



Weekly Update

Friday 3rd February 2023



Please email schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk if you require support in accessing this newsletter in an alternative format.

Dear Families and Friends,

This week it has been difficult for me to write the newsletter. You will, by now, have had the outgoing letter from our Board of Governors that I have accepted a role with HMI. Whilst I am thoroughly excited for the new challenges and working to improve the lives of children and education through research and monitoring, I am of course sad to leave Sheffield.

I have reflected back on the last 4 or so years repeatedly over the past few weeks. This team has achieved so much in that time! When I applied in December 2018, I was applying to an already good school, one where children were already front and centre, and values were cherished. I have sought to continue to establish that since joining in Easter 2019, and can happily say this is the ethos at our lovely school and so much more.

I joined at a time when the PSA had purchased the immersive technologies we use, and we used this when overhauling each curriculum area in line with a new OFSTED framework that came into force in 2019. Each subject area saw swift and fundamental changes that established the "Shefford Connected Curriculum", enabling us to work broadly through the lockdown to transfer units in all subjects to the remote learning offer.

When I think back to lockdown, and trying to establish our new curriculum at that time, it is a bit of a blur.....I'm sure it still is for many of you too. At a globally distressing time, when teachers were dual working on unfamiliar technologies, with daily changing groups of pupil bubbles, Shefford Lower developed the capacity of subject leaders. The staff here are amazing, and being so passionate about the science behind learning, they have moved from coordination of subjects into leadership roles with zeal. This is evident in the results we achieved when tests were resumed. We smashed all targets! All of our staff have a robust programme of development and growth, and we share knowledge extensively.

I am most proud of the targets we smashed for phonics of course. Reading is fundamental and we prioritised this area of improvement and it has brought about lasting change for our children. We have of course been helped by our partnerships for curriculum with Mary Myatt, with York university research, the Open University and the Neli project. This all informed our curriculum to be reading and vocabulary rich. The recent report from our improvement advisor evidences that this is a real strength of our school. We link spellings and handwriting closely to the reading and phonics, and children are becoming more fluent readers—developing more sophisticated narrative capabilities. This sees them increase chances across the curriculum.

I'm also incredibly proud of the deep breadth of curriculum. By having empowered leaders, we have connected the work we do in Forest school to achieving awards and enhancing other subject learning. We have strengthened the PE curriculum and visibility of PE leadership so that pupils achievements daily, in lessons and also outside of school are highly valued. Music has been a focus since returning from lockdown and we are proud of the opportunities we have rapidly instated, including iPad music, drumming, P-Bones, recorders, ocarinas, glocks and peri lessons on top of the wonderful Charanga curriculum. We are now buying class keyboards for our move to primary. A move all of our leaders have been readying for some time—it is in good hands.

Outside learning has been enhanced with the installation of a sensory trail and also an outside classroom. We like our children to experience their learning in different ways, and know that no two children learn the same. This has been enhanced with the wonderful museum and art gallery which has seen us working in partnership with the Fitzwilliam Museum. You will get to meet our curators and conservators during our consultation week, and we encourage you to view the shop to help them raise money for future exhibits too.

Our early years are a hub of excellence and we have worked hard on the transition into year 1. This is an ongoing area of improvement and we are grateful to have such expertise on site, in Mrs Freeman and her team, and Mr Wakefield and his team. Many of our staff are asked to present or work with other schools.

A fundamental change I established quickly was the house system. This gives us opportunities to praise the children, develop community and sense of belonging. It also ensures we have opportunities for pupils leadership and role modelling, which we filter into every class through our ambassadors. There are so many pupil leadership opportunities and working with proportional representation we aim to close that gap in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils, in a framework of ambition and excellence.

You can probably tell I am supremely proud of our school, and the pupils in it. They will go through life saying "I went to Shefford Lower School" and will always be a lion of Shefford Lower School. We want them to flourish into the lions of our school that we know they can be.

Believe, achieve and succeed. From a very proud head teacher.



Values

The values of February will be Love & Kindness

"Carry out a random act of kindness with no expectation of reward knowing someday someone will do the same for you." Princess Diana.

What is love? How it is shown through our acts of kindness, and being thoughtful to one another.

House Points

Air—1036

Fire—1010

Earth—915

Water—865

House Points and Attendance

W/E 27/01/23

Well done to last week's house winners.



House Attendance & Punctuality

Winner

Earth

Children's Mental Health Week: 6th—12th February 2023



Today, the EYFS cake sale supported the children's mental health charity Place2Be. Next week, Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 6th—12th February 2023. This year's theme is Let's Connect. Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections with others. As humans, we thrive in communities and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections—to family, friends and others—this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

In school next week, we will be exploring the theme of connecting with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways as well as others aspects of wellbeing with the children. If you would like to support your child with continuing this discussion at home, Place2Be offers some tips, activities and parenting support and advice all free on their website. You can access these resources here: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

We look forward to sharing some of the things we learned about during next week's newsletters.

