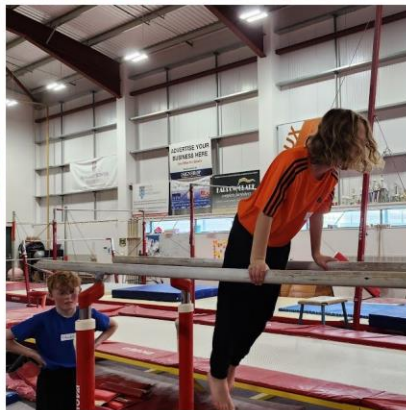




# Shirwell Community Primary School PROSPECTUS 2024/25

[www.shirwell.devon.sch.uk](http://www.shirwell.devon.sch.uk)



It is like being part of a big family here and I have learnt more than my lessons; I have learnt to respect others and myself, appreciate our world and to love learning.

*Y6 leaving speech*



### Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to Shirwell Community Primary School. We understand you may have many questions about our school, how it works and what your child can expect when they arrive here. I hope this prospectus goes some way to answering those questions.

Our school offers a friendly community, where your child takes their first steps towards independence supported by a caring staff. We aim to educate each child to their potential, using our rich and beautiful location to help them gain the skills, knowledge and understanding that will equip them for the future.

Most importantly we aim to work in a partnership with parents to provide a happy and secure environment where your child will thrive. We are very proud of our relationship with our parents and we aim to always be approachable and friendly. We will, through regular consultations, newsletters, online communication and information we send home, keep you up-to-date about events in school and how your child is progressing. We are a whole school community and we hope this prospectus provides information that you will find helpful. We have included contributions from governors, parents and pupils to help give you a flavour of our school.

This document may well give you an idea of our commitment to outdoor education; the many activities and events we do to enrich our pupil's experiences; our enjoyment of physical activity and our love of learning.

We look forward to meeting you and developing a long and successful partnership.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Allen  
Headteacher  
Shirwell Primary School  
January 2024

"High expectations  
and warm, caring  
relationships are  
built upon a deep  
mutual respect at  
Shirwell." OFSTED  
2018



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## The School

Shirwell School was founded in 1830 by the Chichester Family. It is one of the earliest village schools to have been built in North Devon, most of which were built between 1839 and 1870 by the Church of England. Education became compulsory in 1870 and from 1874 school logs were kept. Very little is known about the school before this time but it is thought it may have been originally built on the instructions of Lady Chichester as a school for girls. The first page of the log book suggests the school accommodated 108 children although it is doubtful that it ever had more than 60 children. These would have been aged from 7 to 14.

It is not apparent when the school was split into two classes but in 1937 a H.M.I recommendation was made for a sound proof panel to be erected between the two classrooms. Before this time the two classes would have nothing separating them. The old school would have functioned in a very similar way from this time, serving the families of Shirwell and the local community until 1999 when the new extension was built that provided two new classrooms and left the old building to become the hall, providing opportunities for PE, music and assemblies.

Today we have a spacious and modern building. The old school is the school hall while we have two purpose built classrooms with a large communal area. A more recent extension provides extra space for both classes and a dedicated outdoor area for reception.

In 2015 we extended our site with the purchase of a sports field. This has had an all weather surface laid on it and has greatly increased our attainment in PE as well as providing a great area for the childrens' playtimes.



## The Heron



Heron on top of the clock tower at Arlington Court

The symbol of the heron from the Chichester coat of arms can still be seen above the door from our roots back in 1830 and remains our symbol today. We are proud of our heritage and the link to the Chichester family. The Heron remains a prominent symbol for many places in the local area and serves to underline our commitment to local environmental education.



Heron pictured on the original school door frame



## Aims of our school

The aims of our school have been agreed by staff, governors, parents and children.

