

Shipton Bellinger Primary School

Weekly School Newsletter

No.20 - Friday 6th February 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are officially half way through the academic year, which in some ways we ask ourselves where has that time gone but on the other hand, we have got so many exciting things planned for the rest of the academic year. We are very much looking forward to continuing to build on all the learning we have already done this year.

On Wednesday we launched our Family Assemblies for this term. Cassiopeia Class started it off with a plethora of information regarding their current learning for this half of the Spring Term. We particularly enjoyed their contemporary dances that they created.



Next week will be the turn of **Orion Class** on **Wednesday 11th February** at **2:30pm**.

It was lovely to have our Parent Forum meeting yesterday. Thank you for all the comments you have shared with your class reps. Hopefully they have fed back to you all the main points that we discussed. We are really committed to building that sense of 'belonging' within our school community.

We also have lots of things going on next week such as Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week.

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

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

From Miss Seed

ARBOR APP

Please can we kindly remind parents to regularly check their Arbor App if they receive messages. We do not wish for parents to miss anything important and this is our primary way that we send out our communication with you. If you are having issues accessing the app, please come and speak to the school office.



SAFER INTERNET DAY - TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10th of February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

There will be two different assemblies taking place, one for Ara and Cygnus and another for Pegasus, Orion and Cassiopeia. The children in KS2 will also be taking part in a live lesson with lots of other

schools around the country. We will also be providing **parents** with a **virtual presentation** on **Tuesday 24th February** from **4:30pm** about **Online E-safety**. Further information will be coming out about this next week.

Safer
Internet
Day 2026 | Tuesday
10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK - Monday 9th - Friday 13th February

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and our aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong. To support

Children's Mental Health Week we will be holding a **'Wear Your Scarf to School day'** on **Friday 13th February**. This links with our PSHE Curriculum which is called 'SCARF' and is provided by Coram Life Education. Across the school we will be recapping our emotional check in's that are available in every classroom and our self-regulation spaces focusing on the zones of regulation. SCARF have also provided a range of activities for us to deliver to the children throughout the week.

We are looking forward to seeing the array of scarves next Friday.



EARRINGS AND JEWELLERY

A polite reminder about our expectations regarding jewellery being worn in school. We understand that some children have their ears pierced and as such wear earrings. These need to be ideally studs or small earrings, not hoops or anything hanging from the ear for health and safety purposes. Your child will be asked to remove these for PE unless they are new piercings and therefore your child should bring in suitable tape to put over them. We ask that necklaces and bracelets are not worn as there is a risk that they may become lost or damaged. If children do come into school wearing a necklace, bracelet or other type of jewellery, they may be asked to remove it and it will be kept safely and handed over to their parents at the end of the school day. We do understand that for medical reasons, some children may have to wear jewellery. We ask that you please inform the school office if this is the case. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this.

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 finishing touches.

We are also looking for:

- Thread
- Fabric scraps
- Embellishments

These will be needed to create our masterpieces!

SPRING 2 CLUBS

Due to illness and wet weather, many of our clubs have not been able to take place this half term. As such, 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 SATs 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 will contact the Year 6 families directly to invite their children to the SATs Booster sessions, there is not a sign up option for this.

FRIENDS OF SHIPTON

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



Date for your diary
Valentine Disco - Thursday 12th February

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



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!

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

CYGNUS CLASS

The children have worked so hard as authors, scientists, artists, cyclists and more ! It's been a joy to see their imagination and determination as they've tackled challenges!

In English, we created a new ending for the story of The Comet where Nyla had an adventure in a new fantasy land. After sharing and mindmapping ideas, we planned and wrote our new endings using descriptive language to describe what was seen, heard, smelt and even tasted in the new land! We reread, reflected upon and edited our writing along the way as all great authors do - using our 'purple pen power polishers'! YR children also made a fantastic effort to use their phonics knowledge to write labels for resources and items around the classroom to help us know what lives where!



