

Shipton Bellinger Primary School

Weekly School Newsletter

No.25 - Friday 20th March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week has flown by and it is lovely that the sun is starting to shine. Let's hope that it continues through the weekend and into next week for our Easter Bonnet Parade and Colour Run.

On Wednesday Ara class had their family assembly for this term. They really did cover all areas of the curriculum and shared lots of learning from their 'Through the key hole' topic last half term and their current topic 'Titanic'. We all particularly enjoyed their sailor dancing and how well they kept to the beat. Well Done Ara Class. Next Tuesday will be our final family assembly for this term and it is Cygnus Class's turn. Please note that this will be taking place on **Tuesday 24th March at 2:30pm** instead of our usual Wednesday's.



Thank you to everyone who has visited our book fair this week, as a school we have raised over £200 commission so far which we can use towards books in school. We look forward to having the book fair back in school during the summer term.



It was lovely to see so many children wearing something red for Red Nose Day. Thank you so much for all the monetary and cake donations. We raised £76.00 for Comic Relief and £50.00 towards our new adventure playground.



Next week looks even busier than this one so please take a look at the diary dates, the Spring 2 Flyer and Yearly overview, as we don't want you to miss anything! All this information is also available on our website. As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please let us know.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

From Miss Seed

SPONSORED COLOUR RUN - COMMUNITY REGISTRATION AND EVENT ORGANISATION

Just a reminder to sign up for our Sponsored Colour Run and for the children to get as much sponsorship as possible. If you haven't received the link to register or the flyer, please speak to the school office. It is all going to a good cause and hopefully it will be fun too!



Gates will open from 1pm on Friday 27th March with the running due to start at 1:30pm - even if you are not planning on running, it would be great if you could come along and cheer everyone on!!

DON'T FORGET - please can children bring in their sponsorship forms next week in preparation for the run on Friday so we can organise who is in each race. - Thank you

For further information please see the separate email sent out and the FoS section below.

GRAND OPENING FOR ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND - 15th APRIL 2:30pm

We are hoping to open our new Adventure Playground after Easter, based on raising the remaining funds from our colour run on the 27th March. The Mayor and Mayoress of Test Valley have agreed to attend so we are hoping you can join us too!!



CAMHS QR CODE

Last week we shared Thriving with ADHD in School. We are continuing our ADHD theme and sharing the link about Reframing ADHD. Either scan the QR code or visit the website: <https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/videos-podcasts/>.


Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

Reframing
ADHD



NEW WRAPAROUND

We are really excited to announce that after many months of research, the governors have agreed with an external provider to run our wraparound service. We feel that wraparound needs to provide a range of different opportunities, that as a school, we are unable to provide and therefore are looking forward to working in partnership with JAG, to make this possible. JAG will also be running a holiday club starting at May Half term. A letter has been sent out regarding JAG, the new provider, with details of how to sign up and information regarding the different sessions available. JAG will be coming to school next **Tuesday (24th March)** and will be available on the playground from 3:10pm, to discuss, answer any questions and hand out flyers about the wraparound service they provide. We are aware that some of our families have already paid for sessions after Easter, as well as some families owing for already attended sessions. The school office will be in touch with you directly about this.



For further information please visit <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-us/shipton-bellinger-primary-school/>

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

On Thursday we will be going to the church for our Easter Services. The EYFS and KS1 service is due to start promptly at 9:45am. This will be for Cygnus and Ara Classes only. We ask if you are planning to attend the service, please arrive at 9:35am in case we arrive sooner and can get started before 9:45am. If you are able to help walk to the church, we aim to be leaving between 9am and 9:15am. Our KS2 Christmas Church Service is due to start at 11am. This will be for Pegasus, Orion and Cassiopeia Classes only. We ask if you are planning to attend the service, please arrive at 10:50am in case we arrive sooner and can get started before 11am. If you are able to help walk to the church, we aim to be leaving around 10:30am. If you are able to walk for either service please let your child's class teacher know.



EASTER BONNET PARADE

On **Friday 27th March**, we will be hosting our very own Easter Bonnet Parade. We invite all children across the school to create their own Easter Bonnet and to be in with a chance of winning one of the special prizes! Parents and carers are invited to our parade which will take place, hopefully on the school playground, if the weather permits, at **9am**.



