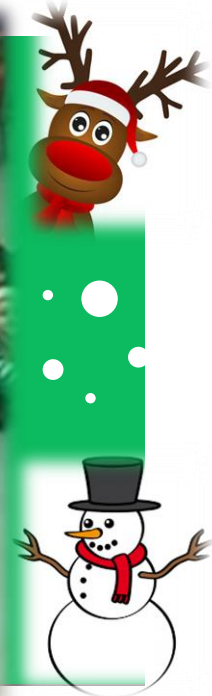
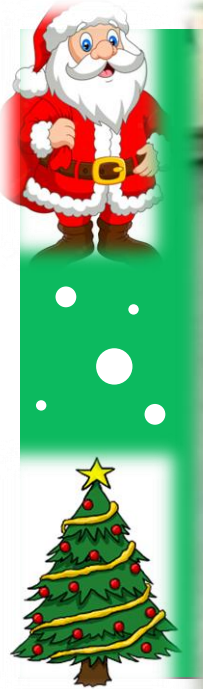




Shorne C of E Primary School

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER



Term 2 has been a whirlwind of activity, festivity, and opportunity! Our children have worked incredibly hard this term, particularly with their reading! We enjoyed inviting parents in this term for Parent Consultations to share the children's efforts. We would like to wish all our families and our local community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Prest and Mr Mallinson

ELF ACADEMY!

On Wednesday 14th December, Shorne C of E Primary School became The Elf Academy! We were taken over by hundreds of little elves who took part in a range of Christmas craft activities, such as Christmas card and decoration making, creating Christmas gnomes and making reindeer food and Santa lanterns! It was a day

full of joy and laughter, and of course, it ended the day in the way every one of Santa's helpers finishes on Christmas Eve - with an Elf Disco! It even snowed just in time for the elves to arrive. What a lot of Christmas fun! Thank you everyone for your fantastic efforts in making Elf Academy such a special day. How many elves can you spot in this term's newsletter?





KEY DATES TERM 3

January

Tuesday 3rd - Staff Development Day (closed for pupils)

Wednesday 4th - First day back for pupils

Tuesday 10th - Explorer Space Dome visits the school!

Friday 20th - Young Voices at the O2

Monday 23rd - National Handwriting Day

February

Monday 6th - Sunday 12th - Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 10th - Last day of term (back to school on Monday 20th February)

We will update you with any more dates early in the new year!

**EYFS AND KS1 NATIVITY**

This year EYFS and KS1 performed Hey Ewe! A huge thank you to all the parents who provided costumes and were able to attend the performances. The children sang beautifully and performed their lines exceptionally well! It was lovely to be able to have so many families together after such a long time.

Mrs Thornley, Miss Carter and Miss Whitbread





PEACE GARDEN PROGRESS!

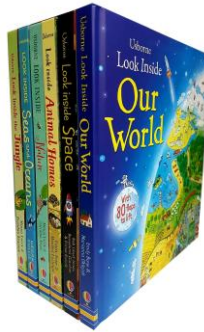
When we came back after half term, a working party of parents had done an incredible job of transforming the new Queen Elizabeth Memorial Peace Garden at the front of the school. Gardening Club have planted all the spring bulbs and can't wait to see them all bloom in a few months' time. Once the weather improves, we plan to paint the fence and plant a sensory garden, as well as create minibeast hotels and bird feeders / boxes to encourage local wildlife to visit and make their homes in our new garden. We look forward to a grand opening of the garden later on next year!

Mrs Thornley and Gardening Club



SPONSORED READATHON

You're not going to believe it... but your efforts in the Usborne Sponsored Readathon raised £548, which has enabled us to purchase £930 worth of Usborne books for our library and our learning!



TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR

Not only that, but your purchases at the Travelling Book Fair means that we can order a further £366 of books!

RAINTREE MATCHED FUNDING

We are also very grateful to FOSS, who have offered to Match Fund some books from Raintree Publishing - including graphic novels, biographies, and dyslexia-friendly titles to expand our library!



SOCK DONATIONS

If you would like to give any unwanted socks a new home, please remember that Harry is spearheading a sock collection for Medway Street Angels, who work to support those who are without a home. Harry's Sock Bin will be in the hall from Monday 4th January 2023.

www.msahomeless.co.uk/

WHAT'S OUR ACCELERATED READER WORD COUNT?

So far this academic year, we have read a grand total of:

7,527,699 words!



Our readers who have read the most words per class this term are:

Ella in Y2 - 21,586 words	Teddy in Y4 - 263,942 words	Lily in Y6 - 242,704 words
Matthew in Y3 - 228,769 words	Gabriella in Y5 - 211,182 words	

Our readers with the highest average % correct in their quizzes who have read on average 25 or more minutes per day are:

Samuel in Y2 - 95.5%	Harry in Y4 - 100%	Abigail in Y5 - 100%
Gisella in Y3 - 97.5%	Ruby in Y5 - 100%	Darcey in Y6 - 100%

Incredible reading this term, everyone!





