

Shipton Bellinger Primary School

Weekly School Newsletter

No.22 - Friday 27th February 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have kicked off this half term with a great focus on our whole school STAR values. On Monday we held our whole school 'TOGETHER' day where the children spent the day in their house teams to complete a range of activities focusing on working together and team work. One of these included creating a house flag to represent what they are which will be displayed in the school and used later on in the year at Sports Day.



It was lovely to see some of our parents join virtually for the presentation about Online E-Safety and thinking about how we can keep our children safe whilst using technology. Those who did join have expressed how they found it very informative. The presentation was recorded and hopefully we will be able to share this and the slides from the presentation with you shortly.





Mrs Webber delivered a presentation to the parents of the children in Year 6 about KS2 Statutory assessments. She explained what they are, when they take place and what we can all do to support their children to achieve.



Before half term, we asked for your support and consideration to keep us all safe during drop off and pick up times. Thank you to all those who have been parking in the village car park nearby and walking to the school and also to those who are walking on the school grounds via the pedestrian gate. This is not only keeping everyone safe but it is also respecting our whole school and wider community.



Next week we have Parents Evenings. Hopefully you will have received your child's targets today in preparation for the meeting. If you haven't already signed up to meet with your child's class teacher, this can be done through the Arbor App. If you are experiencing difficulties with this, please speak to the school office.

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

Before half term, we shared the exciting news about our next sponsored event to raise the remaining amount so we can get our Adventure Playground completed during the Easter Holidays. We hope that the children are busy raising their sponsorship for the colour run.

We are opening this up beyond the school gates this year, for parents or other members of the community to take part in the 5k part of the run. This is slightly different from the children's colour run as there is no requirement for sponsorship from the adults wishing to take part, however, there is a registration fee. Please see the attached flyer and registration form.



FRIENDS OF SHIPTON

Dates for your diary

Non uniform day in exchange for Easter Chocolate - 13th March
Cake Sale in conjunction with Red Nose Day - Friday 20th March
Colour Run - Friday 27th March



