



Sholing Infant School

Newsletter: February 2019

Welcome to the February newsletter. This half term is flying by and the children are working hard. The children's work books are looking great with progress clear to see! The Year 1 Marwell trip was a great success and we have been amazed by all the polar facts that the children are sharing with us! Year 2 pupils are looking forward to visiting Solent Sky Museum next week. The phonics drop-ins were well attended and we hope you found them useful. Please ask your child's teacher if you need any more support with reading with your child. A lot of children are reading regularly at home, so please keep up the good work! As a rough guide, most children should be aiming to read at purple band by the end of Year 1 and white/lime by the end of Year 2.

Clubs

We are changing the way in which our after school clubs run. After half-term, teachers will no longer run after school clubs due to the amount of marking and preparation required in their role. Our Teaching Assistants will now run these clubs and these will be held throughout the week and not on any specific day. The clubs will be more focused on what pupils have said they would like to do, with a focus on being more active. The following clubs will run next half-term all from 3.00 – 3.45pm commencing week beginning 25 February.

Day	Club	Leader
Tuesday	Tasty Tuesdays (healthy cookery)	Mrs Harris and Miss Vincent
Tuesday	Dramarama (drama club)	Mrs Fairclough
Wednesday	Wednesday Wheels (cycling)	Mrs Knight
Wednesday	Super Scooter	Mrs Clark and Mrs Jeffery
Thursday	Pins and Needles (sewing)	Mrs Vargas
Thursday	Smarty Arty (drawing and painting)	Mrs Gheisari
Thursday	Clicketty Click Computer Club	Mrs Hobson

Mrs Stewart will be available on Friday 8 and Monday 11 February before school from 8:30am in order for you to sign your child up for only one club, so as many children as possible can benefit from these extra-curricular activities.

We will also be offering some new (chargeable) clubs in the summer term as well as continuing to offer dance and karate. We are hoping to start ballet, gymnastics and art clubs to enhance the extra-curricular opportunities we can offer the children (more details coming later in the term).

Civic Award - Year 2

The Year 2 meeting for parents interested in their child participating in our Civic Award is coming up. If your child would like to take part in this home/school citizenship programme, please come to the meeting with Miss Brockman on 27 March 2019 from 9:00 - 9:30am.

Reminder...

SATS meeting for Year 2 parents is on Tuesday 19 March at 2:15pm
Year 1 phonics meeting is on Wednesday 20 March at 2:15pm

Sponsored bounce

FOSI will be organising a sponsored bounce on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 March. Mr Knight, who heads up FOSI will be sending information and sponsor forms out shortly. Funds raised will all be used, alongside the money raised from the Christmas Fayre to purchase a fitness trail for the Key Stage 1 playground. The school will match fund from our School Sports premium and the trail will be installed during the Easter holidays. The children will be creating their own designs for the trail, led by the school councillors, some of which we hope will be incorporated into the final design. As always, thank you for your fundraising. In these difficult times financially for schools we really could not do it without you!

Attendance

Attendance is currently at 97.06% and we are still on track for our attendance target of 97%+ by the end of the school year, so well done everyone! Attendance class by class is as follows:-

Rabbits	96.6
Owls	96.38
Hedgehogs	95.58
Robins	97.66
Squirrels	97.50
Otters	97.0
Badgers	97.78
Kestrels	97.52
Foxes	97.37

We are still aiming for 97.5% + attendance by the end of the year as spring/summer term illness generally decreases with the warmer weather coming. Please ensure that you notify the school of your child's absence before 9:00am if possible. Once the registers are closed, Mrs Stewart telephones parents and contacts of any pupil not present for whom we have no reason for absence. Should we get no response to this we will undertake a safeguarding visit as required to establish that a child is safe. We are happy for you to e-mail the school if you are unable to make a telephone call. Please note that if we do not receive a reason for absence from parents, the absence is marked as unauthorised.

Also please remember that the school is happy to give medicine with your consent. Please speak to the school office in the first instance to complete a consent form. Mrs Churcher, one of our paediatric first aiders will then dispense medicines.

It was great to put so many names into the prize draw in each class for last term's attendance and to send so many certificates home. We are currently reviewing our attendance policy and we will update you as the policy is completed with any new initiatives etc.

We are receiving an increasing number of requests for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday. The impact of holidays in term-time and poor attendance means that a child will have missed a number of key lessons in every subject. In order to be judged as working at the 'expected' standard at the end of the year, children need to prove they are confident in every aspect of the curriculum in that subject. This is less likely if they have poor attendance and will have gaps in their understanding. It is likely that a child who is in school for only 90% of the time will not therefore make all the progress they are capable of.

Safeguarding

We work hard to make sure that every child is safe and happy in school. Every school must have a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' (DSL). Mrs Houghton is the DSL for Sholing Infant School. There are also four deputy DSLs should Mrs Houghton not be in school. They are Mr Steward, Mr Arthur, Mrs Finch and Mr Browning.

Special Educational Needs and Disability – SEND

Miss Jelley is our Head of Inclusion. If you are ever concerned about your child's academic, social or emotional learning and progress, please make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher or Miss Jelley. Our local offer for SEND is published on our website for your information.

Pupil Premium

If you are entitled to certain benefits such as Income Support or Job Seekers Allowance your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium. This is extra funding that the school gets from the government to raise overall achievement and meet the needs of the children. If you think you may be eligible or your circumstances have changed recently, please speak to Mrs Stewart in the office. Your child will be entitled under our Pupil Premium offer to additional one-to-one tuition as well as other benefits.

Parent volunteers

We have a small group of parents who help out in school with reading. They do an invaluable job and the children really enjoy the opportunity to have a little extra practice with their reading. Reading volunteers are also a great help on school trips etc. If you would like to help out regularly in school, please let the school office or Mrs Houghton know and we can organise a DBS check and an induction for you.

INSET days 2018-19

15 March 2019

3 June 2019