*Our School is a place where we shall provide the highest quality teaching to enable the children to become independent learners who reach their maximum potential.*

*Our School is a caring community based on friendship, respect and trust, where everyone is valued.*

*Our School is a place in which all members of the school community can thrive, regardless of race, religion, culture, gender or individual need.*

*Our School is a place where every child will be helped to reach personal success.*

We achieve this by:

- fostering the physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual growth of each child
- providing a rich, varied and rigorous curriculum with equal access for all our children
- creating a happy and stimulating environment which enhances learning across the curriculum
- involving the wider community in which we live to maintain a positive community spirit

*"I am so lucky to have come to Shirwell. All the children coming into reception are very lucky to have seven years at Shirwell"*  
Molly Y6

*"I am delighted with the way my children have learnt to respect each other at school and at home"* From parents' questionnaire



## Governors

Mary Byass	<b>Chair of Governors</b>
Graham Flack	<b>Vice Chair of Governors</b>
Joanna Gay	<b>Community Governor</b>
Casey Edmonds	<b>Parent Governor</b>
Lisa Russell	<b>Parent Governor</b>
Daniela Brunton	<b>Parent Governor</b>
Abby Eames	<b>Staff Governor</b>
Simon Allen	<b>Headteacher</b>
Jackie Holmes	<b>Clerk to the Governors</b>

## Staff

Simon Allen	<b>Headteacher/Class 2 Teacher</b>
Abby Eames	<b>Class 2 teacher</b>
Natalie Broome	<b>Class 1 teacher</b>
Alannah Grice	<b>Class 1 teacher</b>
Louise Chapple	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
Dani Sharpe	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
Emma Morton	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
Grace Neve	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
Jackie Holmes	<b>Administrator</b>
Lorraine Yardley	<b>Grounds Manager</b>
Petrina Westaway	<b>Kitchen Manager</b>
Abi Stevenson	<b>Meal-time Assistant</b>

“We the governors understand it is our duty to ensure the very best for the children of Shirwell Primary School. We expect outstanding outcomes for all pupils in every area of their lives and their learning.

The Governing Body is responsible for the effective management of the school’s resources and the standards achieved - this includes: the quality of education; appointing members of staff; buildings; health and safety; and financial matters.

We endeavor to obtain the very best for the children of our school.”

**Mary Byass - Chair of Governors**



## Admissions

**We welcome applications to our school. Whether your child is starting school for the first time or moving from another school we will ensure they have the best possible induction.**

Devon County Council is responsible for our admissions policy because we are a community school. The policy is reviewed every year in the Council's annual consultation in December and January. This welcomes the views of our local community.

If we have a vacancy then all children are welcome to join us. If we are oversubscribed, we still welcome all children but give priority to particular groups: children who are looked after by the local authority, children with an exceptional need to come to our school, children who live in our catchment, children with siblings already here and children who live closer to us. These oversubscription criteria are only used when we are oversubscribed. For full details of our admission arrangements, please look at Devon's co-ordinated admissions schemes as they constitute our policy.

We take part in the co-ordinated admissions schemes of Devon County Council which help parents to make applications for admission to school. Parents can apply through Devon for in-year admissions and through the local authority where the child lives for the normal round of admissions.

### **NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN**

At Shirwell School we have one point of entry. This means that, providing there is a place available, children may be admitted to school in the September before their fifth birthday. New children are invited into school to meet the staff and pupils the term before they are due to start.

Parents are encouraged to become fully involved in their child's education throughout their time at Shirwell. There will be opportunities for parents to meet with the staff who will be working with their children and also to spend time in school with their child.

### **OLDER CHILDREN JOINING THE SCHOOL**

Currently the school is allowed to admit up to eight children in any one year group. It is important that parents register their children as soon as possible so that they can be considered for a place. Children with special educational needs follow the same admission procedure as all other prospective pupils.

Parents are encouraged to **apply on-line** for a school place at

[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)



If you would like further information, please contact us in school or Devon's Admissions Service on 0345 155 1019 or go to:

Admissions information	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissions">www.devon.gov.uk/admissions</a>
Devon's admissions policies	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements">www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements</a>
Online applications in Devon	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline">www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline</a>
More on the appeals timetable	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionappeals">www.devon.gov.uk/admissionappeals</a>

**A copy of our admissions policy is available on our website.**

**If you have any questions about any aspect of this process please contact our office and we will give you all the advice and guidance needed.**





## Current numbers (Jan 2023)

We have two classes at the school. Reception children are integrated in Class 1 but have their own learning areas including a large outdoor space, where we deliver the foundation stage curriculum through self-directed and teacher led activities. *For more information about our Reception see our separate information for parents.*

Mixed age classes encourage co-operation and collaboration. The children learn to support one another, use teamwork skills and thrive in a family atmosphere.