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

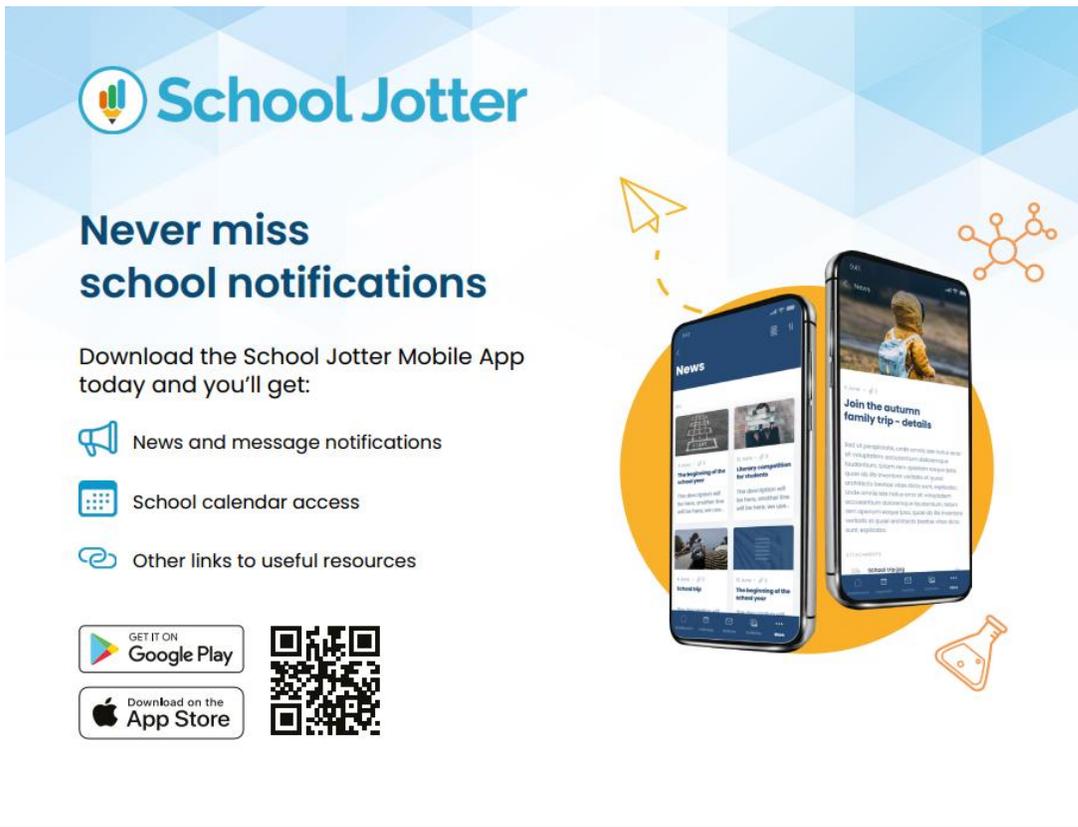


NEW WEBSITE

We are very excited to launch our new website. You will have noticed that there have been lots of changes. We hope you enjoy exploring the new features. One feature that links to our website is a mobile app. Through the app you will be alerted when things like newsletters have been uploaded onto the website. Details of how to do this are below:

- To download your mobile app please search for 'School Jotter 3' using either the App Store or Play Store.
- Once downloaded if you could please 'Continue as guest' (no login required).
- Then search for your school by either entering your school name or post code.
- Please click on our school and that is it.

Here is a flyer that maybe useful:



The flyer features the School Jotter logo at the top left, which consists of a stylized 'J' with three colored bars (green, yellow, blue) and the text 'School Jotter' in a blue sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text 'Never miss school notifications' is written in a bold, dark blue font. Underneath, it says 'Download the School Jotter Mobile App today and you'll get:' followed by three bullet points with icons: a megaphone for 'News and message notifications', a calendar for 'School calendar access', and a link icon for 'Other links to useful resources'. At the bottom left, there are two buttons: 'GET IT ON Google Play' and 'Download on the App Store'. To the right of these buttons is a QR code. The right side of the flyer is dominated by two smartphones. The left phone shows a 'News' screen with several article thumbnails. The right phone shows a detailed article titled 'Join the autumn family trip - details'. The background is a light blue geometric pattern with some orange decorative icons like a paper plane and a network diagram.

CAMHS QR CODE

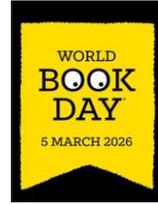
This week we are sharing guidance on tips to support sleep optimisation. Hopefully, this link will provide additional information as a follow on from our link shared in the previous newsletter.




Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

WORLD BOOK DAY - TUESDAY 5th MARCH

On **Thursday 5th March** children are welcome to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character. There will be lots of activities taking place in school that day. We are looking forward to seeing who the children dress up as.



EXTREME READING CHALLENGE

We would also like to encourage children to have fun with their reading, as the most important thing is that children LOVE to read! We are setting an EXTREME READING CHALLENGE! Could you read...in a tree...Upside down... on a slide....In the bath? Send in photos of your child's extreme reading!

WORLD BOOK DAY ASSEMBLY

Each class will be sharing our learning in assembly at 2:30pm on World Book Day. Please feel free to come along to see what your child has been learning in class.

COMMUNICATION

As a school we recognise that at times it might feel like we are communicating with you using lots of different platforms. We would like to clarify what platforms we use and the purpose of them.

| Platform For Communication | What information is it providing? |
|--|--|
|  Arbor | This is the main way we communicate with our families, whether this be general messages and reminders, direct 1:1 correspondence, booking parents evening appointments or information about your child. Each week we will send out our newsletter and yearly overview via this platform. We will send out our half termly overview each half term using this platform too. You can also log absences and send messages you would like us to pass on to your child's class teacher, as sometimes drop offs and pick ups can be busy. |
|  Google Classroom | This is the platform we use for each class to communicate with the children linked with their learning. Each week home learning is uploaded onto Google Classroom, as well as paper copy in school. Staff may also use this platform to give messages directly to their class or to give reminders too. Each half term the staff share the up and coming topic information, week by week overview and knowledge organisers. Children can upload their work onto this platform. |
|  School Jotter App and Website | We upload our newsletters, yearly overviews and letters onto our website along with class information on each class page. You will also find curriculum information as well as policies relating to the school. We also share and celebrate events that have taken place in the school. Our new website has an up to date calendar with our upcoming events. The new app will provide you with an alert when our website has had anything recently uploaded. |



This is the platform used for parents to pay for trips, school meals, wraparound and other school events, such as clubs. No information from the school is sent out via this app.

