



Newsletter – Thursday 8th February

I'm not sure about you, but that five week half-term seems to have flown by, and Christmas seems months ago! It's been another very busy week at Shawlands, with the VIPs enjoying their perks including everyone's favourite, VIP buns at lunchtime, made by Julia, one of our cleaners. On top of that the winning House Team, Greens (Rainforest Team) enjoyed their treat this morning, which was the always-popular biscuit decorating!

Our Panathlon swimming team represented us at a gala at the Metrodome yesterday, and came fourth, coming back with huge medals and even bigger smiles! Tonight's football match against Burton Road for our Y5/6 boys team unfortunately has had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

Starting on the first Monday back we have our Chance to Shine cricket programme, working with three classes from Y1 up to Y5, which is always greatly enjoyed by the children.

The same afternoon we also have the Multiplication Check parents' meeting for parents of Y4 children, where we will share the best ways to help your children prepare for the check in March.

This half-term we have done some assessments in school on both the Y4 multiplication check and the Y1 phonics checks, and we are really pleased with the progress the children are making so far.

Finally on a sad note, yesterday saw one of school's longest-serving members of staff retire. Mrs Mills has worked with children across school for 31 years and will be a familiar friendly face to children and parents. We are so grateful for her dedication and hard work over three decades, and wish her a very long and happy retirement (though we're already trying to tempt her back to hear readers! If anyone would like to send their well wishes to Mrs Mills this can be done by sending an email or dropping a card into the school office and we will pass them on to her.

Please remember that school is closed for an INSET day tomorrow, so children return back on Monday 19th February. Have a lovely week!

Something new we are excited to be introducing is a weekly 'sticky question' on the weekly newsletter. The questions will follow a theme each week, with the first week's questions (below) based around animals.

The questions are open-ended and we hope that they will encourage your children to engage in conversation with you and promote discussion – this could be on the journey home, on a car journey or during tea!

We will then have a discussion in class when the children return to school after the weekend about what they discussed, and their thoughts and opinions. Teachers will be promoting oracy in these sessions – encouraging children to speak in full sentences and fully explain their ideas. We have attached an example of the types of question the teachers will be using which you might find useful.

We hope you will enjoy these discussions and that they might provide you with some interesting discussions and maybe a few laughs.

Sticky Questions				
	EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Week 1	What is your favourite animal and why?	If you were an animal, which animal would you be?	What the 'best' animal?	What animal do you think represents you?