Class	Children within class	Year Group	Children within year group
1	19	R	3
		1	7
		2	9
2	28	3	8
		4	5
		5	8
		6	7
		Total	47

## School Times

School starts at 8:45 am and finishes at 3:30 pm. Lunch is from 12:15 to 1:25

<b>8.30 am</b>	<b>Children may come into the classroom, providing they are accompanied by a parent.</b>
<b>8.35 am</b>	<b>School staff assume responsibility for the children</b>
<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Morning lessons begin</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Playtime</b>
<b>10:50 am</b>	<b>Morning lessons continue</b>
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>
<b>1:25 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon lessons begin</b>
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>School finishes</b>



## Learning

“The curriculum you offer is broad and a contributing factor to pupils’ enjoyment of school. For example, pupils benefit from subject specialists to provide them with opportunities to develop their skills and understanding further. Pupils told me how much they value their extensive range of learning experiences to support their knowledge.” OFSTED 2018

The school covers the curriculum through teaching discrete subjects as well as making links between subjects through a curriculum theme. We offer a broad range of opportunities to cater for the interests, aptitudes and particular needs of all pupils.

We endeavour to adapt and develop the curriculum to make sure it is:

- Rich - being flexible in allowing scope for further investigation.
- Diverse - by providing a wide range of experiences.
- Relevant - to the children's own personal experience and to give responsibility to the learner.
- Challenging - what is taught extends the pupils’ understanding.

“I really like all my lessons, even if I find them hard my teacher always finds a way of making them fun” George Y4

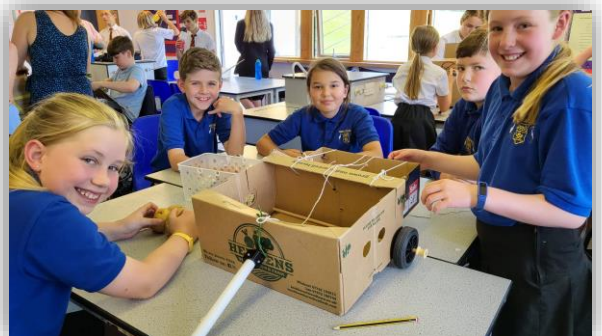
Shirwell School takes account of every aspect of your child’s development, providing the opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards of Mathematics, English and foundation subjects together with physical, artistic, practical and social skills. Other areas receiving attention through the year include health education, safety education (including road safety) and

environmental education.

## Themed Curriculum

We believe that learning should be an immensely enjoyable experience, and that the learner should have the opportunity to be creative and responsible. We endeavour to deliver subjects in a way that children find engaging and meaningful. We adapt our teaching to the pupils’ needs in order to give them as many opportunities to learn as possible.

### TEACHING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM



We deliver the curriculum through a mixture of subject based teaching and topic-based teaching. The core subjects, English, Maths, Science and R.E. are taught in daily or weekly sessions where skills are taught and reinforced. We endeavour to create cross-curricula links and develop skills through subjects which are transferable. Although our teaching is often linked to a foundation subject for example geography or history, we may also teach separate subjects. Topics are carefully planned to ensure children learn the required skills to make progress. ICT is used continually across the curriculum to enhance learning. Topics will normally run for half a term, although with younger children the topics may be more frequent.

We offer a number of trips to enrich the curriculum. Class 2 pupils have the opportunity to go on residential trips and all year groups' benefit from learning opportunities outside the school. We invite visitors into school to enrich subject knowledge and provide the children with educational and local links.

