

Shipton Bellinger Primary School
Weekly School Newsletter
No.24 - Friday 13th March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly a BIG thank you for everyone who brought donations in today in exchange for Non school uniform. The FoS will be very busy over the next few weeks creating lovely Easter hampers ready for the raffle at our Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 27th March at 9am.



The children have really enjoyed our STEM week. Each afternoon they have had a different experiment to focus on, based on maths, science, design and technology and computing. Everyone was very engaged when Mrs McKinney came in to support their learning. EYFS and KS1 explored solids and liquids by making slime and KS2 extracted DNA from strawberries. A big thank you to all the staff for organising things and a huge thank you to Mrs McKinney for giving up her time, once again, to help and support the children!



On Wednesday it was the turn of Pegasus Class to share all of their learning through their family assembly. All the children stood up with confidence and we particularly enjoyed the gymnastics demonstration and their song was very catchy! Well done Pegasus Class. Next week it will be the turn of **Ara Class** on **Wednesday 18th March** at **2:30pm**.



On Tuesday a group of boys and girls from KS2 took part in a Cross Country event. All the children did amazingly well, but a special mention goes to Stevie who came 2nd! Overall Shipton came 5th out of 10 schools! Well done to all the children who took part.



Next week we have got Red Nose Day on Friday and a FoS cake sale too! Further information can be found on our Spring 2 Flyer and in the FoS section below.

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

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!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is back starting on Tuesday 17th of March until Friday 20th of March. Books are available to be purchased every day from 3pm.



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Come to our **BOOK FAIR**

to spot the books you'll LOVE to read!

Every book you buy earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

Come and find me!

My brand new book!

DATE: 17-20 MAR **TIME:** From 3pm

LOCATION: Corridor near Library

MORE NEW BOOKS to look out for!

Books from **£2.99**

DISCOVER MORE BOOKS ONLINE!

www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookfairs

All books subject to availability.

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details. All books subject to availability. Book range may vary. *Warning Not suitable for children under 1. Small parts.

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

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services



SOCIAL MEDIA APP AGE LIMITS

It has come to our attention that some children in the school are communicating outside of school hours using various social media apps that are not appropriate for their age. We hope this image will help show what are the age limits for common social media apps. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



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!

FRIENDS OF SHIPTON

Thank you for all the lovely Chocolate donations today - we will be making some lovely hampers for prizes at the Easter Raffle, which will be held on Friday 27th March.

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.

We will be holding one of our popular Cake Sales on Friday 20th March, afterschool, in the playground. As it is Red Nose Day we will be splitting the profits equally between FOS and Comic Relief.

As always, this event is only successful with the kind and generous donations of cakes from yourselves - please bring in your donations on the morning of the sale.

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 has been packed full of excitement and discovery as the children have become scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians in recognition of STEM week. We made boats to investigate materials and floating and sinking, became flowers and bees to explore pollination and got slimy with Scientist Mrs Mckinney!



We programmed beebots to follow pathways and enjoyed home made ice cream observing changes from liquid to solid - a magical experiment! Finally we were joined by families for our marble run challenge to put our knowledge of forces and problem solving to the test!



The children also made potato characters and wrote some imaginative diary entries about the discovery of the bear! So much WOW and WONDER! A fantastic week!



ARA CLASS

We have loved STEM week in Ara Class!

Each afternoon we have done something different! On Monday we started with our Maths Challenge - trying to find out whether our index fingers are the same length as our noses and whether our feet are the same length as our forearms. We were able to use anything that we could find to measure with - string, paper, cubes and even tens!



On Tuesday we were visited by Mrs McKinney. We got to make slime! The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about all of the ingredients and how it combines.



On Wednesday we did some Computing and some Science which we linked together! We learnt about how bees pollinate flowers by travelling from flower to flower. We learnt the parts of a flower and loved becoming bees and flowers and collecting and sharing pollen. We then used the beebots to plot a journey from one flower to another.



On Thursday we had the best afternoon making ice-cream! We shook the bag of ice and cream so much that one group even split the bag!

We are going to finish off the week making marble mazes using some of the recycling that we have collected.

What a great week!

CONSTELLATION ROOM

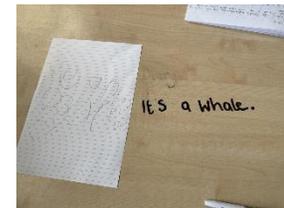
We have had another busy and exciting week in the Constellation Room, with lots of opportunities for the children to explore, investigate and develop their learning in a fun and supportive environment. The children have shown great curiosity this week, particularly during our STEM Week, where we focused on science, investigation and hands-on learning.

