

Shipton Bellinger Primary School

Weekly School Newsletter

No.27 - Friday 17th April 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter break. I hope you all had a lovely time and enjoyed the few days of sunshine we had too! During the holidays, the school continued to be busy with changes and updates taking place. The biggest one being our new adventure playground, however, there were a few other changes, including new sliding doors in Ara Class for the storage area. We are continuing with our updates throughout the term and there will be an EYFS ground force party on Wednesday 22nd April from 3:10pm if you are available to help, even if it is only for 10 minutes, we would really appreciate all the support we can get!



We kicked off the half term with our whole school 'ACHIEVE' day. The children had the opportunity to review their targets that they set themselves back in September and set new targets that they would like to achieve. They learnt about famous achievers such as Sir David Attenborough and they all enjoyed challenging themselves to learn and achieve a new skill which included line dancing, origami, basket weaving, drawing and juggling.



On Wednesday we officially opened our new Adventure playground. Although the weather was not on our side, it was still a special occasion. The Mayor and Mayoress of Test Valley came to cut the red ribbon and to thank everyone for their amazing hard work and dedication to enable this project to happen. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the community coming together to provide such an exciting new experience for the children at both the pre-school and school.



Due to the wet weather on Wednesday, the children patiently waited to test out the new adventure on Thursday. The positive feedback from the children has been lovely to hear. The children have also enjoyed being allowed to climb the tree that was part of the previous adventure play area. They are aware of the rules of the tree and know how high they can safely climb.



On Friday we celebrated military children in our school. Lots of children came into school wearing yellow to represent military children. We started the day by reading the story called 'Dandelions' written by the charity Little Troopers, explaining why the dandelion is the symbol of the military child. The children learnt about what makes military children special, created dandelions, they learnt a poem about military children, created posters to show their experiences as a military child or what is like to be in a school where military children are your friends and sung a special dandelion song. A world map was used to show all the different places that our military children have lived before.



On Friday afternoon, Mr Sullivan brought in some lambs for the children to see. This was a lovely 'hands-on' experience for the children and a definite sign of spring.



Next week we have class photographs taking place on Monday and a Phonics Screening Presentation at 2:30pm on Wednesday for parents with children in Year 1.

As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you have a lovely weekend. From Miss Seed

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND - DROP OFF AND PICK UP

We are all very excited by the completion of our new adventure playground. The children have daily access to the adventure playground during break and timetabled sessions across the week at lunch time. This means that we can adequately risk assess the adventure playground before the children use it. We also need the ground around the adventure playground to settle and for the grass to grow. As such we kindly ask that the children do not use the adventure playground before and after school. We appreciate your co-operation with this.

CHARTWELLS QUESTIONNAIRE

Following feedback from recent Parent Forum meetings, and as we are now into the 2nd term of Chartwell's providing our school lunches, we feel it an ideal opportunity to ask for your/your child's opinions and feedback about the School Lunches and menus. The information we receive from this, will be helpful to feedback to Chartwell's. Thank you for your support. Here is the link for you to provide feedback:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsj4owBBfhUBMddhsH_a59S44FE7ViAIOQM-Aub6BJpQy_FQ/viewform?usp=header

SENDCo Update

This week we have shared, via emails, recent updates from the local CAMHS and SENDIAS teams. This includes parent workshops that are online and face to face.

Additionally, the recent updates to our school website provide a wealth of information for all our families, not just those who experience SEND. There is a designated *SEND* section under *Key Information* or by clicking this link: <https://www.shiptonbellinger.hants.sch.uk/key-information/send>

Here you can also find contact details for our SEND team. SENDCO: Mrs Warland Contact: sendco@shiptonbellinger.hants.sch.uk



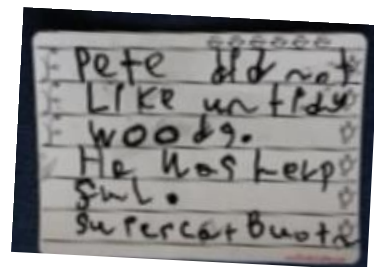
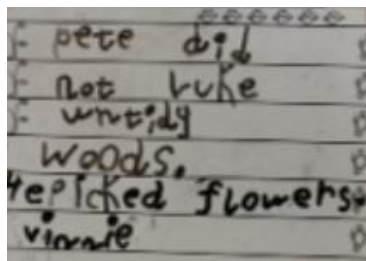
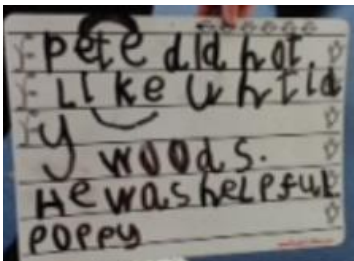
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THIS WEEK.....

