



Newsletter 3rd December 2021

Shute Primary
School

Attendance down this week to 94%

Target 96%

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy last couple of weeks it has been.

Thank you for your understanding about not having parents in to watch the nativity online in the hall and at the church for the singing and dancing concert these are decisions that I don't take lightly. I have spoken to the Health and Safety Advisor for Devon County Council today and he agreed that these are the correct decisions along with other ones we are making in the light of further Covid cases at Shute.

We want everyone in our school community to stay healthy over the next two weeks and during the Christmas holiday. We hope to be able to video the nativities and the singing/dancing concert and put it on Tapestry to watch and we will let you know when this is available.

We are trying to be more cautious as we have children, parents and staff at Shute who have had Covid or currently have caught it in the last week or two. The number of positive Covid cases remains relatively low and we want that to continue.

To help we are asking you to please wear a mask at morning drop off and after school picking up and to social distance. The staff will wear masks during these times as well.

In school, we will stop having whole school assemblies in the hall as a precaution and instead have them separate in the classrooms.

We will re-evaluate our restrictions after the holiday when hopefully Covid cases and sickness bugs decline.

Have a nice weekend.

Kind regards,
Mr Germscheid

Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics Competition

Eleven children in Badger class went to the Indoor Athletics Competition at Colyton Grammar school on Monday 29th November. There were a variety of events that the children took part in which included: Speed bounce, Chest throw, Relay races x1 x2 laps and Standing long jump

The children were amazing and we came 2nd overall out of 5 schools that attended.

Early Morning Club Information

Early morning club is going really well and the children are enjoying Miss Costello. We have more places available if anyone else is interested. Doors open at 8am and there is a £2.50 charge per child, per session. Please note, this is a childcare facility only and no breakfast will be provided. Should you require a place for your child please email me on the admin email address: admin@shute-primary.org.uk, letting me know which days you would like to book. Payment must be made in advance for all sessions booked.

Please note, we are unable to refund any fees should your child be unable to attend a session.

Mrs Hall

Squirrel class news

Christmas has arrived in Squirrel class with the making of a class advent calendar. Every day the children take it in turns to open an envelope to reveal a Christmas drawing from one of their friends. The class are learning the story of the Nativity and starting to act it out in preparation for our Nativity play!

Fox Class news

Fox class have been very busy applying completing an independent writing challenge, building on their maths knowledge about adding and taking away, the year 2s impressing both Ms. Wilson and I with their result in the Phonics Screening as well as enjoying a trip to Colton Grammar School for Multi skills and beginning to practise the Nativity. What a busy 2 weeks Foxes!

Badger Class news

This week in Badger class we have been looking at the season of Advent and in particular the Advent wreath. We also have been

learning about Christingles and what the different parts mean. The children loved making their own Christingle and we went into the hall and lit the candles and sang 'Away in a Manger'

Hedgehog class news

The children have enjoyed their Science this week. They have been investigating the strength of magnets using their own experiments and are looking forward to creating magnetic games next week.

PCR Testing

We continue to ask all families that should you or your child have any Covid symptoms, please book a PCR test. A lateral flow test should not be used to determine if you have Covid or not, but is used to highlight a high viral load especially in those that appear to have no symptoms. A PCR test is free and can be booked online. The most 'local' drive-in test centres are currently operating in Bridport, Exeter and Taunton.

Important Lunch Reminder

Please can I remind all parents that lunches **MUST** be booked by midnight the night before. Recently late orders have been placed which has created an issue with the incorrect amount of lunches being ordered and we have not had enough food sent to us for our children. We rely on the ParentPay system to get these numbers right and as long as the system is used correctly there should not be an issue.

I will remind all parents on Sunday evening to book your child's lunch. However, if a lunch is still not booked then, with effect from Monday 8th November, we will contact you to ask that you bring in a packed lunch for your child. Thank you.

Mrs Hall

Bikeability

The children in Year 6 will get the opportunity this year to do bikeability training which teaches them all about bike safety. This will take place at Kilmington Primary school with the first 5 children chosen to begin training on Monday, 6th December and Tuesday, 7th December from 9am-3pm. Those Year 6 children not chosen will get their opportunity in the summer term. Bikeability will be led Charlotte Wilson who is a qualified instructor.

