage or Quorn Sausage Roast)

Thursday
It's All About Pasta

Friday
Fish Friday
Vegetarian & Allergy Options Included

Desserts

Monday
Fresh Fruit - Sliced or Whole - Fruit Yoghurt

Tuesday
Fresh Fruit - Sliced or Whole - Fruit Yoghurt

Wednesday
Fresh Fruit - Sliced or Whole - Fruit Yoghurt

Thursday
Fresh Fruit - Sliced or Whole - Fruit Yoghurt

Friday
Fresh Fruit - Sliced or Whole
or Organic Pip Fruit Lolly

Family Sharing Platters

Monday
Freshly Baked Bread Basket,
Selection of Seasonal Salads,
Variety of Sandwich Fillings,
Vegetable Sticks & Dips, Nacho Crisps

Tuesday
Freshly Baked Bread Basket,
Selection of Seasonal Salads,
Variety of Taco Toppings,
Hot Seasonal Vegetable Bowl

Wednesday
Home Baked Roast Potatoes,
Yorkshire Puddings,
Cauliflower Cheese Bake
Hot Seasonal Vegetable Bowl, Gravy

Thursday
Freshly Baked Garlic Bread,
Selection of Seasonal Salads, Grated Cheese,
Diced Ham Pieces, Freshly Made Coleslaw,
Hot Seasonal Vegetable Bowl

Friday
Mini Cheese & Onion Pasties, Freshly Baked
Bread Basket, Chips, Selection of Seasonal Salads,
Freshly Made Coleslaw, Peas or Baked Beans

Shaldon Primary School
Achieving Excellence Together

Shaldon School Restaurant MENU

Our revamped menu is inspired by the fantastic feedback from our pupil council focus group and the 'School Meal Experience Survey' conducted at the start of the term. The children have spoken, and they requested a more relaxed, family-style dining experience where they can enjoy their meals with friends, at their own pace. They also mentioned feeling overwhelmed by the plethora of daily options.

From Tuesday, 7th January, our new in-house lunch service will offer just that! Pupils of all ages can dine whenever they choose within the lunch hour, sitting at mixed-age group tables and sharing the meal of the day from communal serving platters. This includes a delightful variety of hot and cold side dishes, with fresh fruit and yoghurt served daily.

The ordering process remains the same. We will upload the Spring menu at the end of term, so you can start placing orders over the Christmas holidays. Meals are priced at £2.53 each, which includes a choice of main meal and dessert. If your child is in Years R, 1 or 2, or you are eligible for pupil premium funding, your meals are free. Orders can be placed as usual via Parent Pay.