EYFS - TRASH TO TREASURE

Cygnus Class are in need of the below items for crafting and creating! In our efforts to reduce waste and be more eco-friendly, we are keen to repurpose items that might otherwise end up in landfill and also develop the children's creativity in turning 'trash into treasure' so please think of us when you're doing your recycling or having a clear out! Thank you



For junk modelling & collage

Lids & bottle tops - all sizes (plastic & metal), old birthday and Christmas cards, magazines, newspapers, buttons, CDs & DVDs, beads, curtain/shower rings, old keys, spools, photo & picture frames - all shapes and sizes, small mirrors, tissue paper, pom poms, pipe cleaners, lollipop sticks, wool, string, scraps of fabric, ribbon

Woodwork resources

Off cuts of wood (untreated), washers, screws, corks, corkboard, spanners, screwdrivers, nails, bolts, hammers and any other tools for tinkering with!

Working Party

We will be having a ground force working party on Wednesday 22nd April from 3:10pm onwards to continue our development of the outdoor environment in Cygnus Class. If you are available to help, please come along!!

FRIENDS OF SHIPTON

Thank you for all the yummy cake donations today!

There are lots of lovely chocolate hampers to be won, made up from your kind donations!
There is still plenty of time to purchase Tickets for the Raffle, your child will have brought some home with them last week, if you would like any more, please just pop into the office.



Sponsored Colour Run is fast approaching... Please see below copy of letter being sent out with more information:



Hi everyone!

One week to go to our first (hopefully of many!) colour run events!
It is our first one so on the day please bear with us as we navigate the event.

We hope your sponsorships are coming along nicely!

Your sponsorships work towards paying for the paint, t-shirts and medals as well as finalising the last of the adventure playground.

On the day, we are aiming for a 1.30pm start, everyone on the field.

Preschool will be the first to start the challenge, followed by school children and community runners.

Start and finish are at the same point, with 2 main paint throwing stations.

500m - 2 laps
1k - 4 laps
2k - 8 laps
3k - 12 laps
4k - 16 laps
5k - 20 laps

This is not a race but a challenge to get messy and have fun! (please keep track of your laps as we have no way of doing so)

Please come along to cheer and let chaos commence!

If you are available to help set things up it would be appreciated! (tables to field, paint station set up, drinks ready)

Teas & coffees will be on sale
Free water and squash for those participating

Hopefully there will be a visit from 'H's Ice Creams too!



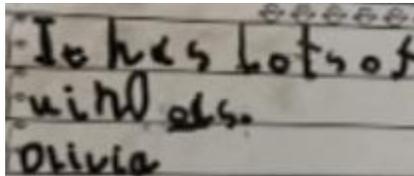
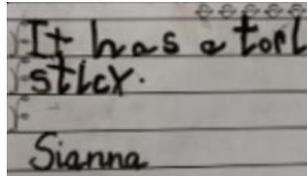
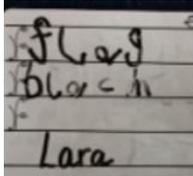
Thank you for your continued support.

"No one can do everything but everyone can do something"

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THIS WEEK.....

CYGNUS CLASS

This week we travelled back in time and the children imagined they were passengers about to board the Titanic. They wrote descriptions about what they could see and how they might have felt. YR used their phonic knowledge to write words and some children challenged themselves with writing a sentence. Y1 used 'and' and 'because' to join their ideas together in a sentence. For example, 'It had four large funnels and a tall flagpole.' 'I felt shocked because the ship was huge.' We talked about the difference between non-fiction (information) books and fiction (story books) and sorted books into groups.



For Maths we practised counting in ones and tens and used this to support us with finding one more / less. We used ourselves to 'grow' our numbers adding one more person each time until we reached ten! Y1 found ten more using dienes and number lines.



For Science the children tested out their boats that they made last week. Did they float or sink? Were they waterproof? Were they strong enough to hold 5 'people' (marbles). We concluded that plastic floated and was waterproof, fabric absorbed water and some metals such as tin foil and tin cans floated whereas other metals sank!

In Art, we were inspired by the artwork of David McGeown and some amazing watercolour frozen landscapes were painted using blue and green tones. Mr Sullivan joined us for RE and retold the Easter story. In PSHE we chatted about the word 'responsibility' and in Music the children loved singing and playing along to a beat!



