



# The Shaftesbury Park News

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## ★ Children are back to school on Monday 3rd November ★

### A Message from Mrs Richards

What a busy start to the year! Classes are calm and productive, showing excellent behavior for learning and attitudes towards each other. Our new Reception and Nursery children have settled in well to the school, and we have also welcomed a few new pupils into our other Key Stages too. The building and classrooms look lovely and we are getting ready to welcome prospective parents looking at schools for Reception 2015!

After reviewing our work from last year, these are our whole school priorities for teaching and learning for this academic year. Achievement in these areas is already good and with your support we are in a position to aim for outstanding progress.

- Continue to increase the percentage of outstanding teaching and learning (Post -Ofsted action)
- Continue to raise attainment at KS1 (including improving marking - Post- Ofsted action)
- Continue to improve attainment and provision for more able pupils
- Improve standards in writing with particular emphasis on spelling and grammar
- Developing the bilingual curriculum for Key Stage 1

My highlight from this half term was our wonderful Harvest Festival on Tuesday afternoon., with beautiful dancing, enthusiastic singing and informative presentations. Thank you parents for turning out in force to watch your children perform, and also for your generous donations of food have been collected the charity Ace of Clubs.

Have a lovely half term break and we will see you again on Monday 3rd November.

### Halloween party—7th November 6pm—7.30pm - \*Only 15 tickets left!\*



The Friends of Shaftesbury Park (FoSP) are organising a Halloween party for Reception and Key Stage 1 on Friday 7th November from 6—7.30pm. Tickets are £3 which includes a drink and snack. Children can come in fancy dress (prizes for the best costumes from each class!) and there will be games and a disco!

As well as the children making a few decorations for the hall, we ask if you could please donate any Halloween decorations that you have finished with to help us! If you have decorations which are not finished with but you could lend us for the night, that would be great too! We are also hoping to receive donations from local businesses.

### Some dates for next term

#### Sharing assemblies

Our sharing assemblies will be on **Fridays at 9.30am** this year. These are the sharing assemblies for next term; please come along to see your child's work!

- Dolphins—7th November
- Starfish—14th November
- Turtles—28th November
- Owls—5th December
- Badgers—12th December

*Sharing assembly dates for the rest of the year are currently being put up on our website calendar if you want to look ahead!*

#### Kids Company Coffee mornings

Some parents have been attending the Parent Gym session run by Kids Company this half term. They have enjoyed and found the sessions useful. Andy is hoping to use elements of the issues covered in the Parent Gym sessions for Kids Company coffee mornings throughout the year (first Thursday of the month at 9am in the Parents' room). Dates and topics for next term are:

- 6th November: Chat - Get your child talking in a positive way everyday
- 4th December: Love - Show your child that you care, in the right way

### Dolphins

It has been a busy start to the year for Dolphins. We have all enjoyed learning about Ancient Greek life. In class we discussed the concept of democracy and recreated many famous Greek buildings. We researched Alexander the Great and the impact he had on the world and wrote a diary entry from a Persian soldier's point of view. In Literacy we all enjoyed reading 'Holes' in class and used fantastic language to describe the setting. We've been busy in Maths, learning about the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and practicing our times tables. We enjoyed learning tag rugby in PE and we are looking forward to carrying on with swimming next half term.



In the mornings our class is split into two smaller classes which helps us to prepare for our tests at the end of Year 6.

## Tigers, Zebras and Leopards



We welcome all our new children to Shaftesbury Park School! They have settled in so well. The Zebras have been finding out about school and can happily say goodbye to parents and carers at drop off time. They really enjoy learning at our school. We have all been finding out about what we do in school and all about each other. Thank you for your amazing family photos. The children have really enjoyed talking about them.



The Tigers and Leopards are enjoying learning all about Maths Mastery, our new maths curriculum. We have enjoyed using our letters and sounds to write instructions about how to make toast. The Leopards are learning so many French songs and are looking forward visiting the cinema next term.



Thank you to all the families that came to support us at our Harvest festival. The children did so well to stand up in front of everyone and sing to you! Have a fantastic holiday.