During STEM Week, the children enjoyed becoming young scientists and taking part in several exciting experiments. One of the highlights was making slime, where the children explored how different ingredients combine and change to create something new. They also loved making ice cream, which gave us the opportunity to talk about how liquids can change when they become very cold and turn into a solid. The children were fascinated by this process and enjoyed seeing their ingredients transform. We also spent time learning about bees and how they help pollinate flowers, discussing why bees are so important for plants, flowers and the food we eat. The children enjoyed exploring this through discussion, pictures and activities.



In Maths, we have been continuing to build our confidence with number skills. This week we have been recapping grouping in 2s, 5s and 10s, using practical resources and visual supports to help the children see how numbers can be organised into groups. We have also been continuing to strengthen our number recognition, practising identifying and matching numbers through a range of engaging games and activities.

In English, we have continued reading the beautiful story *The Storm Whale*. The children have been exploring the characters and thinking about their feelings and emotions throughout the story. Using this as inspiration, the children worked hard to write their own diary entries, imagining what the characters might say about their experiences. It was lovely to see the children sharing their ideas and beginning to express their thoughts through their writing.



Alongside this, we have continued with our Kinetic Letters sessions. The children have been practising their letter formation, building strength in their hands and developing confidence with their writing. These sessions help the children to improve their handwriting while also supporting their overall fine motor skills.

It has been a wonderful week full of exploration, creativity and teamwork, and we are very proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been in their learning.



PEGASUS CLASS

What another busy week for Pegasus! Not only was it STEM week but we also had our family assembly. The children worked really hard to put on a fantastic assembly for the whole school and parents. It was really nice for the children to showcase what they had learnt last half term, and we even managed to cover all areas of the curriculum.

This week in Maths, we continued adding and subtracting three digit numbers and tens, crossing the hundreds boundaries. It was challenging but we had extra lessons on it and used concrete resources to help us.

A big focus in writing this week has been the quality of writing by looking at creating coherent sentences using coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, as well as expanded noun phrases. We also started our narrative writing on *The Stone Age Boy* this week.

Since it was STEM week, the afternoon was dedicated to doing different activities. It was really fun getting to make ice cream in a bag, which was super yummy, measuring our bodies to explore *The Vitruvian Man* theory which illustrates the ideal human proportions, and doing a bunch of science experiments such as testing which materials make the best hankie and how to tell the difference in black inks.



No words can describe how incredibly proud I am of everyone in Pegasus!

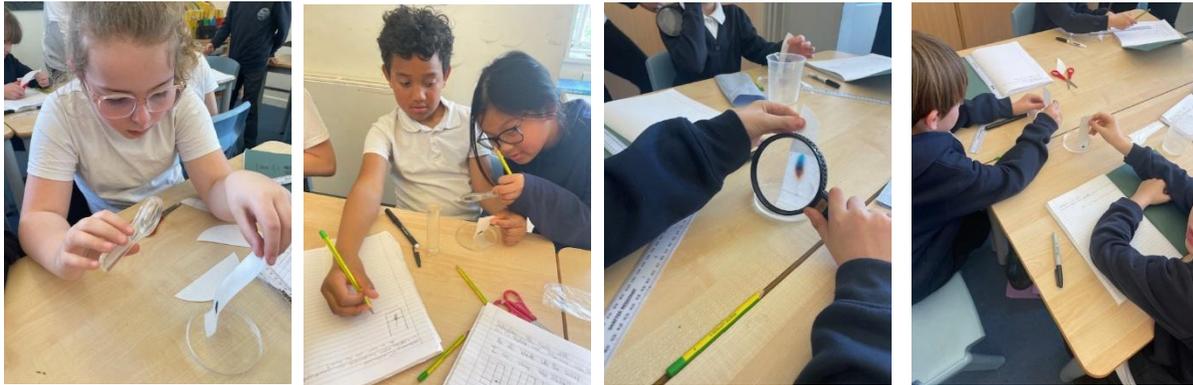
ORION CLASS

In Maths this week, we have been focusing our attention on our division skills. It has been important to use our knowledge of times tables to think about the amount of groups of a number we can make. Our Year 4 friends have been using a grid method to calculate their division, whereas Year 5 have used the more formal bus stop methods. Both of us have used problems with and without remainders.