ARA CLASS

This week seems to have flown by! The children have continued their Titanic related learning and are coming in every day asking to learn more! I don't think I've ever had a group ask for more History before!

In Maths we have moved on to our latest block of place value, addition and subtraction. The children have consolidated their prior knowledge and are able to add and subtract one more / 10 more than any given number.

In English we have just begun our latest text 'The Story of the Titanic for Children', and it has given us even more opportunities to explore what going on to the Titanic was actually like. They have learnt about the three different classes of passengers and what it would have been like on board for those.

In Science we have had a look at floating and sinking, related to our topic. Luckily we had a good week, weather wise, so we have been able to set this up outside. We explored how many marbles it would take to sink a boat. We also played about with it to find out which things sink and which things float.

Although we have done lots of other learning, I wanted to focus on our class assembly. I'm so proud of the children and how much progress they have made within themselves this year. They were all brave enough to take on so many more lines and to even ask to change / add some to the script.

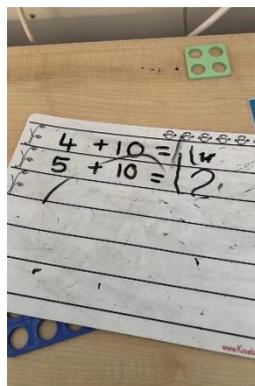
Well done Ara!



CONSTELLATION ROOM

This week we have had lots of fun exploring water as part of our topic on floating and sinking. The children investigated a range of objects and materials, making predictions about whether they would float or sink before testing their ideas. They also enjoyed using beakers, pipettes and syringes to transport water in different ways, as well as experimenting with mixing. We have been especially curious about why boats float, which has sparked some fantastic discussions. In English, we have been exploring a non-fiction text about the Titanic, and the children have loved learning interesting facts and sharing them with the adults in their lives. We have also introduced "Squiggle While You Wiggle," which has been a big hit and lots of fun!

In maths, we have been focusing on one more and one less, as well as adding 10 more as the week progressed. The children have been practising counting up to 100 and are becoming increasingly confident in ordering numbers 1-20 independently. As always, we have enjoyed plenty of sensory and messy play, including activities with foam, paint and water.

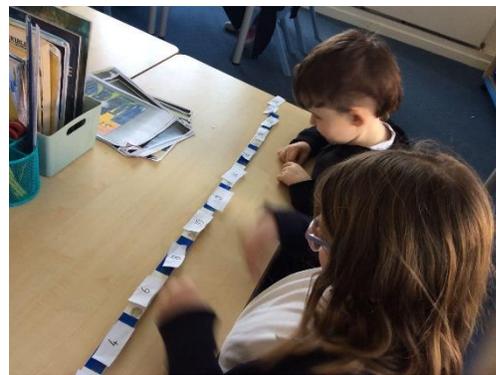


PEGASUS CLASS

In maths this week, we continued adding and subtracting three digit numbers but using partitioning. To make it more visual, the children were encouraged to draw a part part whole model to help visualise the partitioning before adding the hundreds, tens and ones together.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eg. } & 342 + 214 \\ & 300 + 200 = 500 \\ & 40 + 10 = 50 \\ & 2 + 4 = 6 \\ \text{So } & 342 + 214 = 556 \end{aligned}$$

During times tables Tuesdays, the children practised their 2 and 5 times tables. It was really important for them to understand the connection between different facts. For example if $2 \times 10 = 20$ then 2×5 is half of 20. They then tested their speed and how fast they can recall their facts by playing a game. The children went around the classroom asking each other multiplication questions and they only had a few seconds to answer.



In writing, our focus has been on varying sentence structure and using precise vocabulary to make sentences more interesting. We worked on creating complex sentences by using subordinating conjunctions and adding adjectives and details when describing Stonehenge.

Since we did not have singing assembly this week, we practised for next week's church performance in class. The children are really excited to show all the grown ups the songs we have been practising for. They love doing all the actions and singing along to the music.



PE this week was so much fun! During tennis, the children learnt how to use their forehand when hitting a ball. They worked in pairs and took turns throwing the ball for their partner before practising rallying. Our fitness unit this week was all about coordinating. To improve our coordinating skills we practised throwing and catching on one leg. First in pairs and then as a class. To make it more fun, the children had to do a funny dance every time they dropped the beanbag.