CYGNUS CLASS

For Achieve Day, the children thought about what they had already achieved in their life such as learning to walk, talk and eat and shared recent achievements such as doing a forward roll and swimming without arm bands. Each child wrote a learning target they'd like to achieve such as learning to read or ride a pedal bike and after learning about the crew of Artemis 2 shared their job aspirations for the future. We have vets, a dentist, a doctor, a train driver, astronauts, footballers and singers in the making! The children chose a new skill to learn and shared their new talent of line dancing, juggling, origami, drawing or weaving!



In Maths we played shop and practised number and coin recognition. The YR children counted out their pennies to buy certain items using a tens frame. The Y1 children counted their pocket money in ones, twos, fives and tens and solved addition and subtraction problems. The children loved our story that we're using to inspire writing this half term. 'Tidy' is a story about a badger who loves to keep everything tidy. We thought about what the character might be thinking and wrote thought bubbles. Y1 were introduced to suffixes and prefixes such as 'untidy', 'helpful' and 'groomed'.



We began our new topic of 'Going Wild'. For Science we're learning about microhabitats and went on a minibeast hunt. We were excited to find spiders, woodlice, worms, ants, snails and even a frog. For Art we looked at the beautiful work of Maria Meriem and sketched butterflies. A lovely first week back at school!



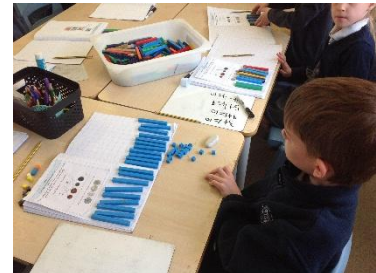
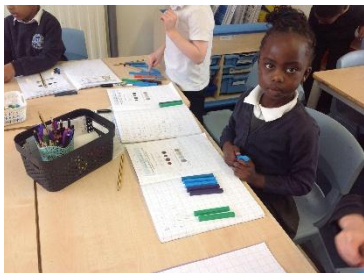
ARA CLASS

Welcome back to Summer Term !! This term our topic is Going Wild!

We have got stuck straight into our English learning, beginning to read our new class text 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett. The children are really enjoying learning about Pete the badger and how he likes everything to be tidy. We are trying hard to be following Pete's lead and keeping our own classroom extra tidy!

We have started to learn about prefixes and suffixes and the children have really worked hard to use them in their writing.

In Maths we have jumped straight into addition and subtraction with money. The children have been learning how to recognise the different coins and how to add them together. We have begun to explore addition across a tens number and are about to start (Friday morning!) learning how to subtract across a tens number.



We began the week with Achieve day!

The children loved learning about lots of different famous achievers and then we had a go at achieving something new ourselves. We have begun to create our own baskets using paper plates and wool and, at some point this term they will bring them home (they're taking a little longer than planned as the children are determined to do them as well as possible!)

A fantastic start! Well done Ara!



CONSTELLATION ROOM

This week in the Constellation Room, we've been enjoying settling back into our routine while continuing to have lots of fun together. The children have shown great enthusiasm as they explored our new classroom resources, approaching each activity with curiosity and excitement. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow as they revisit familiar routines while also discovering new ways to learn and play. In English, we have had lots of fun reading our new book *Tidy*, which has inspired many interesting conversations about wildlife and seasonal changes. In Science, we have been exploring microhabitats and minibeasts. On Wednesday, we joined Cygnus for a very wet minibeast hunt and were incredibly excited by what we discovered. In Maths, we have been learning about money and even opened our own "Shipton Shop," where we practised exchanging coins for different items and worked really hard to use the correct amounts. We have also been focusing on understanding the value of different coins. During sensory time, we enjoyed making slime and playdough for everyone to use throughout the week. We have also been learning about symmetry, and in Art we created beautiful butterfly prints. Most excitingly of all, we had a fantastic time exploring the new adventure playground!