We have a broad, balanced topic based curriculum. The different themes and topics are carefully planned for children to develop their skills and learn more about the world they live in. Developing skills in English and Maths are at the heart of our work, but equally important, are skills, attitudes and knowledge which make up a child's whole learning experience. To become confident, enquiring and excited about the world, children need to exercise and develop their skills through frequent practice. Ideas and skills are therefore revisited regularly, in different ways to consolidate children's knowledge and understanding, with topics being taught in greater depth according to the age of the child.

## English

***For our current topics and curriculum please access the class pages on our website***

Learning in this subject includes speaking and listening, reading and writing, we promote quality handwriting and presentation, accurate spelling and correct usage. Children use their creative skills in exciting and imaginative ways. This enables children to communicate effectively, become active listeners and foster a love and understanding of the written word.

A joined handwriting script is taught from early in Key Stage One and the link between good handwriting and success in spelling is underlined at all times. Creative language is encouraged through story writing, poetry and drama and opportunities given for performing in

“Opportunities for pupils to write in English across the curriculum are wide, frequent and appropriate for different audiences, purposes and genres.”

OFSTED 2018



front of an audience through school plays and assemblies.

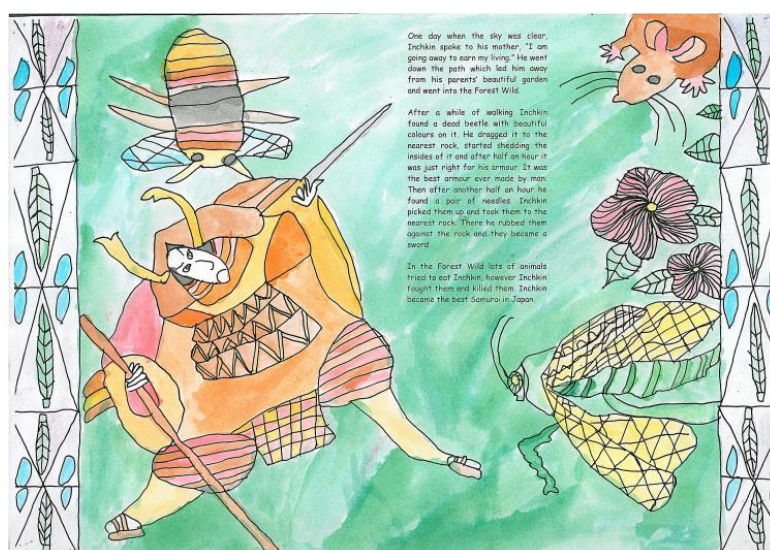
There is also a great emphasis on reading skills and developing a love of reading throughout the school; we consider reading to be the key to unlocking so much knowledge and independence.

## Phonics

Reading is taught initially by using phonics (sounds). We currently use the Read Write Inc Scheme to engage children in the fundamentals of reading. Once confident, children are encouraged to read widely from a variety of texts for both pleasure and information. The importance of parental support with reading is acknowledged and children are expected to take library and reading books home to share with their families from an early stage. Every child takes part in English lessons where the skills outlined above are developed. At the Foundation Stage pupils are introduced to sounds and blending using the Read Write Inc model.

It is our aim that children become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, information texts, poetry and drama through exploring a rich variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. This links directly with our foundation subjects and provides opportunities for children to learn from history or geography through their English education.

We work closely with parents to help children become independent and confident readers to help ensure life-long learning.



Japanese influenced writing and art

Work in pupils' books clearly demonstrates how pupils have developed a love of writing through a particular interest. OFSTED 2018



# Maths

At Shirwell we believe Mathematics to be an artistic and creative subject. We aim to inspire confidence with Mathematics and develop an appreciation of the history and culture of the discipline. We help each pupil develop, knowledge, understanding and skills in Maths, to realise their full potential as creative and logical thinkers.



Pupils are given opportunities to use and apply Maths in practical classroom tasks as well as through real-life problems. We encourage children to develop their own mathematical strategies as well as teaching different approaches to a problem. Correct mathematical language, the appropriate use of apparatus and the clear recording of results and information are always emphasised.

Before your child reaches school you will have encouraged mathematical thinking at home, through nursery rhymes, simple counting activities and games. We are keen to bring together a child's real life experiences of Maths with classroom activities, to build on the many opportunities children have encountered at home and to develop their expertise and confidence.