In Maths we explored the mass of objects using the language of 'heavy , light, heaviest, lightest, lighter, heavier' to compare the weight of objects. We investigated the idea that a big object will always be heavy by comparing a giant balloon to a little 1kg weight and discovered this wasn't always the case!

In Science we learnt about food chains and in RE we created rituals to do together to close our school day such as singing a goodbye song. In PSHE we chatted about people in the community that help us, such as doctors and policemen. We began to think about what our own house looks like in Art and how we could use our new sketching skills to draw it accurately. Please keep your photos coming so that we can use them next week to make our sketches even more true to form!

Year R began their 'Balance Ability' training. We learnt how to put our helmets on securely using the wheel to tighten it so it fits snugly and we practised using the strap, looking up to the sky! Our aspiration is that everyone will be able to ride a pedal bike by the time they leave Year R! One of our children performed in a dance competition on the weekend and we were treated to her routine! We love to hear about what your children get up to outside of school! With this in mind, look out for a 'Proud Cloud' in your child's bag and write down something that has made you feel proud of them, with a photo too if possible!



ARA CLASS

We have had another very busy and brilliant week in Ara class, and the children have truly outdone themselves! They have worked so hard across all of our learning and should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.



In writing, we have been diving into the story *The Comet*. This week, the children became authors and innovators by changing the ending of the story to make it even more exciting for the main character, Nyla. Instead of the original ending, Nyla flew off to a brand-new place of the children's choosing! The children then described where Nyla landed, thinking carefully about their vocabulary and making sure to start their

sentences in different ways. Their imagination, effort, and creativity really shone through – their writing was incredible, and it was a joy to read every single piece.

In Maths, we explored mass for the very first time using balance scales. The children investigated a range of objects and discussed which items were heavier or lighter than others.

They then compared these objects to a one-kilogram weight, making thoughtful predictions and observations. There was lots of fantastic teamwork, discussion, and curiosity as they explored this new concept.



In art, we have begun our final outcome: a detailed drawing of our own house or a house of the children's choosing. We started by carefully looking at the shapes we could see and drawing these accurately. Next week, we are very excited to add texture and shading to bring our drawings to life.

In PE we had two indoor lessons this week, which meant we could catch up on all of our pirate dancing! The children are absolutely loving dance this term and have been showing great enthusiasm and confidence.

In RE we have been learning about rituals. This week we have thought about which rituals are important to us and the children created their own drawing and sentence about why they are important to them.

Well done, Ara class – what superstars! 🌟



CONSTELLATION ROOM

This week in the Constellation Room we have enjoyed lots more sensory play, with a particular highlight being playing with the shred – which we loved using as confetti! The children have continued to independently explore 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.

We have also begun some Valentine's crafts this week. The children especially enjoyed making lovebugs through junk modelling and decorating hearts in the tuff tray. In English, we are still reading *The Comet*, which has sparked lots of imagination and curiosity. In maths, our focus has been on mass; we had great fun using the scales and filling them with different objects from around the classroom, using the language 'heavy' and 'light' to describe what we found. We have tried to get outside whenever possible despite the rainy weather and particularly enjoyed parachute games. Music has also been a big hit this week, with lots of interest shown in exploring instruments and singing a range of songs.

Have a lovely weekend ☀️



PEGASUS CLASS

Pegasus has worked so hard this week!

We continued learning about using different grammar tools to help with our persuasive writing in English. Such as, cause and effect conjunctions, rhetorical questions and modal verbs. These are all going to help us when we finally get to start creating our persuasive posters next week.



In Maths, we looked at different angles. First focusing on looking at angles in shapes and trying to spot different angles around the classroom.



Then we put directions to angles by learning that an angle is a measure of the amount of turn between two lines.

To help us put this into perspective, we practised turning a quarter each time until we've done a full turn. This is because a quarter turn is a right angle. We also looked at a clock to help visualise the angle.

