

# Shipton Bellinger Primary School

## Weekly School Newsletter

### No.18 - Friday 23rd January 2026




Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been focusing on the theme 'Friendship'. On Monday the children were set three challenges:

1. Invite a new friend to play/ join in a game
2. Help someone if they are feeling upset
3. Say something to brighten up someone else's day

It has been lovely to hear the positive comments coming from the children, inviting others to play during break and lunch as well as helping each other. Also, when the wet weather has allowed, the new lunchtime zoning is working well and is allowing children to engage in a wider range of activities.

On Thursday, your child should have been sent home with their 'Half Term Progress Reviews'. Just a reminder that we will be having our **Open Afternoon on Wednesday 28th January at 3:10pm**, where you can come into your child's classroom to have a look through their books and see what they have been learning. If you have any questions regarding the Half Term Progress Reviews, please see your child's class teacher. Some of our Governors will also be present for the Open Afternoon and they will be wearing a black Governor lanyard if you wish to have a chat with them.



	Reading	Writing	Maths	Learning Behaviours
Milestone 1 Parents Evening	EXS	EXS	WTS	
Spring 1	EXS	EXS	CT	***
Milestone 2 Parents Evening	EXS	CT	WTS	***
Summer 1	EXS	WTS	WTS	***

\* WTS (working towards the expected standard); CT (close to working at the expected standard); EXS (exceeding at the expected standard but at risk of not achieving); ESE (exceeding at the expected standard); ESE (exceeding at the expected standard)

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

### ONLINE SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

As part of our e-safety curriculum, we will be taking part in Safer Internet day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026. As such we have been able to secure a webinar for parents regarding how they can help protect their children when they are online. Our Internet provider will be conducting the webinar and as such we would like to know when this would best suit our parents. Please click on the link so we can arrange this for a time and date that best suits the majority.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSpAoT9pJUpi9cyEUGHE2tzS\\_xwVh5YoDpV4hERp-NSVXwYhbg/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSpAoT9pJUpi9cyEUGHE2tzS_xwVh5YoDpV4hERp-NSVXwYhbg/viewform?usp=header)

## 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!



Date for your diary  
Valentine Disco - Thursday 12th February

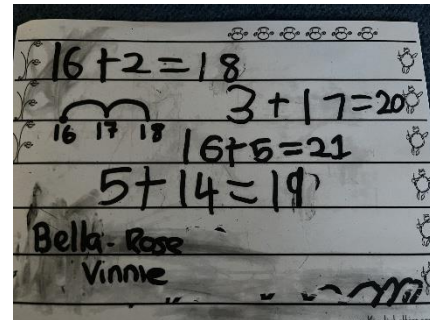
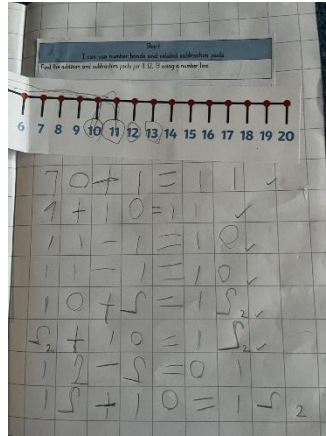
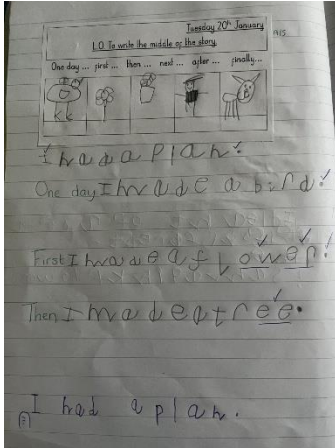


**"No one can do everything but everyone can do something"**

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

### CYGNUS CLASS

This week we finished off our writing unit inspired by the story of The Tin Forest. Year I children retold the story in their own words, thinking carefully about story language and using adjectives to add description and detail. We also focused on using capital letters, full stops and spaces between words and writing in our very best kinetic letters handwriting stretching tall letters and sitting letters on the line. Year R wrote words to describe how the man felt and some children had a go writing a sentence.



In Maths we continued to reinforce our learning around number bonds as well as related facts. Year R enjoyed acting out the rhyme '5 speckled frogs' and used this to practise number bonds to 5, each time a 'frog' jumped into the pool, we used our fingers to show how many frogs were on the log (fingers up) and how many were in the pool (fingers down) and repeated the phrase '\_\_\_ and \_\_\_ make 5'. Year I used their number bond knowledge to add numbers together more efficiently using number lines and part whole models.