We use maths strategy in all our learning, for example they measure in Science and Design Technology, use properties of shapes and patterns in Art, and collect and present data in History, Geography and ICT. Consequently, methods used in school will be varied and rich, as we will provide many strategies to assist children's mathematical development.

Creativity in the mathematics classroom is not just about what pupils do but also what we do as teachers. If we are thinking creatively about the mathematical experiences we offer our pupils, we can open up opportunities for them to be creative. We want the children to understand it is OK to be stuck and to feel the joy of confronting a novel situation and trying to make sense of it.





## Outdoor Education, Sports and Music



At Shirwell we believe the learning opportunities of the local environment are endless and forever changing. We also consider that the highest quality learning cannot be confined to the classroom.

Children visit their local National Trust property, Arlington Court, regularly throughout the year. We are a gold medal winner of the Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Award due to our commitment to environmental education.



We also take full advantage of our locality with regular visits to our coastline and beaches to discover local geography and geology. We use outdoor activities to promote team building and build confidence. Our ethos is underlined by our annual activities such as Class 2's yearly residential or activity days that promote teamwork and collaboration.



Our Pupils are involved in activities such as Tarka Tennis and Race for Life, as well as various tournaments and sports festivals, which provide us with opportunities to compete with and against other schools.

Despite being a small school we take competitive sport seriously. Although it has been difficult to compete in recent years, since 2014 we have achieved notable sporting success:



**North Devon Girls Football Champions (2019)**

**Barnstaple Area Girls Football Champions (2019)**

**Barnstaple Area Girls Football Bronze Medal Winners (2023)**

**North Devon Area Hockey Champions (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)** on all occasions Shirwell went on to represent North Devon in the Devon School Games where in 2018 we finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, the highest position ever for a North Devon School. **North Devon Area Hockey Runners up (2014, 2016, 2022)**



**Barnstaple Area Netball Champions (2016, 2018)**

**Devon Schools Area Netball Trials 3rd Place (2016)**

**Barnstaple Olympic Legacy Athletics Champions (2016)**

**Gliddon and Squire Cross Country League U12 girls winners (2017)**

**Gliddon and Squire Cross Country League U10 girls Runners up (2015, 2016),**

**Barnstaple Area Tag Rugby 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2018) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (2017).**

**North Devon Rugby Finals Semi-Finalists (2018)**

**Petroc Tag Rugby Tournament 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (2017)**

**North Devon Show Jumping League 1<sup>st</sup> Place (2019), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (2017).**



A large contributing factor to our sporting success has been the building of an artificial playing pitch in the school grounds. The benefits of the pitch have been very evident through our increased participation in sport at all levels. The impact of having our own sports pitch has been huge and far reaching. The children have been able to engage in sports and activities that were not previously possible.

**Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity.** We believe introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and discovery. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child's imagination. We have developed a music program that encourages all pupils to see themselves as musicians and aims to promote a lifelong love of music.



## Homework

Your child will be expected to do homework from reception through to Year 6. It will vary in type and quantity depending on their age and ability. Reading, learning times tables and spellings, completing work in Maths and English, preparing project work and planning literacy activities are some examples of activities your child will be required to do.

Homework is normally provided half termly through our online portal.

Please support them by:

- showing an interest in any work your child brings home
- checking whether your child has any homework to complete
- giving your child support when they need it

We regularly review homework to ensure it is interesting for all pupils.

## Clubs

Despite being a small school we provide many opportunities for children to take part in out of school activities. All children from Reception to Year 6 have the opportunity to take part in Sports Clubs currently we run Football, Chess, Art and Gardening clubs. In Gardening Club pupils help to grow and prepare fruits and vegetables that we use in our school kitchen. These activities are normally held at lunchtime and/or after school. Check our newsletter for details.



We also can help provide links for parents to clubs in the community they may wish to access. These have included Judo, Hockey, Football and Gymnastics.



## Parental Involvement

**We work together with parents as part of a team to give pupils the best education possible.** We welcome parental involvement at a variety of levels in our School.