CHARTWELLS CATERING

As we are all becoming familiar with the new caterers that we have in school, we are experiencing a few teething issues. The menu structure is different to what we are used to as a school and as such there has been some confusion this week regarding the menu choices. We apologise if this has caused any distress or confusion.

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!

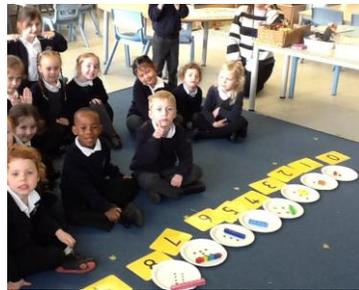
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THIS WEEK.....

CYGNUS CLASS

We kicked off the week with 'Together' Day and Cygnus classroom hosted children from Stonehenge House. We played parachute games together, built models of Stonehenge together, carried out research together and created a house flag with everyone working together to plan, design, paint, cut, sew and glue! A great day!



In Maths we found halves and quarters of shapes by folding and cutting and moved onto counting in ones (for YR) and twos (for Y1) to begin our unit on multiplication and division. Year R built numberblock towers and noticed that when these were ordered from 1-10, you could see that the numbers grow by one each time (+1). Y1 noticed that all multiples of two are even numbers.



In Literacy, we read the story of 'The Storm Whale', made predictions about the story and wrote sentences to describe the characters. We began our unit on the Titanic with an energetic music lesson led by Mrs Lane where we sang songs about the sea and listened to music that was played during the time of



Titanic. In Art we experimented with colour mixing of primary colours to make secondary colours, in RE we thought about our emotions and how a person might look when they feel a certain way and in PSHE we talked about the impact of our actions and what we can do to help our family members. For example, tidy our rooms, listen to instructions and be kind to our siblings! YR continued balance ability sessions on



the balance bikes practising starting (we push off with our feet), stopping (we put our feet down or squeeze the brake) and changing direction (we move the handlebars which moves the wheels to steer). The children are loving these sessions and making great progress! A happy, fun-filled week of learning and togetherness! Have a lovely weekend!

ARA CLASS

What a first week back! We have thrown ourselves into our new topic learning and the children are continuing to amaze me with how much knowledge they are able to link from previous learning.



Our topic this term is Titanic and, whilst we haven't even had our first History lesson, the children are already telling me things that they have found out and talked about at home! I'm really looking forward to digging deeper into it with the class.

In English we have begun our new text 'The Storm Whale' and we have been exploring how we can up-level sentences (improve them) by using a range of verbs and nouns, rather than always the same ones.

The children have been really enjoying trying to find other words that mean a similar thing.

In Maths we have begun our next block of multiplication and division and we have started with the 2 and 5 times tables. The children are using their knowledge of counting in 2s and 5s and are applying this to grouping into 2s and 5s.



We have begun our second round of music with Mrs Lane this term. It is always lovely to see the children so engaged in their music and I know that they are super excited for when the instruments come out!



A fantastic start to the term!

CONSTELLATION ROOM

It has been another busy and engaging week in the Constellation Room! We have continued to focus on developing communication, independence, and curiosity through hands-on, meaningful learning experiences. The children have worked incredibly hard and shown fantastic resilience when trying new activities. We are so proud of the progress they are making, both academically and socially, and we are excited to share some of the highlights from our week with you. ✨

We wrapped up warm and headed out on a **welly walk** to look for signs of spring. The children enjoyed exploring the natural environment, spotting early spring flowers, and noticing changes around us. We practised our communication skills by sharing what we could see, hear and feel, and worked on turn-taking and waiting while walking together as a group. The fresh air and movement were fantastic for regulation and curiosity!