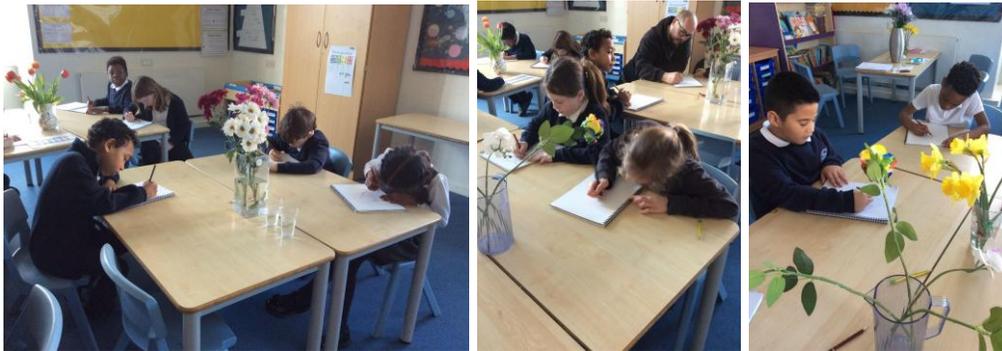


We also learnt about obtuse, right and acute angles. To help us remember, we put actions to the different angles so we know that an acute angle is smaller than a right angle and an obtuse angle is greater than a right angle.



This week in PE, the children continued applying their dodging skills within a game. We really emphasised teamwork and good sportsmanship. During our gymnastics unit, we practised 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.

Music was a lot of fun! We listened to supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from Mary Poppins and had a go singing it.



We finally got to use water colours in Art! We continued our still life drawings of flowers but this time we used different techniques to add colour to our art.

Our Geography and computing lessons were combined because the children got to research a region in France and create a fact file on google docs. This helped them improve their computing skills while also learning about the different regions in France and what's so special about them.

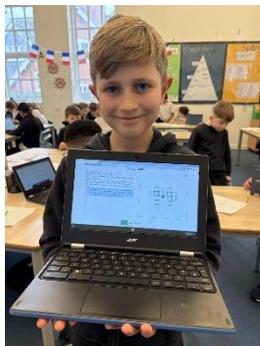
ORION CLASS

Another great week for team Orion who have been working hard across the curriculum.

In PE this week, we have been working on creating sequences in groups. We have combined the work on balances and travelling to put together a series of steps in groups of three. Many of us included rolls and two or one point balances to add different levels. We performed in canon and mirror to add dimension to our sequences. It was fun to perform them to each other and receive feedback that we can take action next week.



Our computing curriculum has continued to be about coding. We programmed our logo turtle to complete different sequences and decided whether we had been able to create the right end result. Using our knowledge of coding, we then debugged algorithms until we created the correct result.



In maths we have been working on addition and subtraction, but mainly recognising values of numbers. We have ordered and compared a range of numbers including decimals. Next week we will begin using formal methods.