Writing has been primarily focused on our own Stone Age stories where we have imagined what it might be like to travel back in time and meet our ancestors. We have tried to link it to the original story by using repetitive phrases. Lots of us have also tried to vary our sentence structures and be more adventurous with our language.

STEM Week has been a huge highlight. We began the week with a mathematical problem where we explored the work of Leonardo Davinci and *The Vitruvian Man*. This was an exploration of the theories around body proportion including height vs armspan, forearm vs foot length and hand length vs height. It really was fascinating.

We all loved exploring chromatography. Did you know...not all black inks are the same?! It was amazing to see the colours separate in the different inks; we certainly were not expecting bright blue to appear!



As part of our art work, we also experimented creating our own coloured dyes in the style of Stone Age people. While this did happen last Friday, it was after the newsletter was sent out! We had great fun exploring how sand, soil and spices could be used to change the colour of our paint.



CASSIOPEIA CLASS

What an exciting week we've had in class! Our STEM week was full of curiosity and inquiry. One of the highlights was making ice cream in a bag, which not only satisfied our sweet tooth but also taught us about the science of freezing and mixing ingredients.



We also conducted some intriguing experiments, including investigating which material would make the best hankie. We made sure we were fair testing by keeping everything the same apart from the material. Our next experiment was to explore pen chromatography to uncover the mystery of who wrote a confession note about a missing chocolate from our classroom. While we successfully identified the pen, the owner remains a mystery! We



were lucky enough to have Mrs McKinney join us where she taught us about DNA and we even extracted DNA from strawberries. Did you know humans and strawberries share approximately 60% DNA?

Additionally, we created marble mazes using recycling.

We also used the micro:bits, programming them to count our steps. It was a fantastic way to combine technology with hands-on learning.

In Maths, we investigated some theories. One of those was your forearm is the same size as your foot and another example was, your index finger is the same size as your nose. So using careful measuring, we recorded our results and concluded if our findings were true to the theory. Also, we have been revisiting multiplication and division, focusing on ensuring our strategies are accurate for the problems we are solving. The students are making great progress and are becoming more confident in their skills.





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

Calendar of events this spring

Lyndhurst Community Centre, Main Car Park, Lyndhurst SO43 7NY	Friday 20 March	2pm to 6pm
Leigh Park Community Centre, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park, Havant PO9 5BG	Saturday 21 March	10am to 1pm
Andover Community Church, Charlton Rd, Andover SP10 3JH	Thursday 26 March	2pm to 6pm
Farnborough Library, Pinehurst Roundabout, Farnborough GU14 7JZ	Tuesday 14 April	2.30pm to 6pm
Hampshire County Council HQ, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UJ	Monday 20 April	1pm to 5pm
Xperience Youth Centre, 70 Trinity St, Fareham PO16 7SJ	Tuesday 28 April	12pm to 4pm
Gosport Discovery Centre, High St, Gosport PO12 1BT	Thursday 30 April	2.30pm to 6pm
Alton Maltings Centre, 2 Maltings Close, Alton GU34 1DT	Thursday 7 May	2pm to 6pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Potters Walk, Basingstoke RG21 7LS	Tuesday 12 May	2pm to 6pm
Pavilion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Rd, Eastleigh SO50 9LH	Friday 15 May	2pm to 6pm
Petersfield Festival Hall, Heath Rd, Petersfield GU31 4DZ	Monday 18 May	2pm to 6pm

To find more details on these events, or for further information on the Hampshire Local Offer, visit connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/localoffer or scan the QR code.



What if you could explore your SEND Local Offer in person, on one day?



Join us at an event near you to find out about your local special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support.

Our Discovery Days offer a welcoming space for families to explore the wide range of local services and support available. They provide the chance to speak directly with the teams who work with children and young people with SEND, helping families access timely information, early support, and meaningful connections within their community.

Families can expect

- Opportunities to meet professionals from key SEND services
- Information stands from charities, providers, and community organisations
- General support and advice for children and young people aged 0 to 25
- Signposting to early help, assessment pathways, and inclusive activities
- A welcoming, relaxed environment where families can explore at their own pace



connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/localoffer



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 & Easter Raffle
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
Wednesday 15th April	Grand Opening of the Adventure Playground - 2:30pm
Friday 17th April	Military Child Day - Wear something yellow
Monday 20th April	Whole Class Photographs
Wednesday 22nd April	Phonics Screening Check Presentation for Year 1 Parents - 2:30pm
Wednesday 29th April	PGL Presentation for Cassiopeia Class Parents - 3:10pm
Thursday 30th April	Progress Reviews to be sent home

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