In **Maths**, we have been learning about **halves and quarters**. We explored this in practical, hands-on ways by cutting shapes and objects into equal parts and talking about what makes something “fair” and “equal.” The children did a brilliant job using visual and concrete resources to help deepen their understanding.

Our **English** learning has focused on *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies. This beautiful story helped us explore themes of friendship, kindness, and feelings. We worked on describing characters, retelling parts of the story and thinking about how the whale and the little boy might feel at different points.

In **Art**, we have been experimenting with **watercolours**. The children explored how colours blend and mix, particularly creating ocean-inspired artwork linked to our English text. It was wonderful to see their creativity and confidence grow as they tried new techniques.

Finally, in **History**, we began learning about the **Titanic**. We explored what it was when it sailed and why it is remembered today. The children showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions as we introduced this topic.

We are so proud of the children’s engagement and enthusiasm this week — well done, Constellation Room! ★



PEGASUS CLASS

What a busy first week back!

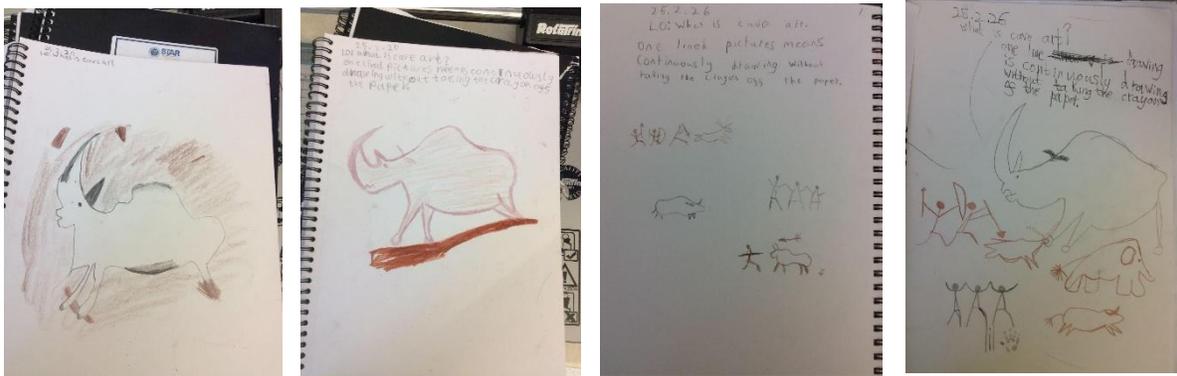
In writing we started looking at our new book, *The Stone Age Boy*. We predicted what we think the book is going to be about and what will happen before reading the book. This will help us with our final fantasy narrative.

In Maths, we are building up on our place value knowledge and addition and subtraction learning from the start of the school year to help us add and subtract three-digit numbers and ones, tens and hundreds. The children are encouraged to use concrete resources such as dienes to help them visualise the adding and taking away, but this unit is all about developing their mental maths skills.

We started our tennis unit as part of our outdoor PE lesson and that was a lot of fun! The children practised bouncing the tennis balls on their racquets to practise ball control. They then set goals for themselves to see how many times they can bounce the ball before stopping. Our indoor PE lesson this half term is fitness. The children worked on their balancing skills which in turn helped strengthen their core and leg muscles. There was a lot of balancing and hopping on one leg.

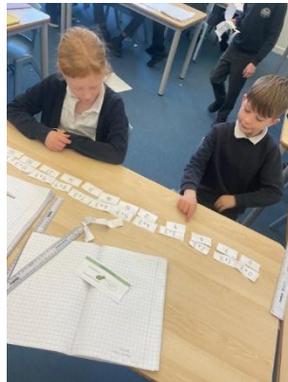
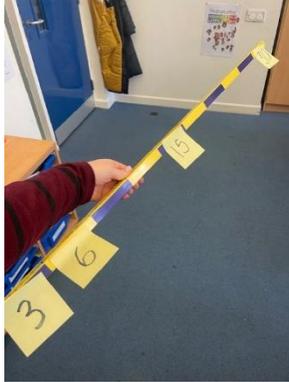


In Art, the children were introduced to cave art, as part of our stone age topic. They evaluated different cave art pictures and then had a go sketching animals using one line. This means they had to draw an animal without taking their crayon off the paper. It challenged the children but was also super fun to see what they came up with. We have some real artists in Pegasus!