Music News

03/02/23

This week's music assembly delved into Reggae music and how this is a fusion of different genres merged into one. We explored the artists Bob Marley and Sugar Minott, Bob Marley took the win with 'One love' in line with our school values this month. I just wanted to remind parents and carers of the instruments being taught by external providers at Shefford Lower, if children wish to sign up, you will need to email the office to get the appropriate form. This includes; piano, guitar, brass and vocal.

Kind regards Miss Mansell

Early Years Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated and brought cakes to the sale today.

We raised an amazing

£ 178

For Place2Be who are a children's mental health charity



Weekly Good News Calls

Here are the children whose parents and carers have received a phone call home this week to let them know how well their child has been working and showing their school values. Keep up the good work Shefford Lower.

Reception	Peach—Lucas	Plum—Jacob	Pear—Nissa
Year 1	Sycamore—Bonnie	Holly—Samantha	Chestnut—Elsie
Year 2	Willow—Elizabeth	Maple—Chloe	Oak—Layla & Morgan
Year 3	Hawthorn—Oliiver	Cedar—Keira	Elm—Jennifer
Year 4	Hazel—Poppy	Beech—Molly	Ash— Ethan



Congratulations to the children below who have been recognised as a Finer Diner this week for displaying good manners and values at lunchtime



<u>Reception</u>	Molly, George, Lyla, Liam, Kayla & Blake
<u>Year 1</u>	Georgia, Jude, Belle, Albie, Bonnie & Tyler
<u>Year 2</u>	Eleanor, Ethan, Miles, Ben, Nivya, Annabelle & Sam
<u>Year 3</u>	Jacob, Sophie, Joshua, Ollie & Grace
<u>Year 4</u>	Bethan, Rachel, Kayleigh, Corben, Isla & Remy



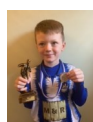
THANK YOU

EXCUSE ME

Shefford Sporting Successes

We celebrate children's sporting successes from home as well as those in school. Please send us photos of your child's certificates and/or medals which will be displayed on our PE celebration board and celebrated in assembly. Well done to these children who have shared their sporting success this week.

Water House	Oliver—Gymnastics, Chloe—Swimming, Zoe—Taekwondo
Earth House	Layla—Swimming, Charlie—Football
Air House	Ethan—Football, Oscar—Swimming, Renae—Swimming
Fire House	Ollie—Swimming, Jean—Swimming, Thea—Taekwondo



Community News

Please note, the following events/activities are run independently of Shefford Lower.

WARM SPACES

A Place to Stay Warm this Winter



Shefford House – Council Chamber
(15 High St, Shefford, SG17 5DD)



Every Friday 3:15 - 5:30



Free hot chocolate, sweets and popcorn



- 3rd Feb – Paddington (1hr 35)
- 10th Feb – Original Matilda (1hr 38)
- 17th Feb – The Smurfs (1hr 43)

Free to all, limited spaces available

(Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)



Shefford Lower School

Holiday Club

For children who attend Shefford Lower in Years 1–5



February Half Term

Monday 13th February—Fully Booked

Tuesday 14th February 9.00am–3.30pm—spaces available

Numbers are limited to 30 children per day on a first come first served basis.

£18.00 per day

£12.00 per sibling

BOOK NOW !

Booking forms are available on Parent Mail or paper copies can be collected from the School Office.



JACK COLLISON
SOCCER SCHOOL

FORMER WEST HAM AND WALES INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLER

FEBRUARY HALF TERM CAMP!

FOOTBALL, COMPETITIONS, FUN AND PRIZES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 5-15!

MONDAY 13TH – THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY, 10.00-15.00

ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY, SG17 5BU

1, 2, 3 AND 4 DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

*** 30% OFF IF YOUR CHILD BRINGS A NEW FRIEND ***

*** ONLY 75 SPACES AVAILABLE ***

BOOK ONLINE NOW!

Happy Little Yogi Half Term Taster Sessions

Central Bedfordshire
great
lifestyles

The Active Lifestyles Team are working in partnership with Happy Little Yogi this Half Term, to bring you two, free, fun, yoga/mindfulness sessions, for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The sessions are aimed at 4-9 year olds, who live in Central Bedfordshire.

Monday 13th February 2023

14:00 - 15:00

Flitwick Leisure Centre, Studio 2

Thursday 16th February 2023

14:00 - 15:00

Sandy Sports Centre, Jenkins Pavilion



Places are limited to 12 per session.