News from the PTFA

PTFA Christmas plans

We have lots of festive events and fundraising planned for the last few weeks of term before Christmas!

- The PTFA have paid for the children to watch an online screening of the pantomime Cinderella, which will be shown in each class.
- Next Tuesday 7th December we'll start to sell lucky numbers for our Christmas Hamper raffle every afternoon at pick up time. The winner of the raffle will receive a delicious

Ganesha Wholefoods hamper, very kindly donated by Aurelia and Sasha's parents Richard and Annette. The raffle will run until 16th December, and each lucky square will cost £2, with 3 for £5 and 7 for £10.

Please bring the correct change, or you can pay online via our bank account:

Bank account name: Shute C.P School P.T.F.A

Sort code: 30-90-37

Account no: 00120391

Reference: Christmas Hamper

- We will also run a tombola. Please bring in any items you have spare for the tombola (bottles, gifts, books etc) on the morning of next Friday 10th December.
- Wednesday 15th December will be a special festive day, both Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day. At school pick up time we will sell the jolly jars to the children, and give out tombola prizes. If Covid restrictions allow, we will also offer mince pies and refreshments.
- On the last day of school, Friday 17th December, we will announce the winner of the Christmas hamper raffle, and each child will be given a small chocolate treat from the PTFA.

Readathon

Thank you so much to everyone who donated towards our Readathon. You helped us to raise an absolutely amazing £2729.93. Thank you so much.

Festive Floral Workshops

The first flower workshop, held last Friday 26th November, was a big success and enjoyed by all. Sadly, Charlie Maddox has had to cancel her second workshop due to ill health. She sends her deepest apologies, and will be in touch with everyone who was booked to attend.

Have a great weekend

The PTFA team

Free School Meals

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional ['pupil premium'](#) funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- *Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).*
- *Income Support (IS).*
- *Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).*
- *The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.*

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding given to state-funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

There are 4 elements to pupil premium:

1. Free school meal eligibility
2. service children
3. adopted from care, special guardianship order and residence order
4. children in care

Any qualifying family that registers their eligibility (based on the free school meal criteria) will help raise pupil premium money for the school. For 2020-21, the additional funding will be £1,345 for a primary school, for each registered child.

Do I need to apply for pupil premium? (based on free school meal criteria)

You only need to apply if you have a child in reception, year 1 or year 2 and both of the following apply:

- you do not have an existing free school meal claim
- you are in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits (see [School meals](#) for a list of the qualifying benefits).

How to apply

Through the [Citizen Portal](#) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision.

Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Sickness

In line with NHS and Department of Education guidelines, children should not come into school for at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

School lunches

Reminder that the cost of school meals for pupils aged 3-4 (In Squirrels FSU) and in Year 3 and above is £2.50 per day. Lunch money should be paid in advance via ParentPay. Orders can be placed each day up till 9am.

Illness and Absence

If your child is absent from school, you are requested to contact the school office before 9.10am. As required by our Safeguarding Policy if the administration team have not heard from you by early morning they will contact you to establish why your child is not in school. If we are unable to establish contact we may have to report this to the School Education Welfare Officer.

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment in school time, please complete the S2 form which can be found on the school website. [Absence-request-form.pdf \(shute-primary.org.uk\)](https://www.shute-primary.org.uk/Absence-request-form.pdf) or ask Mrs Hall for one prior to the absence.

If a child is late, he or she must be signed in by a parent or carer, they must follow the instructions in the entrance and use the intercom to alert the office and a member of staff will come and let you in to sign them in.

Persistent lateness has a negative impact on learning and we support families to ensure all children arrive in good time. A letter or email must be sent to school with the child on their return to school and for any planned medical appointments.

Diary Dates:

Date

Event

Wednesday, 15th December	Christmas lunch and Non-school uniform Christmas jumper day After school Tombola/Jolly Jars/Mince Pies and Mulled wine PTFA led fundraiser
Friday, 17th December	Break up for Christmas holiday 3.15/3.25pm