- We believe that well informed parents are more able to support their children.
- By working together we can provide the best opportunities to benefit all of the children.

We try as much as possible to have an “open door” policy so that parents can have access to their child’s class teacher or the Headteacher informally to discuss concerns or achievements about a pupil. We also have two parents’ evenings a year, but if you wish for a longer discussion, appointments can be made at our school office.

We provide termly reports on your child’s progress and an in depth yearly report that shows attitude, progress and attainment. We celebrate successes and provide targets for the forthcoming year.

To ensure parents are well informed, at the beginning of each term we send home a curriculum newsletter outlining areas of work the children will be studying. The importance of parental involvement in their child’s education is well documented. We can help and give advice on any aspect of your child’s learning outside the school.

Many parents and members of the community have been involved with running projects or helping out in the school. For example, helping run clubs or helping with transport. Such assistance is greatly appreciated and underlines our role as a community school. Please see the Headteacher if you are able to help the school in any way.

“The staff are always friendly and approachable.” From parent’s questionnaire





## School Uniform

We ask that parents' ensure that children have the correct uniform, but aim to make this as affordable as possible for our school community. While there is a selection of branded items available which can be purchased through the school, as long as the uniform is the correct colour, there is no expectation or requirement to use branded uniform.

Uniform is ordered via the school office or School Gateway and can be paid for using the School Gateway system, by cheque payable to Devon County Council or by cash. The school accepts donations of used branded uniform and redistributes at no cost. Parents are advised that they can request second hand uniform by newsletter, at least annually – it is organised on a first come, first served basis and our ability to help is dependent on the clothing that has been donated to us. Here is our current uniform list:

### **All children:**

Grey or Black trousers (not jogging bottoms or tracksuits)  
Royal Blue polo shirt (short or long sleeved)  
Royal Blue sweatshirt  
Royal Blue Fleece (optional)  
Sensible Black shoes  
Black trainers are fine as long as they are all black.  
A blue checked summer dress or a grey/black skirt

### **For PE**

Black shorts  
A plain royal blue or white t-shirt  
Trainers or plimsoles  
Tracksuits and bottoms are allowed for PE in cold weather

All uniform is available to order from the school office.

**Naming Clothes:** please ensure all items of clothing are named. Fabric pens or sewn in labels are best. Biro tends to wear off.

**Jewellery:** no jewellery or make-up in school please. Only stud earrings are allowed for pierced ears. Watches are allowed but children are responsible for their safekeeping.

**Hair:** long hair should be tied back using a simple hair tie, please no bandanas or scarves. This is important for safety with electrical equipment and in PE. It also stops the spread of head lice.

If you would like clarification about any of this please contact the school office for further information.





## School Meals

We are very proud of our school meals. All children eat together in what is a shared social experience.

As a small school we are fortunate to have our own kitchen with delicious food being prepared on site by Mrs Petrina Westaway. A cooked meal, with the choice of a vegetarian option is available daily. The children are also able to purchase milk to have with their lunch (free for infants). Menus are sent home in advance so that parents and children are aware of the meals available. The school cook is always willing to talk to anyone with particular dietary requirements.

Free meals are available for children whose parents qualify including all children in Class 1. Further information is available from the school office.

The current cost of a lunch is £2:20 per day, which can be paid daily or weekly. Some parents may wish to pay by cheque and this can be done in advance on a weekly, half termly or termly basis. Cheques should be made payable to 'Devon County Council'.



*"School meals are made on the premises and as much as possible is home-made providing a well-balanced diet for all. Please support our School Kitchen."*

