

Shipton Bellinger Primary School

Weekly School Newsletter

No.21 - Friday 13th February 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It really has been the end to a busy half term. Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday. The children started the day with an assembly learning about AI, what it is and how to use it safely and responsibly. I think we were all surprised by how much AI is part of our everyday lives, such as streaming TV, voice command speakers and traffic lights. As a parent myself, AI and the internet, gives me a level of anxiousness about how I can keep them safe. Although we are constantly teaching the importance of staying safe, I want to know I am doing all I can do to protect them. We are holding a virtual presentation, hosted by online safety experts, for our parents after half term, to support you through this ever changing landscape of the online and technological world. Please see more information about this further on in our newsletter.



On Tuesday afternoon, 32 children across KS2 represented the school at a Test Valley Games event at Harrow Way. Despite the weather, all the children did incredibly well at the Cross Country. Once all the points were added up, the school finished 2nd in the Year 3/4 boys and 3rd in the Year 3/4 girls races. Well done to all the children involved! Also thank you to Mrs Webber and Mrs Midgley, who might have got slightly wet whilst helping!



Orion Class held their second Family Assembly of the academic year on Wednesday afternoon. Controversially starting their assembly in a unique way, the children managed to showcase so much learning from both Autumn and the Spring terms. Their rapping really stood out and a particular mention needs to be given to one child who helped to create the presentation too. Well Done Orion.



Our next Family Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 11th March** where we will be welcoming the friends and family of those in **Pegasus Class**.

On Thursday after school, we held the FoS Valentines Disco. The children really enjoyed dancing and playing the 'Roll the Dice' game. Particular favourites included 'ChaCha Slide' and the 'Macarena'. The KS2 disco had the special privilege of witnessing Mrs Warland performing 'The Worm'.



It was lovely to see so many children come into school today wearing a scarf to represent 'Children's Mental Health Week'. On Google Classroom, there have been several activities suggested for the children to do, with their families, to focus on the importance of mental health.



We have also been very busy, behind the scenes, working on our new school website. The new website will be launched after half term and we will be providing further information regarding how parents can get notified when something gets added such as the weekly newsletter.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please let us know.

I hope you have a restful and relaxing half term and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23rd February!
From Miss Seed

ONLINE E-SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS - TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY

On Tuesday there will be a virtual presentation for parents to attend. The presentation will start at 4:30pm.

Please use the link below to attend:

<https://meet.google.com/zui-qqyf-owt?hs=224>

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Firstly a BIG thank you to those who either walk to school or park in the Village Centre car park, we and our school neighbours really appreciate this and we understand what a busy time of day it is. We kindly ask you to respect our neighbours and not park in front of their driveways and in front of the school building in general

(apart from the few car parking spaces), even for a 'quick' drop off. There is plenty of space to park in Sam's Car Park and in the village center car park. We also ask that when entering our school site, that this is done through our pedestrian gate and not through the car park gate. There have been several times when children are dropped off 'quickly' by their parents/ carers and they have not seen cars pulling out of their driveways, or cars have pulled away, not taking notice of people on the path, or have been walking through the car park when cars are driving in. We are concerned that this is a safeguarding risk and therefore ask for your co-operation with this. As such Mr Steinson will be outside each morning to ensure that no one walks through the car park and we have asked our local Police support team to help keep us safe at the beginning and end of the school day. Thank you in advance.

SLEEP CAMHS QR CODE



Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services have released a range of films based on a range of different topics. Over the next few newsletters, we would like to sign post our parents and carers to a different topic each week. This week we are focusing on sleep. The QR code below is a short video about the importance of sleep. They can also be found using the link below:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/videos-podcasts/>



ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND UPDATE

This half term we have already shared with you the adventure playground the children have chosen. We have raised a significant amount towards it, and with a private donation from a member of our school community, we are excited to announce that we are almost at our target to get the complete adventure on Friday 27th March, so please read the Sponsored Colour Run Flyer and encourage friends and family to donate or participate, so we can have the adventure playground built in the Easter holidays, ready for the summer term.



NEEDLES AND THREAD

After Half Term we will be participating in TOGETHER Day. This year, we are going to join forces as House Teams and create some beautiful flags that represent our houses. These will adorn our corridors and hopefully be used on Sports Day.



Can you help?

If you are able to come in on Monday 23rd February to help, that would be wonderful. Alternatively, you might be able to pop in later that week to help with finish touches.