RABBITS IN RECEPTION

Rabbit Class have had a very busy half term learning all about seasonal changes, different festivals and celebrations including Diwali, Bonfire Night and, of course, Christmas!

In Forest school we made bird feeders. We also went on a Stickman number hunt, as well as making our own stickmen! We made Christmas decorations using natural materials and helped Santa find his missing elves. It wouldn't be Forest School without enjoying hot chocolate too!

We have been working really hard on our phonics and reading. We enjoyed a reading cafe at the end of term where we took our parents on a tricky word hunt. These were hidden on Christmas baubles around the hall. When we found them all we received a special book prize and biscuits!

In maths, we have been focusing on 2D shapes and their properties - designing our own silly snowmen using 2D shapes and designing repeating pattern scarves for them. We have also been practising counting accurately and playing number games, learning to take turns and add two numbers together after rolling 2 dice. Our number formation is getting better every day too.

Of course, Christmas wouldn't be the same without the nativity performance, Christmas Jumper Day, Elf Day, pantomimes, parties and those dancing reindeer!

It has been a very busy term, but filled with lots of fun and special memories.

Mrs Thornley



YEAR 6 JINGLE BELLS!

Year 6 learned Jingle Bells in British Sign Language and then used what we have learned in music this term to play Jingle Bells on the glockenspiels. Year 6 were fantastic!

Mrs Goodger and Mr Woodcock





YEAR 5 REVERSIBLE AND IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES

Year 5 had a great time this term exploring the properties of materials and conducting experiments that demonstrated reversible and irreversible changes. We mixed milk with vinegar (yuck!), toasted marshmallow (yum!) and combined bicarbonate of soda with vinegar, which had explosive results! Check out these fascinated scientists!

Mr Mallinson and Mrs Bath

YEAR 3 GROWTH AND DIGESTION

Year 3 have had a busy term in science. We started by planting different seeds and watching their growth each week, documenting the different changes we observed. We have also been looking at the digestive system and had an incredibly fun opportunity to see how food is digested in our bodies by making our own poo using tights, zip lock bags, bananas and digestive biscuits!

Miss Morgan







ALADDIN AT THE WOODVILLE

On Wednesday 7th December, EYFS and KS1 went to The Woodville to watch this year's pantomime, Aladdin! After an interesting start when the fire alarm went off, we thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were lucky enough to sit at the very front of the stage so were sprayed with water by Wishy Washy, and even had toilet rolls and sweets thrown at us! Thank you to all the families who picked up and dropped the children back at school - it is very much appreciated.

Mrs Thornley, Miss Whitbread and Miss Carter



YEAR 1 & 2 LETTERS TO FATHER CHRISTMAS!

Year 1 and 2 had a very exciting visitor towards the end of term! Father Christmas left Hedgehogs and Otters some lovely letters, telling us how he had been watching us all term and was so impressed with our nativity performances and how well we had behaved at the pantomime! Even though he had already received most of our Christmas letters Mrs Claus wanted a copy too, so we spent the morning writing our letters on the special paper that had been left for us. Then we walked to the post box and sent our letters all the way to Reindeerland in time for Christmas.

Miss Carter and Miss Whitbread



FRENCH CONVERSATION CORNER

Test out your Christmas French!



Joyeux Noël - Merry Christmas

un cadeau - a gift

la neige - snow

des bougies - candles

un sucre d'orge - a candy cane

Le Père Noël - Father Christmas

le traîneau - Santa's sleigh

le charbon - coal

un renne - a reindeer

un ange - an angel

une étoile - a star





WELCOME FLICKA THE YEAR 3 HAMSTER!

This term, Fox Class said hello to their class pet, Flicka! Flicka is a Syrian hamster. Fox Class have welcomed her into the class and have been helping to care for her by giving her favourite treats and by changing her water and her food each day. By having Flicka in the classroom, it is instilling a sense of responsibility in the children and is helping to further build awareness of how to properly look after animals. Flicka is Miss Morgan's pet, and she is very well-loved. Did you know that Flicka is the Swedish word meaning 'girl'?



YEAR 3 GNOMES

On Elf Day, Year 3 had a wonderful time creating our own Christmas gnomes! We used socks, rice, wool and felt to create them. It was a fantastic day at the Elf Academy!

Miss Morgan, Mrs Goodger and Mrs Steggles

YEAR 6 GRAVITY PE LESSON

Year 6 were lucky enough to have been invited to attend a new, educational session at Gravity in Bluewater. The children explored movement and created a sequence on the trampoline section. We were also able to have a go on the climbing walls, showing great determination and courage to reach the top! All of year 6 had a wonderful time.

Mr Woodcock



FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Click links to find and like us:

[Shorne Church of England Primary School](#)

[Aletheia Academies Trust](#)





THANK YOU, FRIENDS OF SHORNE SCHOOL!