*Petrina Westaway Kitchen Manager*

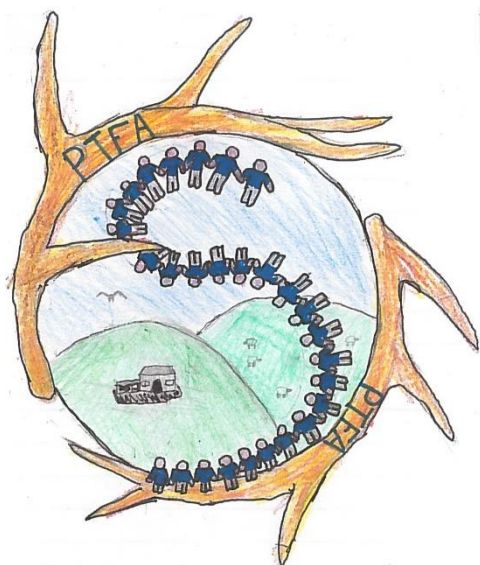
### **Snacks and drinks**

Through the School Fruit and Veg Scheme, the children in Class 1 are entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable to enjoy at playtime. The children do not have to eat the fruit provided and may prefer to bring their own fruit or vegetable snack from home. The children in Class 2 are also encouraged to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack each day to eat during their morning playtime. We also encourage the children to bring in a bottle of water each day to drink at any time.

All children are offered milk at morning break.



## Parents Teachers Friends Association



*Shirwell School Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA) is a group of enthusiastic individuals who help organise and promote events to enhance the social and educational experience of students. The main aim of a PTFA event is to have fun while generating funds for vital educational equipment and services.*

*In the last eighteen months the PTFA have run a number of well supported events. Some of our favourite events were the Christmas Bingo, Ferret Racing, Summer Fair and Easter Egg Hunt. The PTFA run an annual Disco as well as a termly film and supper club that always proves popular with the*

*children. The PTFA aims to hold an event each term as well as provide cakes and light refreshments for any major school events such as sports day or the Christmas play.*

*In recent years the PTFA have played a key role in the fundraising and development of the new school playing field. Since this project has been completed the PTFA have shifted their focus onto improving the school's IT equipment. All eight of the children's computers in the library and study rooms have now been updated and additional equipment has been purchased to help the children understand basic programming skills.*

*Shirwell School PTFA is very proud to fund the annual trip to the Christmas pantomime at Queens Theatre in Barnstaple for all the children, and the year 6 leaver's party. These much loved events provide the children with lasting memories of their time at Shirwell school and support our core goals as an organisation.*

*Shirwell School is a small school that relies heavily on the support of families, teachers and friends. PTFA meetings are always informal, outside in the playground or over a cuppa in Mr Allen's office. At PTFA meetings you can have your say, input ideas and most importantly discuss how funds are spent.*

*Come and join us – it's fun!*

*The Shirwell School PTFA*



# Health, Safety and Wellbeing

The health, safety, security and well-being of all the children in our care is of the utmost importance. We have a range of policies, systems and procedures which all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff follow, including a well-trained team of first aiders. They cover such things as:

- child protection procedures
- lunchtime supervision
- evacuation in the event of an emergency
- medical care
- out of school activities
- school security
- use of safety equipment

We ask that all children exercise a personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others, following all the health and safety rules of the school and, in particular, the instructions of staff given in an emergency. It is important that children do not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for their health and safety.

## **Police Checks - safeguarding your children**

All our teachers, Teaching Assistants and members of staff are Police Checked (DBS checked) at the time of their appointment. Volunteer parents and Governors are DBS checked at the earliest opportunity and we also ensure all regular drivers complete Driver Declaration Forms and are DBS checked at the earliest opportunity. A comprehensive list of all DBS checks is maintained within the school office.

Shirwell Primary School strives for excellence and aims to provide high quality education for all pupils. In order to attain the most effective learning environment, staff and pupils need to establish consistently high standards of behaviour, both in and out of the classroom. We believe everyone has the right to be treated with respect but with that right comes the duty to treat others with respect.

## **Behaviour**

Shirwell Primary takes great pride in the behaviour of our pupils which is consistently excellent. Pupils are asked to be responsible for all aspects of their social skills at a very early age. The School Council, in collaboration with all pupils, has formulated their own playground and classroom rules.

A copy of the school's Pupil Discipline and Anti-Bullying policy is available on request from the school office or can be downloaded from the school's website.