We are also looking for:

- Thread
- Fabric scraps
- Embellishments

These will be needed to create our masterpieces!

SPRING 2 CLUBS

Just a reminder, next half term, our lunch clubs on offer will remain the same for Spring 2 and there is no need to sign your child up to these as we will continue with the current child for each club. If your child does not wish to continue with their club, please can you let the school office know. Choir will still continue and it will incur a small charge for next half term too as Mrs Lane didn't miss a session!

Mrs Webber will be running SAT's Booster clubs on a Monday and Thursday morning before school. As such Miss You will be taking over with Sewing Club on a Monday lunch time. Mrs Webber has contacted the Year 6 families directly to invite their children to the SAT's Booster sessions, there is not a sign up option for this.

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

egg boxes, small cardboard boxes, toilet rolls, lids & bottle tops - all sizes (plastic & metal), old birthday and christmas cards, magazines, newspapers

Bits & Bobs

buttons, CDs & DVDs, beads, curtain/shower rings, old keys, spools, photo & picture frames - all shapes and sizes, small mirrors

Art supplies

chalk, chalkboards, 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!

FRIENDS OF SHIPTON

Please look out for our upcoming events - these will be distributed soon!

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



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

CYGNUS CLASS

We've had another action packed week and the children have worked incredibly hard! Together we've created three class books with each child contributing a page each!

The children were so excited to go on a walk around the village where we passed many of the children's own houses. We talked about the types of homes we saw such as a bungalow and a caravan and we talked about the word 'community' as we passed buildings such as the shop, village hall and school. Back at school, we wrote an information book entitled 'A walk around the Village of Shipton Bellinger'.

In Science we focused on woodland animals that are local to us, such as the fox, owl, hedgehog. We learnt the meaning of words such as 'nocturnal', 'snout' and 'talons' and together wrote 'The Spotters Guide to Local Wildlife'. The children so loved learning about these animals that we decided to use our English lessons to write some shape poetry about an animal of their choice. The children produced some incredible writing using new vocabulary to describe their creature and we're so proud of their efforts!

In Maths, we've explored 2D and 3D shapes and identified different shapes around us, sorted shapes and deconstructed boxes to see which 2D shapes they are made from. The children were so excited to see their house on the big screen and used their observational skills to draw their own house applying all the techniques we've learnt throughout such as cross hatching and shading to add detail, texture and perspective.

On top of that, we've squeezed in lots of imaginary play in our home corner baking cakes and playing schools and made pictures and cards for people that we care about in celebration of Valentines Day. In recognition of Children's Mental Health Week, we talked about the power of music and dancing and how it can get our 'happy hormones' flowing. We had lots of fun dancing and used our new 'friendship ring' to connect us with our friends bouncing it along to the music working together to feel the rhythm!

ARA CLASS

What a fantastic week we have had in Ara Class!

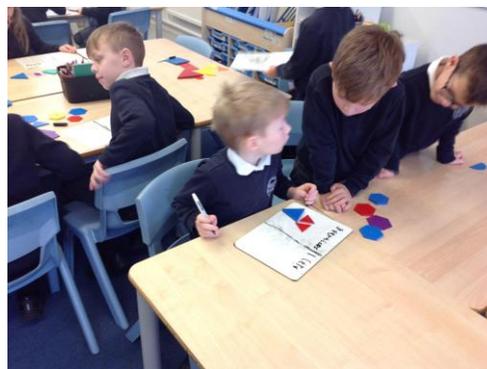
In Maths, we have been focusing on 2D and 3D shapes. The children have explored the differences between them, learning that 2D shapes are flat and have *sides* and *vertices*, while 3D shapes are solid and have *faces*, *edges* and *vertices*. We were particularly excited to discover that 3D shapes are made up of 2D shapes on their faces – for example, a cube has square faces! The children have worked hard to use this new vocabulary confidently in their discussions and practical activities.



In English, the children have absolutely blown us away with their very first attempt at writing Shape Poems. They remembered to write in full sentences and used a range of punctuation correctly. We were especially impressed with

their use of descriptive language to bring their ideas to life. The effort and creativity shown in their poems has been wonderful to see – they should feel very proud of themselves!

In Science, we have been learning how to classify things as *Living*, *Dead* or *Never Alive*. Using the knowledge they have built up over the past six weeks, the children created fantastic leaflets about the wildlife found in and around Shipton Bellinger. They carefully explained how they knew which category each item belonged to, showing great understanding of the topic.