Book now to secure your place, at www.happylittleyogi.com

Should you have any questions please email Jane (the instructor) on: jane@happylittleyogi.com.

Parents/guardians are required to stay for the whole session and are welcome to join in if they wish.



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A great place to live and work.

Find us online www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

[f](#) getactivewith

[t](#) @letstalkcentral

Safeguarding Information

At Shefford Lower School we take our responsibilities to promote safeguarding the welfare of all children seriously. The designated persons for safeguarding children is the Headteacher who can be contacted via the school office on 01462 629123

Please find useful information updated weekly

Mythbuster

Myth: "They can have a TikTok account if I want them to."

Buster: This may expose children to images or themes that are harmful and disturbing, or can be accompanied by targeted advertising for older age groups and users. The age restrictions is a legal requirement so schools have an obligation to investigate and record these instances. At Shefford Lower School we record using *CPOMS.

*Child Protection Online Management System

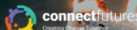
If you are concerned about a child outside of school you can phone 999 in an emergency or 101 to make a report. The NSPCC operated an urgent helpline on 0808800500



Ivel Valley Parent Bulletin Early Help Bulletin

**Please click on the
links for more infor-**



 2022- 2023 | Prevent
Fake News, Conspiracy and Truth
Understanding misinformation and how to see through it

Parents, Carers & Community Settings | 60 mins

9th Feb 09:30-11:30 and 17:00 -18:30

Free online course

This session looks to better inform parents, carers and people who support children and young people on the increasingly complex and sensitive topic on online harms. Its main focus is to tackle perceptions around fake news, conspiracy theories and extremism and how to talk to and support young people (and each other) in building resilience to these topics.

Together with the facilitators you will explore where to go for help if needed and some of the next steps to creating safer online spaces. Participants are encouraged to question and critically engage on the topic of fake news, conspiracy theories and extremism on and offline, and how perception may be manipulated.

Through this impactful workshop we look to deepen knowledge of the subject, introduce some practical tools to use with your children and young people whilst building confidence in a safe space using interactive and engaging content.

To book follow the Eventbrite link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/392546776977>



www.connectfutures.org | 0121 250 3609 |
info@connectfutures.org
QUALITY | EXPERTISE | INSIGHT | IMPACT



BEDFORDSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

IT DOESN'T HURT TO ASK FOR HELP!

Safe Space

What is a Safe Space?

- a place for you to go if you need to access support
- a place where you can contact a domestic abuse support service who will be able to help you safely

For more information, speak to a member of staff or contact BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

[@bedsdv](https://www.bedsdv.org.uk)
[bedsdv.org.uk](https://www.bedsdv.org.uk)

The **Bedfordshire and Luton Children's Community Health HUB** is our one stop service for our Health Visiting, School Nursing 0-19 and our Looked after Children Teams for parents, carers and professionals. Our Luton Community Paediatric Service can also be contacted via this number, but for emails please continue to use their own dedicated email address.

To access the Health HUB call us on 0300 555 0606 or email: ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net

Sheffield Lower School

Diary Dates

(further dates will be added and these will be in bold italics)

2023 Upcoming Dates

6th—11th February	Children's mental health week
7th February	Teacher Consultation Evening—3.30pm—6.30pm
9th February	Teacher Consultation Evening—4.00pm—7.00pm
10th February	Bikeability—Year 4s
10th February	Fire Engine visit—Y2
13th—17th February	Half Term
13th & 14th February	Mr Tilbury's Holiday club—booking form available on Parentmail
23rd February	Egyptian Day—rescheduled from 1st February
22nd February—29th March	Year 3—Swimming—Elm & Hawthorn
24th February—31st March	Year 3—Swimming—Cedar
2nd March	World Book Day—More information to follow
9th March	Vision Screening—Reception
15th—17 March	Year 4—Kingswood Residential Trip
22nd March	Year 1 Woburn Trip—Parentmail to follow
24th March	SEND Coffee Morning
29th March	Year 1 Cake Sale—Charity TBC
31st March	PSA Nearly New Uniform Sale
31st March	End of Term Easter Assembly
31st March	Last Day of Spring Term
3rd—5th April	Mr Tilbury's Holiday Club—Booking form to be released soon
18th April	Children Return

Moving to become a primary as part of Central Bedfordshire's Schools For The Future project.

<https://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/>

Drop off times—08.45—09.00am

Collection times—3.20pm

The school office will be open from 8.30am to 3.45pm for any queries, please call 01462 629123 or email

schooloffice@sheffield.cbeds.co.uk.

To find Sheffield Lower's Academic Calendar for 2022/2023 please refer to our website

[Term Dates Link](#)

Please note this will be different to the Central Bedfordshire