

# SHAW RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - DEC 2024

## HEAD TEACHERS NOTE

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we are nearly there for Christmas - the festive cheer is well and truly in full swing here! I love when the school Christmas tree goes up and hearing the sound of children singing Christmas songs, preparing for their performances. There's also been so much going on this term....

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Fair on Friday such a fantastic success! It was an incredibly busy and fun afternoon. The children had a wonderful time enjoying the festive activities, and it was great to see so many of you there, supporting our school. We of course couldn't have done it without the amazing support from our wonderful FOSR team and all the volunteers – your efforts are truly appreciated. All funds will go towards supporting the many projects and resources we provide for our children.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Festive break

Mrs Cowell & the SR Team.



## ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

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If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please call the school on 01793 871601 and select the absence line between 8.15am and 8.55am each day of their illness. Your child will need to remain off school for 48 hours after their last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea.

We encourage parents and carers to arrange all medical appointments outside of school hours, where possible. Proof of medical appointments will be requested. Should your child need to be absent for school for any reason, you will need to complete a Request for Absence from School form available from the school office.

The school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school. If your child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence, within the last 100 possible sessions, a penalty notice (fine) can be issued. Holidays in term time will not be approved.

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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Wow, what amazing performances the children from Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 have put on for us. Their smiles and confidence shone. We are so proud of all of them as I am sure you must be. They certainly brought a smile to our faces and gave us a very special Christmas gift.

Each year as part of the Summer Reading Challenge, Swindon libraries run an art competition. This year they had over 400 entries across Swindon and our very own Joy won for the West Swindon Library. She got to meet Steve Anthony (Author) and received a signed copy of his book! Well done Joy.

Congratulations to Jacob who came second in his age category in the photography competition run by Swindon Lions. It was lovely to have so many entries this year from our pupils - there is definitely a lot of talent out there.

Every class has learned a special Christmas song that they performed to each other in a marathon musical assembly on Thursday morning. Costumes, instrumental accompaniment, tinsel and smiles filled the hall as we all had a lovely time.



Congratulations to Marshall & Selina for winning a wonderful gift from our kitchen staff for their creative flare when decorating their hats for Christmas lunch!



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## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 3

Details of our after school clubs have been emailed to the relevant year groups.

Club	Year Group	Day	Status	Provider	How to Book
Eco Club	1 & 2	Friday	Spaces	Teacher led	Via school office
TT Rockstars Club	4	Thursday	Full	Teacher led	Via school office
Girls Football Club	3 & 4	Thursday	Spaces	Teacher led	Via school office
Art Club	1,2 & 3	Wednesday	Spaces	External	Directly with provider
Crochet Club	5 & 6	Thursday	Spaces	Teacher led	Via school office
Leadership Martial Arts	Age 6-12 years	Tues & Thurs	Spaces	External	Directly with provider
Soccer Excellence Football	4,5,& 6	Friday	Spaces	External	Directly with provider
Revolution Performing Arts	All year groups	Wednesday	Spaces	External	Directly with provider
Running Club	4,5 & 6	Thursday am	Full	Teacher led	Via school office
Netball Club	5 & 6	Tuesday	Spaces	Teacher led	Via school office

Yrs 1, 2 & 3

LET'S CREATE  
ART CLUB

SHAW RIDGE PRIMARY  
WEDNESDAY 3.15 - 4.15pm Yr 1, 2 & 3

**ART CLUB!**

Term 3, x6 wks: 8/1-12/2

**£24**

We give children the time, space & support to express, explore, experiment!

Shaw Ridge Primary  
After School Club  
Wednesdays, 3:20-4:20pm, Reception - Year 6

- Confidence Building
- Resilience
- Familiarisation Tours
- Inclusive
- Acting

Singing Dancing  
Nurturing Self Expression  
Performances Young Carers



SHAW RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
YEARS 4, 5 & 6 FRIDAY FOOTBALL CLUB

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 20.12.24 Last day of term
- 06.01.25 Start of Term 3
- 15.01.25 Closing date for 2025 reception applications
- 16.01.25 FOSR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm at school
- 16.01.25 Yr6 & F2 height and weight measurements
- 29.01.25 - School Disco

\*Due to unforeseen circumstances, dates can be subject to change.

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## ATTENDANCE

Good attendance and punctuality support the route to a good education. Last Year (2023-24) our attendance figures for the year were 95% overall.

We are always working hard, together with our parents, to make sure that this is maintained and even improved upon. Our school is committed to improving achievement through attendance. As I am sure you will agree, regular attendance ensures our children receive the maximum benefit from education.

We, and the Local Authority, monitor closely the attendance of all of our pupils, particularly any pupil who falls below 97%. Each term we will send out information letters to parents. These will notify you if your child's attendance and highlight attendances that fall below the expected figure. We believe it is important that we keep working together to improve any attendance which falls below 97%.

As in everything we do, we have high expectations for good attendance and punctuality! Gates are open from 8.30am and school starts at 8:45am each morning. Registration and morning tasks take place in the first few minutes in class, so punctuality is important.

We do celebrate good attendance - Award bands are given to children who achieve 100%

### **Absence through illness or medical appointments**

If your child is ill, we ask that you please ring the office on the morning of each day of absence. As always you are very welcome to consult with us for advice on attendance with certain conditions. Please note that we ARE happy to administer prescribed medicines (if prescribed **4 times** a day) and or paracetamol in single dose form but these need to be signed in at the school office. If for any reason your child is not at school and we haven't received a message we will make a courtesy call home to you to ensure your child is safe.

### **Taking Holidays during Term Time is Unauthorised**

Schools no longer have any authority to authorise absence for a family holiday during term time. Any such absence is **unauthorised** and may incur a Penalty Notice. In the event of a family deciding to take a holiday during term time an 'Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances' form must be completed and submitted to school with sufficient time to enable the school to consider the request and inform parents of the decision.

### **Absence from School In Exceptional Circumstance**

The schools 'Absence from School in Exceptional Circumstances' policy follows the Local Authority Policy. It details the circumstances in which the Headteacher may authorise an absence. An 'Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances' must be completed and submitted to school with sufficient time to enable the school to consider the request and inform parents of the decision.

# SHAW RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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## HELPFUL INFORMATION



### Should I keep my **child off school?**



#### Yes

##### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

#### No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



 SCAN ME

#### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

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# SHAW RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

**Meet Our Expert**  
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

 **#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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