ORION CLASS

This week saw the launch of Multiplication Mondays! However, it became Timetables Tuesday this week due to Together Day. This is a new session that Mrs Warland has introduced us to to improve our Timestable skills. We are learning that it is not all about counting in equal amounts, or chanting, but more importantly about understanding the relationships of the numbers. We began this week with a counting stick. Mrs Warland had missing numbers that we had to explain how we could use known facts to find out the missing totals. This included phrases like *One more lot of 3 is...* And *one fewer group of 3 is*. We have started with a revisit of our 3x table so we can build our skills using similar language to describe the position of numbers.



In writing, we have moved to our new book, *Stone Age Boy*. Some of us may have used this text before but we will be unpicking characters in more detail and creating our own fantasy narratives. This week was a test of memory to see how much we could connect the information in the pictures. We thought about what we knew about the pictures and whether any had a similar theme.

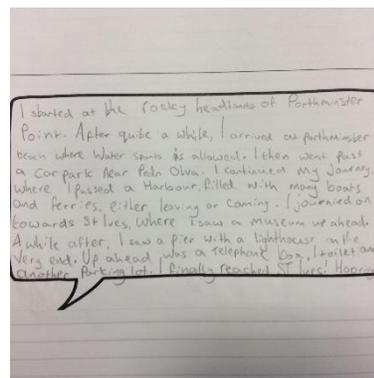
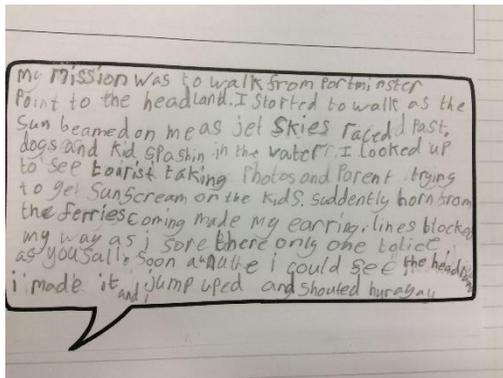
Because our topic is Stone Age, our whole class reading book also falls into this area of history. This week, we have begun to read *The Stolen Spear* and have made some predictions based on what we know so far.

During science, we began to think about where rocks come from by looking at the structure of the Earth. We have learnt about the different layers that create our planet as a link between our current topic and our previous Space topic. It has been important to learn about these layers ready for when we explore rock formations.

We loved our time in other classes for Together Day. It was great to learn about the different houses and we eagerly shared key facts about this when we returned to school. It was great to see Team Orion represented well and hear positive feedback from other staff members. This positive mindset has set us up well for this half term and we cannot wait to get stuck into our new topic of Stone Age.

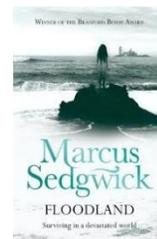
CASSIOPEIA CLASS

After enjoying Together Day in our houses on Monday, we began our new topic, 'Coasts'. In Geography, we used maps to explore the coastline of the UK and found out that the coastline is 12,429km which is larger than Spain and Italy. We then used the map to discover the human and physical features. We looked at estuaries, salt marshes and mud flats. The children wrote a description of a walk along a coastline using a map, describing the things they might see.



In writing, we started our new text, 'Floodlands' by Marcus Sedgwick which is set in the future where most of the UK is covered in water. A girl named Zoe is left alone by her parents in the ruins of Norwich, which has become an island and food is becoming increasingly scarce. Will she escape? Where will she go?

We will be using this to write a diary from the perspective of Zoe and another character she meets.



In Maths. Our focus has been on addition and subtraction this week. We have been exploring different methods to enable us to derive the answer quickly. We have been using these skills to apply this to problem solving.

Music was so much fun this week. We developed a fun rhythmic performance featuring key words and phrases from the song and then performed them. There was lots of creativity and each one was unique.



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 3rd March | Parents Evening – book via Arbor App |
| Thursday 5th March | Parents Evening – book via Arbor App |
| 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.