The Team at FOSS have been incredible busy this term - maybe even busier than the elves at Santa's Workshop! After co-ordinating a team of amazing parents over the holidays painting fences, transforming an overgrown space into the start of our new Peace Garden and updating our sensory room, they found time to organise a Krispy Kreme Sale; Christmas Discos for the children (shout-out to our resident parent DJ!); serve teas and coffees at our nativities and pull off a fantastic Christmas Fayre! A huge thank you to FOSS and all the parental support for all of these events, and of course to all our families and friends who support each of these events, which raises money for the school.



All of the money that FOSS generates goes directly back to the school and your children - FOSS kindly provided Christmas hats for all our children at our Christmas Dinner this year, bought a range of brilliant resources for our sensory room and most recently, FOSS funded our new playground markings outside of Key Stage 1, with more markings to come! There will also be some fantastic outdoor sensory and play equipment for this area! They have done so much that has made the world of difference to the children, particularly in helping us make improvements to our school building.



We would also like to say a huge thank you to a very kind parent who organised for a team of his wonderful colleagues to investigate the flooding on our playground and car park, and worked so hard to clear this for the safety of the children.

The school and the children are so incredibly grateful for the time and support that you all give in relation to fundraising, supporting and making improvements to our school. Your kindness, generosity and collaboration with us makes the world of difference to children and staff.

The Team at Shorne

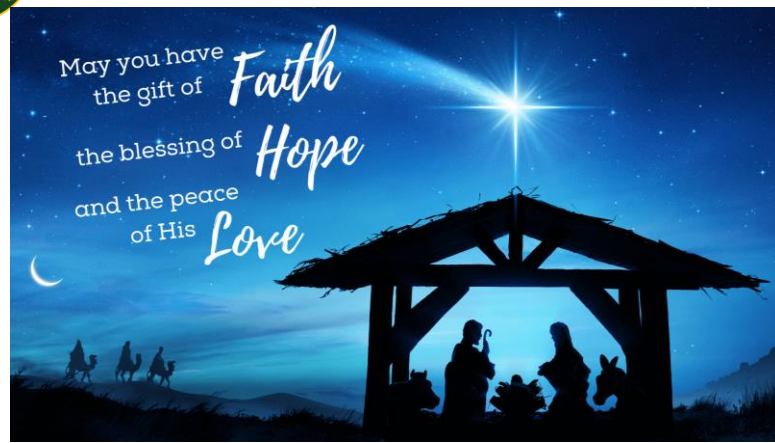




WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON?

Our School Priorities this year are:

- Driving improvements in reading and writing
- Opportunities for pupils to learn at greater depth
- Embedding our new curriculum
- Opportunities for personal development of all pupils
- Continuing to strengthen culture and community



FAMILY SURVEY FEEDBACK

Thank you to families who took part in our Parent Survey! Feedback is invaluable in helping us to improve, and family feedback included the following areas for us to celebrate and develop:

Strengths to celebrate:

- 'My son's teachers are amazing, and I am very grateful for the support they give him.'
- 'Communication is much more informative and to the point. So much clearer recently which is so helpful.'
- 'Love being able to pay through Arbor as I never have cash these days!'
- 'Club choice is great now- lots of nice things to choose from.'
- 'The teachers work so hard and are so supportive. I am so impressed with the literacy drive and the support my child gets in this area.'
- 'Love the school and everything it stands for.'

Areas to develop:

- **Taking account of parent views.** *We very much welcome feedback to help us to improve, so will work on new ways to gain further parental view.*
- **Transport for trips.** *This is something we have been seeking to improve - whilst we are keen to keep costs down as much as possible for families (a coach is costing on average £20-30 per child currently), there will be trips coming up where coach travel will be necessary, and we are also working across the Trust to increase the number of minibuses so that we can draw upon these. Further updates will come as we get them! We are so grateful for parental support in the meantime where you are able to help.*
- **Club offering.** *We have aimed to increase the number of clubs we have at the school; the clubs that are run internally are run by teachers after school, many of whom also run lunchtime clubs. We have a few external clubs which are chargeable. We will continue to aim to expand our club offering where possible to enable as many children as we can to access a range of extra-curricular opportunities.*
- **Home learning.** *We are in the process of reviewing our Home Learning offering to ensure our expectations are manageable, motivating and impactful. More information to follow in the new year.*

STAFFING UPDATE

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Becker in the school office in early January. Mrs Becker has been integral in developing efficient processes in the school that have impacted on everybody - particularly developing effective communication channels and establishing our new app, Arbor. We have been very grateful for all her support and wish her well.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jones to the team at Shorne! Mrs Jones will be our Office Manager on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, joining Mrs Muller.

We would also like to officially welcome Mrs Paffett to our team of Teaching Assistants, and Mr Beal who is our new site manager.

Thank you also to our Head Boy and Girl team and Head Faith Leaders who formed part of our interview panel - they were very professional, and their views were invaluable.

