



Newsletter – Thursday 26th October 2023

As we go into the first half-term, at the end of what has been at times a challenging one for many reasons, I want to celebrate some of the fantastic things that have made us proud since we came back in September.

Firstly, as always, the behaviour and attitude to learning of children in lessons continues to be very good. We very rarely lose any learning time to poor behaviour, and visitors always comment on how friendly and polite the children are. We continue to reward those children who make good choices and show the values we hold dear in Shawlands with Dojo points, and after half term the first children to reach 250 points will get to visit the prize cupboard for the first time this year. Every two weeks teachers have picked children for certificates for hard work, achievements or positive behaviours and this week two children have been enjoying the perks of VIP status for being 'always' children.

The main priorities for our school development plan this year are Writing, Phonics and handwriting, and we have seen fantastic progress in all three areas so far thanks to the hard work of the teachers and Teaching Assistants, but also, again, thanks to the children's positive attitudes to learning.

We have continued with our wide range of sports this year, with events ranging from the Colour Run and kick-rounders, to tag-rugby and football. Our girls' football team continue to be unbeatable, and play with such a fantastic attitude to fair-play that we could not be more proud of.

As well as sports, we have made a great start to becoming a singing school, with weekly singing practices becoming a favourite part of the week for many children and a really enjoyable visit from Barnsley Youth Choir for years 3-6 this week.

After half term, we will look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school for the first parents' evening of the year, where you can chat about how your child has settled in and any ways that you could help them at home. We will also be looking forward to joining the Children's University, alongside many other schools in Barnsley, which aims to encourage children to try

different activities and visit different places in order to earn credits through the year, and potentially 'graduate' at the end of the year – look out for more information soon!

Have a fantastic half-term break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 6th November.