In Geography, we were finally able to enjoy our Local Area walk. Mrs Chapman was so proud of the children for their beautiful behaviour. They impressed us by using their knowledge of human features around Shipton to identify different types of buildings.



We have had a fantastic term and cannot wait to see what next term brings!

CONSTELLATION ROOM

This week in the Constellation room we have been busy, creative and full of lovely learning moments. We really enjoyed taking part in our Valentine's craft activities. They explored different colours, textures and shapes while making cards. This helped develop important fine motor skills like sticking, writing and tracing. The children have continued to independently exploring the classroom provision, alongside 1:1 work with adults and group sessions during bucket time and morning social time.

These activities have really supported the development of listening, attention and communication skills.

In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. The children practised recognising and naming 2D shapes such as circles, squares and triangles, before exploring 3D shapes like cubes, spheres and cuboids. We used hands-on resources to help bring learning to life, allowing pupils to touch, build and sort shapes to support their understanding.

In Science, we explored living things and things that have never been alive. The children talked about what makes something living, such as growing, moving and needing food and water. We compared living things like plants and animals with objects that have never been alive, such as rocks and plastic toys. The children enjoyed sorting activities and asking thoughtful questions.

Have a great weekend ✨



PEGASUS CLASS

Pegasus have been very busy this week.

Since it was children's mental health week, we did various things to keep our minds and our bodies healthy. We did a little bit of deep breathing meditation which is a great tool to help regulate our emotions. We also did a bit of Just Dance in between lessons in the afternoon to have a bit of fun but also get our bodies moving.



In writing, we finally finished our persuasive posters! The children have worked extremely hard planning, drafting and publishing their posters. They made sure to use all the writing and grammar tools they've learnt to create some very persuasive posters.

In Maths, we practised our place values ready for the next half term and did some times table practise. We played 'hit the button' to practise our 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and even had a friendly competition where it was girls against boys.

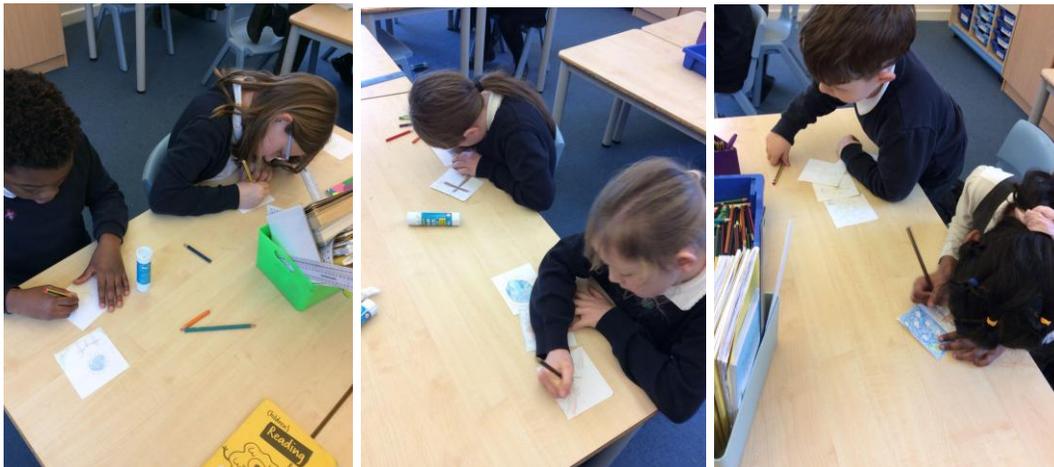


This week in dodgeball, the children practiced catching balls to get the opponent out. We then applied their catching skills in a game. A lot of them ended up being quite good catchers. During our gymnastics unit, we continued practicing different rolls such as a barrel roll, straight roll and forward roll. It was a lot of fun getting to roll around on mats and making sure we had the right formation by working our core muscles.

In music, we practised the song we are going to sing for our upcoming family assembly. It is really exciting and we have even got movements to it. We can't wait to perform it for you!



In RE, the children got creative and drew their own concept of God based on what we've learnt from Christians and Hindus. It was really nice to see some amazing art and what some of the children think of when they think of God. For example, a few children drew the world and prayer hands because they learnt that some religions believe that God created the world and everything in it.