ORION CLASS

What a fantastic week it has been in Orion Class!

In English, we have been diving into the fascinating world of non-fiction, exploring the mysteries of Stonehenge. The children have shown great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and sharing interesting facts. We have also begun learning how to write a non-chronological report, focusing on organising information clearly and using headings to guide the reader. Noting the differences between a heading and a subheading, why they are important to the reader and how we can choose a suitable one for our report. It has been wonderful to see them so engaged in their learning, with an incredible knowledge of the stone age already! I can't wait to see how their non-chronological stone-age reports begin!

In Maths, our focus has been on fractions. The class have approached this topic with determination and positivity. They have been working extremely hard to compare fractions and understand how to create balanced equations. Their confidence is really growing, and it has been wonderful to see them challenge themselves and explain their reasoning. Especially when we have begun to help one another when the problem seems to be a bit more difficult than we had originally anticipated.

In PE, excitement was high as we prepared for our very first game of tennis! The progress the children have made has been incredible, and they should all feel very proud of how far they've come. Each week they show growing resilience, team work, passion and enthusiasm for the game and it is very enjoyable to see the progress they have made in such a short amount of time. The skills and techniques they have mastered is incredible - with some even beginning to use 'back hand' when returning the ball to their partner!

In Science this week we have been exploring the exciting topic of rocks. Learning about the three main types: Metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary. The children have enjoyed discovering how each type of rock formed and what makes them different from one another. We created our own detailed diagram of the rock cycle, helping us to understand how rocks change over time due to heat, pressure and erosion. To bring our learning to life, we watched a compilation of volcanos erupting, allowing us to visualise what is happening to the rock when it is heated to extreme temperatures.

What a brilliant week, Orion! Well done to each and every one of you for your hard work, positive attitudes and willingness to keep trying your best. Keep up the amazing effort.

CASSIOPEIA CLASS

This week we have started our new text, *The Water Tower*, which is a mysterious tale of two boys visiting a water tower on a hot day and something unusual happens. We have used this to write a scene from the story but paying attention to creating atmosphere thinking carefully about sentence structure and the vocabulary we have used.

In PSHE, we were learning about money, in particular different ways we can save such as in a money box or savings account such as an ISA. We discussed interest and tax and how this can impact savings.

We were lucky to have Mr Sullivan help us in our RE learning about salvation. We looked closely at the Easter story and the events leading up to Jesus's death. We looked at how artists depicted the events. Then we thought about how we could make the story more child friendly and re-written the scenes with a younger audience in mind.



In art, we created our own pop art using rivers and oceans as a theme. We thought carefully about the colours and design.



Here are some of our marble runs/mazes we constructed last Friday for our STEM afternoon.





DUCK RACE

Saturday 28th March 2026

1st RACE: 2 pm

Adopt your lucky duck from 1:30 pm

£1 PER DUCK

Junior Regatta (Under 12s)

Build a Model Boat (max 30cm)

Prizes for best build and race winner



Tuesday 24th March	Cygnus Class Family Assembly 2:30pm
Tuesday 24th March	3:10pm - JAG introduction on the playground
Wednesday 25th March	Year 1 and 2 Trip to SeaCity Museum
Thursday 26th March	EYFS and KSI Easter Church Service 9:45am KS2 Easter Church Service 11am
Friday 27th March	Easter Bonnet Parade & Easter Raffle - 9am
Friday 27th March	PM - FoS Sponsored Colour Run - 1pm Gates open
Friday 27th March	Last School Day of the Spring Term 2
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 13th April	School re-open for Summer Term 1
Monday 13th April	ACHIEVE school values day
Wednesday 15th April	Grand Opening of the Adventure Playground - 2:30pm
Friday 17th April	Military Child Day - Wear something yellow with your school uniform
Monday 20th April	Whole Class Photographs
Wednesday 22nd April	Phonics Screening Check Presentation for Year 1 Parents - 2:30pm
Wednesday 22nd April	Cygnus Class Working Party - 3:10pm
Wednesday 29th April	PGL Presentation for Cassiopeia Class Parents - 3:10pm
Thursday 30th April	Progress Reviews to be sent home
Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 6th May	Open Afternoon 3:10pm onwards

All dates and timings are accurate at the time of publication but are subject to change.