Linked to our topic of the local area and inspired by the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, we also learnt a little about UK birds, listened to some beautiful birdsong to relax ourselves and used tally charts to record the number of different birds that we saw. Why not [get involved](#) as a family! In Geography we looked at maps of our local area and worked out where some of our community buildings were such as our school, the church and the village shop. In Science we sorted animals according to their features and broadened our vocabulary discussing words such as 'gills' and 'webbed feet' and in Art we used techniques such as crosshatching to add texture to drawings of houses. In a few weeks the children will be sketching drawings of their own house so please email in a picture of your house to support this!

## ARA CLASS

It has been a brilliant week of learning in Ara Class, and the children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have been retelling the story of *The Tin Forest*. The children have loved exploring this imaginative text and have been especially focused on developing their writing skills. We have practised using capital letters and full stops correctly, and the children have worked hard to include expanded noun phrases to make their writing more descriptive and exciting. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they add more detail to their sentences.

In Maths, learning has looked a little different across the year groups. Year 2 children have been adding numbers up to 100, concentrating on the tricky skill of bridging across a tens number. They have shown great perseverance and determination. Year 1 children have been adding numbers up to 20, using their number bonds to ten to help them partition numbers in different ways. Their understanding is developing well, and they are becoming more secure with their mental strategies.

In Science, we have been exploring the features of animals, discussing how different animals have different characteristics to help them survive. In Music, the children used a range of instruments to create music inspired by the weather, producing some fantastic sound effects and rhythms.

Our Geography lessons have focused on maps, where we compared different types and decided which were the most useful for identifying buildings in Shipton Bellinger. In Art, the children practised a variety of shading techniques, including stippling, blending, scumbling and scribbling, using pencils carefully and creatively.

Finally, in PE, we have been learning the difference between an underarm and overarm throw, practising our control and accuracy.

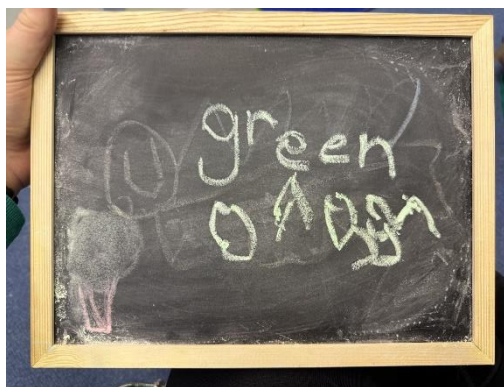
It has been a fantastic week!

## CONSTELLATION ROOM

This week has been a super fun one in the Constellation room — even the rain hasn't stopped us from enjoying ourselves! We have taken part in lots of messy sensory play together, which has helped us develop our social skills. The children have enjoyed mark making in shaving foam, sand, gloop and with chalk. We have continued reading our story *The Tin Forest* and used our imaginations to place ourselves in our own forests. The children then had a go at writing sentences to create their own short stories. We also introduced a daily climbing activity, which has been a big hit and a great way to burn off energy on days when it's been too wet to go outside.

In science, we have been learning more about animals and the groups they belong to. The children have done a fantastic job sorting animals independently and recognising reptiles, birds, mammals and amphibians.

All in all, it's been a fantastic week in the Constellation room. Have a great weekend!



## PEGASUS CLASS

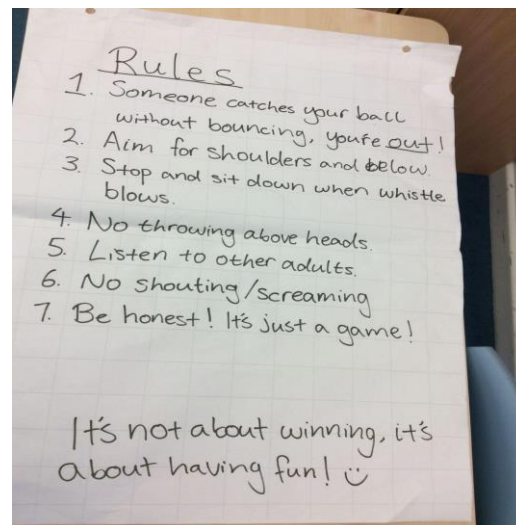
Pegasus has been super busy learning new things this week!

In writing, we finally got to start our final diary entry about our trip to Paris! We learnt about past tense and present perfect tense so we can apply it in our writing. We had a lot of fun immersing ourselves in Paris and writing about our trip; what we saw, what we did and how we felt.

In Maths, we started looking at time. We retrieved back on what we already know about telling time, starting with half past, o'clock, quarter past and quarter to. Then we moved on to telling and drawing hands on a clock to 5 minutes. This meant we had to get confident in our 5 times tables and embedding when to say "past" or "to" the hour. To help us with our 5 times tables, we sang a song at the start of each lesson. We also had a lot of fun using the mini clocks!