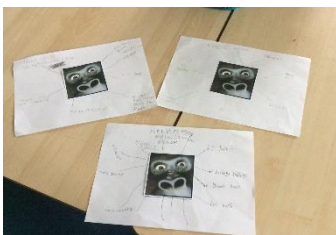


PEGASUS CLASS

What a busy first week back! Starting off strong with our Achieve Day, the children had a lot of fun making a list of things they would like to achieve this year and in life. We then did a class challenge where we tried to see how long it would take us to get the hula hoop all around the whole class. Our first time was 1.37, then we did it a second time to see if we could beat that time, and we did! We managed to achieve our goal by only taking us 53 seconds to go around the second time. The children then learnt different skills in the afternoon, such as drawing animals, origami, and basket weaving.



In English, we started looking at our new book 'King Kong' and it was nice to see some of the children already quite familiar with the story. We started the unit with a slow reveal of the book and gathered some ideas on what we think the book may be about using different pictures as our clue. We then started reading the book and compared the two main characters, Denham and Darrow.



In Maths, we carried on with our unit on time. We briefly learnt about time in the Spring term so this is not new learning. This week, we looked at telling time to 5 minutes and then to the nearest minute. The children had fun using the clocks and activating their prior knowledge.

This half term we are doing cricket for our outdoor PE and dance for our indoor PE. During cricket, we learnt about umpiring and scoring points by running from one cone to another and counting how many times we could run back and forth within a minute. In dance, we listened to Thriller by Michael Jackson and then acted as scary monsters and zombies. The children worked on their zombie-like movements and facial expressions.



In Art, the children learnt about Walter S. Arnold, an American sculptor, specialising in sculpting gargoyles and monsters. They then used their observational drawing skills to draw one of his sculptures, using their previous learning and knowledge on still life drawing. They first drew the shapes they could see and then the textures and shadows.

CASSIOPEIA CLASS

We began our week with Achieve which was a great opportunity to hear the children's ambitions for the future. We also found out about famous achievers such as Florence Nightingale, Matthew Henson and Grace Darling. We ended the day hearing about Mr Shield's and Mr Webber's achievements from flying in Concorde to performing magic to celebrities.

In writing, we watch a film clip called Broken:Rock, Paper, Scissors. It was a fantastic animation and portrayal of three characters. We wrote our own character description based on those in the film. In reading we have continued to practise skills such as skimming and scanning, retrieving key information and using the text to support our thoughts.

Our key question in RE is, What is the importance of Heaven to Christians? We began this concept by all going out and choosing a leaf that we liked, we named it and spent time with our leaf. Mrs Webber then told us that she would be taking the leaves away. We were all disappointed and a little sad about it. We thought about what sort of things we could include in a goodbye ceremony. This included reading poems, a song, speeches, inviting friends and memory benches. It gave the children a chance to reflect on how people celebrate life and ways in which people may choose to say goodbye.



We all really enjoyed Music with Mrs Lane this week. We did lots of warming up singing games and then we learnt and practised songs with rounds. We even managed some action too!

We spent this afternoon cuddling lambs which Mr Sullivan brought in.





Monday 20th April	Whole Class Photographs
Wednesday 22nd April	Phonics Screening Check Presentation for Year 1 Parents - 2:30pm
Wednesday 22nd April	Cygnus Class Working Party - 3:10pm
Wednesday 29th April	PGL Presentation for Cassiopeia Class Parents - 3:10pm
Thursday 30th April	Progress Reviews to be sent home
Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 6th May	Open Afternoon 3:10pm onwards
Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May	KS2 SATs Year 6 children invited in for Breakfast (See Summer 1 flyer for more information)
Wednesday 13th May	Multiplication Timetables check presentation for Year 4 parents
Wednesday 20th May	National Numeracy Day
Thursday 21st May	Diversity Day
Thursday 21st May	Last day of Summer 1 half term
Friday 22nd May	INSET DAY School closed for children
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 1st June	School re-open for Summer 2 term

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