



Weekly Update

Friday 3rd March 2023



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



Dear Families & Friends,

We have ended the week on a superb event. World Book Day is always a Friday here at Sheffield Lower. This not only helps families source loaned or lower cost items, but also helps attendance, which we know is crucial for your children's education. It's a great way to end a wonderful week and shows us the range of reading the children are enjoying outside of school too. Children love stories and characters, and having events like this remind children of the colourful world they inhabit when they open a book. We don't limit our book celebrations to the one day here. Next week we will be having a series of follow up activities, and a corridor of display to follow thereafter. We will be having some author visits, and



also the wonderful book fair on the 23rd and 24th of March. Your child will have been given a voucher for this.

We have received a couple of requests for family holidays. We are guided by the DfE as to the criteria for 'exceptional Circumstances' by senior staff. This is the criteria we adhere to when fixed penalty notices are issued through Central Bedfordshire Council.

The school is continuing the journey towards primary age range change. We have not had any further communication from the local authority at this stage, but we have carried on with our internal changes. Staff have met together to audit the curriculum plans we have. The aim being to ensure the coherence of learning sequences and maintain the highest quality provision. Our curator and conservator awards, and our forest school awards are an aspect of this growth. We have also revisited our parent forum this week. This was to review the uniform policy, as we become Sheffield Primary, and the Anti-Bullying Police. We decided in the first tranche of discussions that uniform would change, in order to differentiate our pupils from pupils attending other schools. There will be a two year change over period, so this alteration will begin next term. We will be changing to 'green' over time, with the lion logo and motto. We will be removing the name for safeguarding purposes.

Exceptional circumstances that may be agreed to are:

- A dying close relative in a different country.
- A family funeral of a close relative in another country/ part of the country.
- Holidays for fostering or adoption purposes.
- Religious observance.
- Holidays for armed services personnel when meeting the criteria set out by the ministry of defence.
- Family needs in times of crisis
- Where disability access is evidenced as a difficulty at any another time.

Exceptional circumstances do not include:

- Being unable to take a family holiday during the 6 week summer break
- The availability of cheap holidays
- Poor weather experienced during school holiday periods
- Overlap with the beginning or end of a term.
- Different holiday dates for siblings in different schools.
- A surprise booked by another person/ treat for the child
- A mistake in term dates when booking



Our wonderful PSA have a family fun event planned for you on Friday 24th March. This is a time for a night out with the children, no babysitters and to have fun together whilst the school raises much needed funds. All money raised by the PSA is spent on the wonderful extras that the children experience. This might be special visitors and wow days, discos, leavers books, pantomimes and author visits. More recently they have paid for our traverse poles and games tables. The PSA funded our wonderful immersive room, which supports our learning in many ways, and also our art gallery. They continue to pay for the upkeep of this resource too. Please come along and support them. Tickets

available at the office.

On a more sombre note, please park considerately near our school. One of our pupils raised a complaint about School Lane, seeing how dangerously some people have parked and witnessing a near accident. Not only are the children frightened by this, their safety is at risk. We are aware that the council take this seriously and have recently been patrolling and issuing tickets. In our own carpark, we operate FlashPark and will fine users who park when and where they shouldn't. This is particularly with the use of disabled bays. Therefore if you are entitled to use the carpark, please display your badge accordingly.



We have some wonderful news to share with you all too! Mrs Farnan, recently married, is due to have a baby in the Summer. I know you will join me in congratulating her and wishing her the best through the summer term.

Have a wonderful weekend,

From Mrs Finch

Please know: We are an Operation Encompass School. This means that we work together with the police to respond quickly to instances of domestic abuse and/or violence. Staff in school are trained responders and we are a safe space.

Values

The values of March will be Courage & Determination

“What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?” Vincent Van Gogh.

Courage when you least feel like trying. Not giving up. Knowing it is worth it, if not immediately, then in the long run. Courage when you are a lone voice in a crowd, when peer pressure is high.

House Points

Fire 1372

Air 1315

Water 1233

Earth 1083

House Points and Attendance

W/C 24/02/23

Well done to last week's house winners.



House Attendance & Punctuality

Winner

Fire!

TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR

AND EARN FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL

@ Shefford Lower School 23rd—24th March

TRAVELLING BOOKS



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online
or visit travellingbooks.co.uk/pay

SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL

BOOK FAIR WILL BE ON THE 23-24 MARCH 2023

THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING CASHLESS – PARENTS CAN ORDER VIA QR CODE

Music News!

This week in music assembly, we moved on to looking at the musical term 'composer', what a composer does, and specifically female composers within the music vote. Pupils voted for Fanny Mendelssohn - Das Jahr, which is a classical soloist piece performed on the piano. Well done to choir for giving the school a taster of our new Stormzy song we have been learning, I had so many compliments from other teachers, and we only performed the chorus! Good job everyone. We are looking forward to extended performance opportunities in the summer and incorporating all of our musicians.



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—Ezra Plum— Lewis Pear— Ivy

Year 1 Holly – Holly and George Sycamore— Tyler Chestnut— Joshua R

Year 2 Willow—Lumen Oak— Morgan Maple— Louie P

Year 3 Elm—Raith and Jessica Cedar— Bradley Hawthorn—Sofya

Year 4 Beech—Albie Hazel - Mabel Ash—Max



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



EXCUSE ME

- ◇ **Reception** Peach—Isla and Annie Pear— Nissa and Jack Plum—Layla and Harry
- ◇ **Year 1** Chestnut—Lilly and Alfie Holly—Ben and Darcy Sycamore Toby and Alice
- ◇ **Year 2** Maple—Caitlyn and Freddie Oak Analise and Aiden Willow Mia and Jo
- ◇ **Year 3** Cedar—Milli Elm—Sarah and William Hawthorn—Eva and Jay-Ross
- ◇ **Year 4** Ash—Lilly and Fab Beech Kayleigh and Jake Hazel—Freddie and Gra

THANK YOU



Shefford Sporting Successes



On Friday 24th February - 18 Year 4 children went to Bedford to compete in the Sports Hall Athletics County Finals. The children had a fantastic afternoon competing against other teams from the county in both field and track events and were also able to watch Year 5/6 take part in their events too. They came 6th out of 8 on the day and showed fantastic sportsmanship and displayed both our school values and the school games values throughout. We are so proud of our Year 4 Athletes and what they have achieved.

Well done to all our pupils who have been awarded sport achievements this week!

Annabelle— Skiing Thea—Gymnastics
 Oliver—Swimming Esmae—Swimming
 Emily—Swimming Charlotte—Rugby
 Jake—Football Poppy—Swimming
 Charlie—Swimming Lee—Football
 Chloe—Gymnastics Edward—Swimming
 Abigail—Acro/Rock Climbing
 Emma—Gymnastics



PSA News

The PSA have used some of the funds they have raised from their events this year to purchase some lovely new play equipment. The children who are on the School Parliament were presented with different options and voted for their favourites. They chose some games tables, traverse logs and a target wall.

A big thank you to the PSA for all their hard work and efforts. As well as parents, carers, friends and family for all their support.



World Book Day

Shefford Lower School have had a fun filled day with dressing up as our favourite character!



Community News

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




For all 8-11 year-olds

Southhill Park Cricket Club

- 8 weeks of cricket sessions for 8-11 year olds
- Southhill Park Cricket Club, Southill, Bedfordshire, SG18 9LJ
- 1815 hours - 1915 hours, from Friday 12th May 2023 to Friday 30th June 2023
- £40.00 for all 8 weeks—booking fee includes personalised Dynamos Shirt



SCAN ME



It all starts with...



at Southhill Park Cricket Club

- 8 weeks of introductory cricket sessions for 5-8 year olds, all ability levels welcome
- Southhill Park Cricket Club, Southill, Bedfordshire, SG18 9LJ
- 1815 hours - 1900 hours, from Friday 12th May 2023 to Friday 30th June 2023
- £40.00 for all 8 weeks—booking fee includes AllStars kit and personalised T-Shirt

https://southhillpark.play-cricket.com/web_pages/2023_allstars_dynamos



SCAN ME

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 March - Angry Birds (1hr 37)
- 10th March - Paddington (1hr 35)
- 17th March - The BFG (1hr 57)

****Free to all, limited spaces available****

(Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)



Come and join Rainbows

Girls age 4-7

Your nearest Rainbow unit is **Shefford**

Register your interest by visiting www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus or you can ring Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901






Competitive prices available on our website

Scan me to find out more



25% discount on first term membership for anyone aged between 5 and 18.