One of our PE units is dodgeball and it was so much fun this week! We came up with a class charter when playing dodgeball so we all agreed on the rules for dodgeball and PE in general. This way, we are sure to be safe and have a good time. It was so much fun working together to get the other team out, but as stated in our dodgeball rules, it is not about winning but about having fun!



In PSHE, we continued learning about ways to keep ourselves safe. We looked at different situations and had to decide whether they were high, medium or low risks by putting our hands on head (high), fold arms (medium), or put our hands on knees (low). We then discussed how we can make the situation safer and how that can decrease the risk. For example, if the risk is crossing a busy road, it may be high because we might get hurt by a car but we can make it safer by crossing at a zebra crossing or with an adult.



Art was a very practical lesson this week. The children looked at still life drawings of fruit and then had a go at creating their own still life drawing using fruit in the classroom. We had fun arranging the fruit on our tables and sketching the shapes of the fruit we can see before adding the shadows using hatching, cross hatching and blending techniques. What a fun way to end the week.



## ORION CLASS

It has been another busy week for Team Orion and we have got to grips with a range of new skills. In reading, we had the opportunity to share the book in small groups. We discussed the events that were taking place and how this has led to many twists and turns for our heroine, Magpie. Using opinion scales, we have thought about whether we agree or disagree with some of her actions.



Our computing curriculum involves coding and using a range of instructions to code a turtle. To begin the lesson we debugged some codes and used our knowledge from the previous session to explain whether it would work or not. In pairs, we entered our own codes so that the turtle drew our initials.



During Art this week, we studied different fruits and began to explore still life drawing. We used different pencils to begin adding shade and tone to our drawings. It was really tricky for some of the fruits, particularly if it was leaning at a different angle.

In maths, we have continued our work on fractions, decimals and percentages. We used greater than, less than and equal to symbols to make different statements correct including ones like this one. Thinking carefully about what each side of the equation totalled and using our addition and subtraction skills was vital to ensure we got to the correct answer.

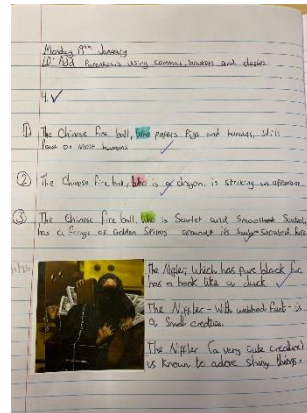
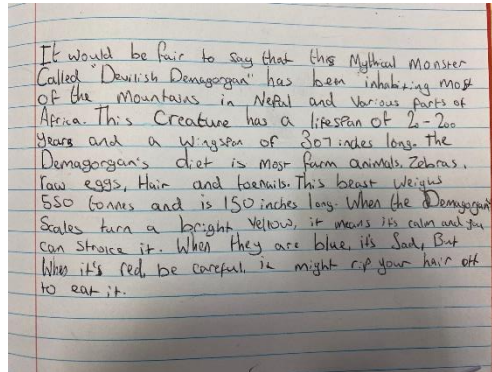
$$\frac{15}{7} - \frac{9}{7} \quad \square \quad \frac{2}{7} + \frac{4}{7}$$

There has definitely been a lot of resilience and perseverance this week in our class!

## CASSIOPEIA CLASS

We have had another busy week.

In English, we have been writing using parenthesis and explored different ways we can use this in our writing about 'fantastic Beasts'. Other areas of grammar such as prepositions and expanded noun phrases have been something we have also revised this week. We have been putting this into action and have written descriptive paragraphs about our own creature.



Algebra has been our focus this week. We began exploring shapes and then letters and trying to solve problems using different expressions. The children really embraced this new skill and many said they enjoyed solving algebraic expressions. We are continuing to work hard on arithmetic with our daily lessons.

This week in PSHE, we read about a famous experiment with rats and looked into which conditions made the rats feel safe and content. We then compared that to humans and generated ideas on which we think our emotional needs are. The children worked in pairs on one of the elements and presented their thinking to the rest of the class. We came up with feeling safe and secure, I need to feel part of a group, I need time to be alone, I need to have choices about some of the things I do and I need to feel I'm good at something.



In Art, we have used our ideas from the last lesson to sketch the outline of our creatures, and began adding detail. We will then use the chalks and charcoal to add tone and shade.





Wednesday 28th January	Open Afternoon - parents invited into classrooms from 3:10pm to look at the children's learning in books
Wednesday 4th February	Cassiopeia Class Family Assembly - 2:30pm
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
Mon 16th February—Fri 20th February	HALF TERM BREAK - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 23rd February	School re-open for Spring Term 2
Monday 23rd February	TOGETHER school values day
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

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