## Badgers



What a wonderful start to Year One! We had fun playing "Guess Who?" with the children's baby photos at the start of our new topic 'Who Am I?' In literacy we have done lots of exciting writing, including recounts, invitations and thank-you letters. The children are beginning to use really exciting vocabulary; very well done! In Numeracy we have been consolidating our knowledge of the numbers 1-10 and the properties of 2D shapes. We particularly enjoyed preparing for our performance of "La Petite Poule Rousse" at the church this week. Thank you very much for supporting the children with practising their lines and actions!

## Hedgehogs

We have had a wonderful eight weeks in the Hedgehogs class and it is a happy place to learn!



We have been learning about adjectives, verbs and adverbs in literacy and we can now write fantastic recounts using time words. We have been learning about number bonds and shapes in numeracy and we are learning how to skip count in twos. We enjoyed being creatures of the sea during our Harvest dance! Now for some friendly reminders... Please try to read with your child every night. This can be their school book, a book from home or the library, a magazine or a reading game on the computer. Also, please try to remember a water bottle every day! Have a lovely, restful and safe half term everyone.

## Foxes

It has been a busy half term in Foxes class! The children have settled with their new teacher and new classroom really well.



We have been working hard in literacy. The children have loved learning about some of our most famous storytellers, like Roald Dahl and his autobiography 'Boy'. Make sure you ask them about Mrs Pratchett! In Maths we have been consolidating our knowledge of numbers and the number operations, as well as enjoying some problem solving. Our topic next term is 'Seeing the Light', and we really look forward to learning all about some of the fascinating science behind light. Our books and displays are getting filled with fantastic work, which we look forward to sharing with you at the next Parent's Evening.

## Owls

Owls have been working very hard and have made a very good start to the new academic year. We have been learning about Roald Dahl's life and have written stories, poems and instructional writing. We have explored adventurous language and have also learnt how to use them correctly. In Numeracy we are continuing with the 'Maths Mastery' Scheme of work. Owls have investigated the operations of addition and subtraction in depth. Please remember to read every day with your child and sign their log book. We are looking forward to our trip to Gulliver's Fun Land. Don't forget to return your permission slip and payment by Friday 28th November 2014. Have a great half term break!



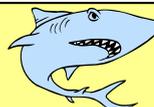
## Starfish

Wow! We have had a very busy half term. The children have created and explored wonderful poems, written descriptive writing based on the author Anthony Browne and have written and followed instructions. We have become experts in growing cress and runner beans, the children understand what plants need in order for them to survive and grow well. We also completed what turned out to be a very smelly experiment, where the children monitored the affect of a 2pint bottle of milk over 2 weeks! We had had a very exciting trip to Pizza Express, where the children made their own tasty pizzas. We look forward to our Scavengers and Settlers topic next term. Have a wonderful half term break.



## Sharks

Sharks have had lots of fun in the first half term and have adapted well to life in Years Three and Four! We have enjoyed our topic of 'What's on the Menu?' and linked that to the story of The Perfect Hamburger. We have written poems, learnt about food in different countries, made our own fruit salad and designed menus in Computing. In Numeracy we have enjoyed the challenges of negative numbers, fractions and really tried hard to learn our times tables. Please keep this up over half term! The extra special activity for Sharks this year is learning to play the violin with Stephan and Ben every Friday. We will look forward to performing for you very soon! Remember to use conquer maths and read each day over the holidays!



## Turtles

Our first half term has been a busy one! The children have learnt about and written lots of different types of poems including Kennings, Haikus and Cinquains. They have also written powerful speeches using modal verbs to encourage people to give up smoking and chocolate for Stoptober. I must not let you down over the half term with my chocolate eating! In maths we have used written addition and subtraction to solve a range of problems and worked hard on learning our times tables for our weekly tests. Topic has been really interesting some of the highlights have been holding our own Mayan festival and trying to play the ancient Ball Game with no hands of feet! Visiting the British Museum and having the Africa gallery opened especially for us and then designing and making paper mache masks to wear.