Free lessons for children in care placed by Central Bedfordshire Council

Full time membership includes four sessions each Saturday. When enrolling part-time, sessions booked must be back-to-back.

For dates and to find out more, please look online

www.inspiringmusic.co.uk

or inspiring.music@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Contact us on 0300 300 6604

learn to play!

SILSOE CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 5th March 11-3pm

Silsoe Community Sports Centre,
Chestnut Avenue, Silsoe, Bedfordshire

40+ STALLS

- Jewellery
- Funky knitwear
- Cakes & brownies
- Candles & diffusers
- Jams, curds & chutneys
- Natural bath products
- Soap flowers
- Plants
- Hair accessories
- Pottery
- Crystals
- Wooden gifts
- Artwork
- And more!

Adults £1 - under 18's FREE

NO STILETTOS PLEASE AS WE WILL BE IN A SPORTS HALL

For info contact Lesley 07799 642863
lesley@riverdreamevents.co.uk
www.riverdreamevents.co.uk

Lesley Whiteman
Social Media

RIVER DREAM EVENTS

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 – “It’s none of the school’s business if I let my child play games with a 12 certificate.”

Buster - The school has an obligation to ensure children are not exposed to material rated beyond their age, and log all concerns on *CPOMS. Rated material may be targeted at stress and tension levels that are developmentally inappropriate, may expose children to images or themes that are harmful and disturbing, or can be accompanied by targeted advertising for older age groups. Older users may contact your child with the intention of harming them.

*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

Central
Bedfordshire

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/500041336097>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/518753484637>

Please click on
the links to open!

Central
Bedfordshire

Parent Insight

Opportunity to ask questions, gain information, advice, and guidance on PDA



Guest Speaker
Volunteers from PDA society

Professional session Monday 24th April 2023
16.30-17.30pm

Free to attend via Microsoft Teams
Register for your place via the Eventbrite link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/500041336097>

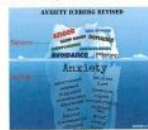
Resources will be sent out after each session

Organised by the CBC Early Help Teams:
For more information, please contact:
North Early Help - northeearlyhelp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
South Early Help - southearlyhelp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central
Bedfordshire

Parenting Insight

Managing anxiety and strong emotions



Guidance on how to support young people with anxiety and strong emotions

Opportunity to ask questions, gain information, advice, and guidance from Early Help Emotional Health and Wellbeing Practitioners

Tuesday 21st March 2023
4.30-5.30pm

Free to attend via Microsoft Teams
Register for your place via the Eventbrite link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/518753484637>

Resources will be sent out after each session

Organised by the CBC Early Help Teams:
For more information, please contact:
North Early Help - northeearlyhelp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
South Early Help - southearlyhelp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEMES 2023

AGES 3 - 17 YEARS

£25 PER DAY

09:30AM TILL 3PM

26TH JULY TO 28TH JULY

31ST JULY TO 4TH AUG

7TH JULY TO 11TH AUG

Summer Activity Schemes are respite services that are based in Bedford and Luton. They provide a wide range of onsite activities and community-based experiences for autistic young people who live in Bedfordshire.

See our website with details on how to apply!
autismbedfordshire.net

Autism Bedfordshire



Bedfordshire
Community
Health Services

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

IT DOESN'T HURT TO ASK FOR HELP!

Bedfordshire DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

@bedsdv
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

Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

2023 Upcoming Dates

22nd February—29th March	Year 3—Swimming—Elm & Hawthorn
24th February—31st March	Year 3—Swimming—Cedar
3rd March	Dress Up for World Book Day—Dress Up as your favourite book character. (Remember if swimming no face paint!)
9th March	Vision Screening—Reception
15th—17 March	Year 4—Kingswood Residential Trip
22nd March	Year 1 Woburn Trip—Parentmail to follow
23rd March—24th March	Book Fair at Shefford Lower School
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
26th April	Class Photos
1st May	Bank Holiday
8th May	King Charles III Coronation
24th May	Year 4 Cake Sale—Charity TBC
29th May—2nd June	Half Term

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@shefford.cbeds.co.uk.

To find Shefford 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