## **Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

At Shirwell we have a proven track record for inclusion and our school is accessible to children with many different educational needs. We recognise the individual and find opportunities where they can progress in their learning and develop in self-confidence. We recognise that many children will, at some time during their school life, experience some form of learning difficulty. We therefore aim to identify any difficulty a child may have at an early stage, so that we can determine how best to support this child. This would initially be done by the class teacher and result in additional support, i.e. a small group or a one-to-one support. Sometimes it may be necessary to seek advice from the Educational Psychologist to determine the cause of the difficulty.

***Please visit the SEND section of our school website for the latest information.***

### **HOW DOES THE SCHOOL KNOW IF CHILDREN NEED EXTRA HELP?**

At Shirwell Primary School, children are identified as having SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) through a variety of ways, usually a combination, which may include some of the following:

- liaison with previous school or pre-school setting
- child performing below 'age expected' levels or equivalent (e.g. percentile rankings)
- concerns raised by a parent
- concerns raised by a teacher: for example, if behaviour or self-esteem is affecting performance
- liaison with external agencies e.g. for a physical/ sensory issue, speech and language
- use of tools for standardised assessment

Children with a EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) already have many of their needs clearly identified. Their placement at our school is a decision that is made by the Local Education Authority.

Parents are fully involved in the process to enable extra support across the curriculum or there will be strategies laid down to improve a child's behaviour; in addition to this there may be additional support from out-of-school agencies.

The Local Authority (Devon County Council) will produce a statement of your child's needs which will decide the best ways of supporting your child's future education in school.

For more information please see our document "Shirwell Primary School SEN Information Report", available from the parents' page of our school web-site.

Please contact us to discuss any aspect of the extra provision we can provide to SEN pupils.



## **Pupil Premium**

***Please see the Pupil Premium Strategy on our website for the latest information***

Pupil premium is spent according to the individual needs of the child. This has helped us in a number of ways to ensure full access to all areas of the curriculum for all pupils.

The key principles of our pupil premium strategy plan are simple. No child should, through family income, achieve or enjoy school differently to a more affluent peer. We are determined to identify likely gaps between groups of children and be proactive in closing these. Children in more vulnerable groups need vigilance to ensure that these gaps do not develop, nor are they likely to when children leave us.

Objectives in spending PPG:

- To increase pupil engagement and empower disadvantaged pupils to lead their own learning.
- To provide targeted support, and mentoring where applicable, to help eligible pupils with significantly low attainment to reach and exceed National Expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths by the end of each Key Stage.
- To provide enhanced provision, and mentoring where applicable, for more able eligible pupils to address social and emotional barriers to learning, raise aspirations and accelerate progress.
- To provide a contingency fund to enable eligible pupils to access curriculum provision and take part in enrichment activities alongside their peers.
- To engage families of disadvantaged pupils and work in partnership with them to help achieve the best possible outcomes for their children.
- To support the development of a pro-active mind-set across the whole staff team with regard to addressing barriers to learning experienced by disadvantaged pupils





## And finally

We hope that this prospectus has helped answer any questions you might have about Shirwell Community Primary School. If you have any further enquires do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

School Office

**01271 850295**

School e-mail

**[admin@shirwell.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@shirwell.devon.sch.uk)**

School Website

**[www.shirwell.devon.sch.uk](http://www.shirwell.devon.sch.uk)**

Yours sincerely

**The Staff, Pupils, Parents and Friends of Shirwell Community Primary School**



## Appendix: Calendar 24/25

	Sep-2024					Oct-2024					Nov-2024				
Monday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Tuesday	N	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Thursday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Friday	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	N		1	8	15	22	0
Saturday	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Sunday	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
	Dec-2024					Jan-2025					Feb-2025				
Monday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
Tuesday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Thursday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Friday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Saturday	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	1
Sunday	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	2
	Mar-2025					Apr-2025					May-2025				
Monday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26
Tuesday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	N	29		6	13	20	27
Wednesday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Thursday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Friday	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Sunday	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
	Jun-2025					Jul-2025					Aug-2025				
Monday	2	9	N	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Tuesday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Thursday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Friday	6	N	20	27		4	11	18	0		1	8	15	22	29
Saturday	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Sunday	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
key:	days within Devon's school terms					days outside Devon's school terms					Bank Holidays and weekends				