



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year! It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this year and they have made a super start. We have had a focus on building positive relationships and settling everyone into their new routines. We have had a successful trip, author visit, and the children have engaged really well with their learning in classes. Following a productive initial Parent Forum on communication, a strategy has been developed which includes a monthly newsletter, weekly diary date reminders and a system of social media posts among other things. Curriculum maps will be shared at the end of each half term for the learning the following half term. The diary dates for the year as a whole will also be shared termly. We have some new rewards to support the children's efforts and achievements being recognised including digital post cards home and hot chocolate with Mrs Ross! Further details of these changes will be shared shortly.

## Shefford Lower School Diary Dates

5th October	Census Day—Menu change (see details below)
11th October	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
13th October	PSA Sponsored Bounce
17th October	Parents Evening 3:30pm — 6pm
18th October	School Photos
19th October	Parents Evening 4pm—7pm
20th October	Year 2 Cake Sale, PSA Non Uniform day
23rd—27th October	Half Term

### Change of Lunch Menu—Census Day

**Thursday 5 October** is Census day. The more children that have a school lunch the more funds we receive as a school. Please encourage your child to have a school dinner if possible.

Menu Choices will be

- Beef Burger and Wedges
- Veggie Burger and Wedges
- Tomato Pasta

Plus Flapjack for pudding!



### School Uniform Update

Bottle Green plain polo shirts **are** permitted as well as white polo shirts.

We have been informed that the new bottle green branded uniform will shortly be available via the Price and Buckland website. As the stocks of red uniform are used up, the new bottle green uniform will be released. We will keep you updated as we hear more.

# What have we been up to?

In **Nursery** and **Reception** our focus over the last few weeks has been settling the children in to school, building relationships with them and familiarising them with our routines. Despite a few initial tears and wobbles the children have all settled in incredibly well and we are thoroughly enjoying getting to know them and setting them off on their journey in our school. We have been learning all about our golden rules - be kind, be safe, share & take turns, choose it, use it and put it away and what skills we can develop and learn in all the different classrooms and outside area. We have introduced the children to Monster Phonics and have begun to learn letter sounds and to hear these sounds in words. We have learnt to register ourselves independently and to cast our vote each day for the story book we want to share at the end of the day. We have also been learning to use sign language with some of our mathematical vocabulary, such as big, small, more or less.

**Year 1** have started the term brilliantly! The children have entered Year 1 eager and keen to learn. We have started our new phonic scheme - Monster Phonics. The children have loved getting to know the monsters and now, they are starting to recognise the sound that each monster is responsible for. The children have been sent home with a Monster Phonics reading book which focuses on the sounds they are focusing on that week. Learning logs have also been sent home with a list of suggested activities that need to be completed - thank you for your support with this. The children receive a weekly music lesson with Mrs Lawson. In music, they have been learning to play the Ocarina, which they are thoroughly enjoying! The children have been accessing the continuous provision, which is stored in the outdoor canopy. They love to use the resources in all areas of learning and enjoy keeping the area clean and tidy!

**Year 2** have had a super start to the beginning of the year. They have come back into school settled and ready to start their Year 2 journey. We have started our first theme about UK and Beyond. Some children have brought in postcards or images of their holidays to talk about and share where they went with the class. If your child would like to do this, please do send them in with an image or postcard. We have started doing spellings. Thank you for your support with this. Learning Logs have also gone out and are expected to be back on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please feel free to complete any of the activities, however, they work for your child. We look forward to sharing these with our classes during our learning log galleries. Any questions about reading, spellings or home learning do please speak to your class teacher.

Wow! What a busy start **Year 3** have had to their new year! They have all settled in fabulously and made their teachers very proud. They are quickly becoming fantastic role models for KS1 by modelling good behaviour and showing their values. Our learning this term is about Pre-Historic Britain. We have begun to handle some real-life artefacts, including tools and cooking utensils, and learn what they would have been used for. The children are looking forward to their trip to Celtic Harmony on the 11<sup>th</sup> October where they will immerse themselves into the pre-historic way of life. With its thatched roundhouses and native woodland, Celtic Harmony is a place like no other! Children will rediscover the natural world and traditions of life in ancient Britain through creative hands-on activities that engage the imagination and improve wellbeing. We cannot wait! In Maths, the children have been exploring place value and learning how to round to the nearest 10. We love using our outside area to inspire us in our learning and be creative too. We have been intrigued to understand how to wash a woolly mammoth in English! Apparently, you need shampoo, cake and an extra strong trampoline! Thank you for working with your children at home to support them with learning logs and in making these fun and enjoyable. We look forward to receiving these back on the w/c 16<sup>th</sup> October. As always, if you have any questions, please catch us at the door.

**Year 4** have been immersed in the theme of Invasion! They have been learning all about the Roman Empire and how it impacted on British History. They have been enjoying learning new facts, even if some of them were truly gross, for example "Did you know The Romans used to wash their clothes with urine?". The Year 4s also had a great time on their trip to St Albans where they were lead around the cathedral by a team of experts and archaeologists to tell them all about St Alban's Roman past. We have also been keen scientists, exploring 'States of Matter' learning about solids, liquids and gases. We look forward to hearing and seeing more of the children's learning in class and their learning logs too.

The **whole school** have been reviewing our values including our British Values and the value of Democracy. We have a number of pupil leadership roles at Shefford Lower School and the children have been proudly sharing manifestoes and speeches to their class mates to see who is voted into the roles. More leadership announcements to follow!

# What have we been up to?

## Parent Forum on Communication

A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our Parent Forums on communication. We are incredibly grateful that so many of you took the time to attend and you have given us lots of things to consider regarding how we communicate with parents/carers.

If you were unable to attend for any reason and would like to share your views with us then please do so via the school office e-mail ([schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk)) within the next week. We will then review all responses and come up with an action plan which we will share with you.

## Community Update

We have been talking to the Town Council about all the ways we can work together over the course of the year and are finalising details. Further information to follow shortly.

## Sports News

Our after school clubs have returned! A big thank you to everyone who has attended our clubs so far. The clubs have proven to be very popular, so make sure you sign up next term! We have also been celebrating the children's sport successes from home, as well as those in school. Please send us photos of your child's certificates and/or medals which will be celebrated in our assembly. Well done to those children who have shared their sporting success this term already.

This year we are very excited to be working in partnership with Luton Town FC, who are coming into school every Thursday to spend time with the children. Coaches are out at lunchtimes and during the afternoons to help the children develop football skills as well as to consolidate our school values and lead PSHE based learning around teamwork, inclusivity and fair play. We have already received some very positive feedback from the children and we are looking forward to growing this partnership over the year ahead. We are all wishing Luton Town a very successful season too.

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](mailto:schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk).

Our term dates for 2023/2024 can be found here [Term Dates Link](#)