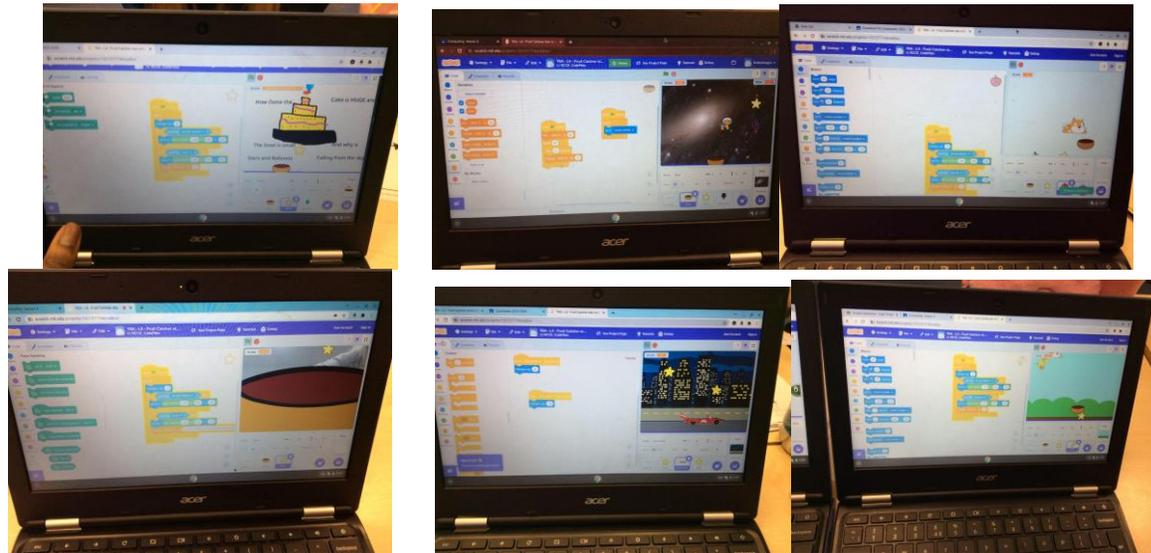
It is grammar week in writing so we have worked on developing our sentence structures for different purposes. We have considered the importance of variation in sentence openers and considered how sentence length can also impact meaning. Furthermore, we have developed our understanding of modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility.

We are looking forward to sharing with you next week!

CASSIOPEIA CLASS

This week, we have enjoyed preparing and delivering our class assembly to our families. It was great to reflect on everything we have been learning about this term.

In computing, the children have enjoyed creating their games on scratch by using coding, and changing variables in order to make the game more enjoyable and user friendly.



We have been editing and publishing our writing about our Fantastic Beasts. In art we also finished our charcoal sketches of our creatures. We decided to type into an AI tool, the appearance paragraph and it was interesting to see what image it generated. We were so impressed with how close our own drawings were compared to the AI generated image.

In Maths, we have moved to pie charts and reading and interpreting these. Our percentage and fraction learning previously has been useful in helping us answer questions related to pie charts. We are also continuing to work hard with place value and making sure we are confident in using all 4 operations when calculating.

History this week was interesting as we looked in more detail about what life was like in Baghdad in 900CE. We explored areas such as education, food, jobs and fashion. Please ask your child if they can remember an interesting fact they learnt about life in Baghdad.



Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11th February	Orion Class Family Assembly - 2:30pm
Thursday 12th February	FoS Valentines Disco - More details to follow
Friday 13th February	Last day of Spring Term 1
Friday 13th February	Wear a SCARF to school day - recognising Children's Mental Health
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

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

WHAT'S ON January - April 2025

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Hands on History: Castles and Catapults (6+)
Mon 16 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Introducing Acrylics - Winter Scenes (8+)
Mon 16 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Tour for All: Saxons, Vikings and Normans Walking Tour
Tue 17 Feb | 11am | Tudor House | £10 (accompanying children FREE)

Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)
Tue 17 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Great Fire of London Clay Scenes (5+)
Wed 18 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Bluey Inspired Pen Pots (3+)
Wed 18 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: K Pop Demon Hunters Clay Sculpture (6+)
Thu 19 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

NEW FOR 2025
Toddler Time: Characterful Dogs! (under 4s and friends)
Thu 19 Feb | 10.30am | SeaCity | £6

Hands on History: Awesome Egyptians (7+)
Fri 20 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | SeaCity | £8

Junior Art School: Go Wild with Wool (7 - 13 years)
Fri 20 Feb | 10.30am - 3.30pm | Art Gallery | £26

CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS
(Age 6½ - 12 years)

Drop off your young people

Three days per week | 9am-4pm (drop off from 8.45)

SeaCity | £35 per day or £90 for all three days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days.

Cruise Adventures
Mon 16, Tues 17, Wed 18 Feb

See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com