



Sholing Infant School

Newsletter: **December 2021**

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2021! We have been pleased with the children's attitude to learning over the term, and despite pupils having missed so much time in school over the past two years, they are catching up on key learning. Writing and spelling continue to be areas in which the children need the greatest support, so we will be focusing on these areas both in English and across other curriculum areas.

Teachers will be providing you with an update of your child's progress in spelling after the holidays, so that you know which words they need to focus on and practice at home. You will also be provided with lots of activities to support your child's spelling, should you wish to use them.

KS1 topics next half term will be geography focused with Y1 children learning about hot and cold places in the world and Y2 children looking at how St Lucia differs to Southampton. YR children will learn all about real life 'Heroes' and find out about the work of the police, firefighters etc.

Staffing

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Fairclough, one of our Y1 TAs at the end of this week. We will miss her hard work, sense of humour and immense care for the children in our school. We wish Mrs Fairclough the very best of luck as she pursues her dream career as an actress! Look out for her on your TV screens soon!

At the end of this term, Miss Thomson will take over the teaching of Squirrels class, as Miss Waters will reduce her working days in school to a Thursday and Friday when she will be continuing her catch up interventions in Y2.

Absence

Please remember to telephone the school office on 02380 447447 to report your child's absence if he/she is sick. Alternatively you may email the school office on admin@sholinginfantschool.org.uk.

Please be aware that the school is able to dispense medication with written parental consent, so should your child be a little under the weather, please talk to your child's teacher. All medication is dispensed by Mrs Churcher, our qualified first aider, and witnessed by another member of staff.

We have had significant pupil absence this term, due to COVID cases as well as a range of other childhood illnesses. Our attendance is therefore significantly below our usual 96.5%. Attendance class by class is currently as follows:

Rabbits	96.12%
Owls	93.22%
Hedgehogs	95.94%
Robins	94.10%
Squirrels	93.09%
Otters	94.65%
Kestrels	95.13%
Badgers	93.92%
Foxes	93.66%

We will continue to monitor attendance over the coming term and hopefully will see a reduction in the coughs and colds the children all seem to have picked up in the autumn term, will have gone! Please remember that term time holidays cannot be authorised by Headteachers, as directed by the DFE.

Assessment

Year 2 pupils will be doing the phonic screen the week commencing 6/12/21. This was delayed due to staff absence in Y2.

Pupils need to achieve 32/40 correct responses in the screen. Should children not reach this standard in the check next week, they will be able to redo the screen in the summer. Any child not reaching the standard this term, will receive additional focused phonics support until June, when the next phonic screen will be administered.

Year 2 children will be completing the Key Stage 1 SATS this year, in May as directed by the DfE. Further information will be sent out in the spring term.

Year 1 pupils will undertake the phonic check in June.

Christmas events

We are reviewing our COVID risk assessment regularly and making any changes based on infection rates in Southampton and also in relation to cases in school. Our case numbers in school are very low currently. However, you will have seen information regarding the Omicron variant in the UK. Primary school staff have been asked to revert to wearing face coverings in communal areas in school, and we ask that you please wear a mask if invited into school, e.g. for a celebration assembly.

We are planning to hold our 'live' Christmas plays but will follow any updated guidance issued by PHE/DFE, regarding holding events in school, informing you of any changes as soon as possible. I know it is disappointing to offer only one ticket per child this year, but we have to ensure we put safety first. The plays will be videoed and videos uploaded to the website for families to enjoy. (Please be assured that we will check every child's consent status on MCAS, so if you have declined video permission, your child will not be visible)

Unfortunately the Christmas fayre will not be able to go ahead this year as holding a crowded indoor event will not be safe. Instead FOSI will hold the chocolate and sweet jar tombola after school on the following afternoons:

Thursday 9th December from 3pm- 3-30 and the same time on Friday 10th December.

This is disappointing but hopefully, next year will look a bit different!

Christmas jumper day is on Friday 10th December. Please just donate for 'Save the Children' by throwing any spare change in the bucket when entering school in the morning. We don't want parents to have to go out and buy a Christmas jumper, so are more than happy for children to wear a favourite jumper or another Christmassy item e.g. a Xmas hairband/reindeer antlers! Whatever you already have will be great! Please send your child in uniform on this day, apart from the jumper!

Safeguarding

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety or well-being of our children, please contact the school to speak Mrs Houghton (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mr Steward (Deputy Safeguarding Lead). The safety of our children is the responsibility of us all. Our Child Protection Policy has been updated in line with the September 2021 guidance and is published on our website for your information.

E-safety

As Christmas approaches we're sure that many children may be receiving an electronic device of one type or another as a present. If you'd like some advice as to how to keep children safe with new devices then please visit the [e-safety page](#) of our website and download the 'E-safety advice for Christmas' document.

Christmas party

We are all looking forward to the Christmas parties on 17th December. Your child can come to school in his/her party clothes on that day (no change of clothes needs to be sent in). No food needs to be brought in as we will provide this for the children. If your child has any allergies, the class teacher will discuss food options with you prior to the party.