In geography, we got to use the chrome books to create a short presentation on what we've learnt about France. The children used their prior knowledge from when they created a presentation in Year 1, to help them use google slides. In their presentation, they had a slide on French schools, French homes and the major rivers in France.

We got to make some French bread in DT. It was a lot of fun mixing the dough and learning about why yeast is an essential ingredient in breadmaking and what it does. We then got to taste the bread and evaluate our bread.

What a fun way to end the half term!

ORION CLASS

Well there is no doubt we are the biggest and the BEST! The team were all so incredibly proud of the children in our family assembly. What a showcase they put on!

This week in Orion Class we have been busy exploring how to write our own persuasive leaflets, inviting you all to visit Paris! The children worked incredibly hard to include exciting vocabulary, interesting facts and persuasive language to convince their reader that Paris is the perfect destination. We were so impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm — you may well feel tempted to book a ticket after reading them!

In maths, we have been challenging ourselves with 3-digit, 4-digit and even 5-digit addition and subtraction. The children confidently used the column method, number lines and bar models to help them solve increasingly tricky problems. It has been wonderful to see their resilience and determination when tackling larger numbers.

We also took part in Safer Internet Day this week. On Tuesday, the children joined a live online lesson where they learned all about how to stay safe, respectful and responsible when using the internet. They listened carefully, contributed thoughtful ideas and discussed the importance of keeping personal information private and speaking to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right. It was fantastic to see such mature and sensible attitudes towards online safety, and the class represented Orion brilliantly during the session.

On Wednesday, we proudly shared all our hard work from this term in our class assembly. The children spoke clearly and confidently and even managed to squeeze in a quick game of dodgeball beforehand, showing off the fantastic skills they have developed in PE over the past few weeks.

However, by far the most exciting (and definitely the messiest!) activity this week was making our very own Parisian-style bread. On Thursday, we carefully followed a French recipe to bake our bread, practising our reading and measuring skills along the way. In the afternoon, we tasted and evaluated our creations, discussing what we loved and how we might improve our recipe next time. It has been an absolutely smashing final week before half term — well done, Team Orion!



CASSIOPEIA CLASS

This week in Maths, we have revisited measuring and drawing angles using a protractor. The children demonstrated increased accuracy particularly when drawing the angles. We then moved onto calculating angles on a straight line and within a triangle.

This week, we have been using our reading text, *The Nowhere Emporium* as a stimulus to write a suspense narrative. We began thinking about opening a door to reveal a hidden wonder and how we would create suspense. We used techniques such as rhetorical questions, ellipsis, fragmented sentences and powerful verbs to show the character's thoughts and feelings. We enjoyed sharing our writing with each other and are becoming more confident when self and peer editing.

As part of Safer Internet day, we took part in a live lesson exploring how to be safe while online. We looked at making careful decisions when using AI from selecting reliable, accurate and unbiased information to prompts when using AI.

We became historian detectives this week when we matched up sources from Ancient Islam to the correct descriptions. We then thought about how reliable these sources are and what the limitations could be.

We ended the term with mini games of tag rugby which we all thoroughly enjoyed. It gave us the opportunity to use all the skills we have learnt this term in a game situation as well as applying the game rules.



Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February	HALF TERM BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 23rd February	School re-open for Spring Term 2
Monday 23rd February	TOGETHER school values day
Tuesday 24th February	Online E-Safety Presentation for Parents - 4:30pm (Virtual)
Wednesday 25th February	Year 6 SATs Presentation for Parents - more details to follow
Tuesday 3rd March	Parents Evening - booking to follow
Thursday 5th March	Parents Evening - booking to follow
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day - children come into school dressed as a book character. Parents invited in for assembly at 2:30pm
Monday 9th March - Friday 14th March	STEM Week - Parents invited in on Friday 14th March in the afternoon for STEM activities in their child's class
Tuesday 10th March	Rural Schools Cross Country - invite only
Thursday 12th March	Pegasus Family Assembly 2:30pm
Friday 13th March	FoS Non-uniform day - in exchange for Chocolate eggs etc.
Wednesday 18th March	Ara Family Class Assembly 2:30pm
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day and FoS Cake Sale
Tuesday 24th March	Cygnus Class Family Assembly 2:30pm
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

Friday 27th March	PM - FoS Sponsored Event
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
Friday 17th April	Military Child Day - Wear something yellow

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