



Shefford Lower School Newsletter

Monday 4 December 2023



School is a busy place in the lead up to Christmas and the children have enjoyed preparing their Christmas performances. The choir have been busy with some fantastic performances and will be visiting Oak Manor next week. Our PSA have had a productive half term preparing for Present Day and our Christmas Fayre. Thank you for voting for our wonderful Stick Man Tree which won first place People’s Choice and a Judges’ Commendation!

We are seeing some fantastic examples of learning from the children and they have made brilliant progress this term across the curriculum. I have had the pleasure of meeting with a number of children to look over their work and enjoy a hot chocolate and a chat on Friday afternoons. The children speak so confidently, articulately and positively about their learning — it is a real treat!

The children continue to embed their values based learning and can link this with the weekly inspiring person; supporting the promotion of passion, inclusion, diversity and speaking out for what is right. A key area of focus this year is also being ‘green’ (and not just in our uniform!). This term, the Eco-Council have focussed on bio-diversity and creating more green spaces. Next term, they will be measuring the school’s carbon footprint and considering ways to reduce this.

Our governors have also been busy getting to know their designated areas of the school’s work. Each of our governors link to one of our pupil leadership teams. They have visited the children for a conversation about what each pupil team is doing in school. The children were very enthusiastic about their projects and had some great ideas to share!

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting the children’s learning and continuing to contribute to our school community. Enjoy the remainder of the festive season with your families!



Shefford Lower School Diary Dates

8 December	PSA Present Day / Santa
12 December	Year 4 to Samuel Whitbread Pantomime at 08:30
12 December	EYFS Nativity at 14:30
12 December	KS2 Choir Carols at Oak Manor at 15:00
13 December	EYFS Nativity at 14:30
14 December	Year 1 Nativity at 14:30
15 December	PSA Christmas Fayre at 15:20
18 December	Year 2 Nativity at 14:30
19 December	Year 3 Nativity at 14:30
20 December	Year 4 Nativity at 14:30
20 December	Christmas Lunch
22 December	Christmas Jumper Day
22 December	Carols on the playground
5 January	Inset Day
8 January	Spring Term starts

What have we been up to?

In **Nursery** we have been thinking about different celebrations and other annual events, such as Remembrance Day, bonfire night and Diwali. We have explored lots of different art mediums as part of this and also made some Indian sweets called Barfi. We have celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week, learning lots of traditional rhymes and have also been learning about our emotions with the support of The Colour Monster book. In **Reception** we have been learning about the characteristics of effective learning and the importance of these learning behaviours. We have been thinking about how we are all different and unique and learning the importance of being kind to everyone. We have been learning all about Diwali and have been exploring the forest area and threading with leaves. We have introduced all the children to the joys of drawing club, have continued to learn lots of new letter sounds and to practise reading our new Monster Phonic reading books. We have also been making soda bread and churning butter!

Year 1 have had another great term. We are now on the lead up to Christmas and play rehearsals are up and running. Each class have been given songs to practise and some children have been given lines to learn for the show. We loved our trip to Shuttleworth. The children had the opportunity to observe a range of transport and even experienced a bus ride in a bus from the past. After Christmas, children will be given spellings and Numbot logins. The children will be sent home a list of spellings and they will be tested at the end of the week. Chestnut will have Forest school next term on a Thursday. They will need to come in clothes that are appropriate for the woods. Thank you for reading with your child at home, we have seen an increase in this! Any questions, please speak to your class teacher. Many thanks, the Year 1 Team.

Year 2 have started to prepare for their Christmas nativity performance. We have been practicing our songs and memorising our lines ready to perform to parents. This week we have had the experience of a workshop with representatives from the NSPCC after our assembly on this last week. We are starting to shift our focus to Christmas fun, the year 2's really enjoyed the Peter Pan pantomime. Our corridor displays have also changed this week to a winter wonderland. We wrote winter poems and created artwork to reflect the winter theme too. Finally, our year 2s have really enjoyed our history unit on Shefford local history where we have been learning about timelines, how old Shefford is and where the name has come from. Thanks again for your continued support with regular reading and home learning.

We have been enjoying the great outdoors in **Year 3** this past half term. Mr Tilbury has been taking us to Chicksands every week to learn about habitats and animals we may come across in the woods. We explored the types of things animals would need to survive and talked about how a habitat is set up to ensure animals are safe and warm. We built our own animals habitats and our teachers were very impressed! In addition to this, we have been building dens and campfires. Mr Tilbury was so impressed with how well we remembered our prior learning on the types of things we need to build a successful fire. We have been busy preparing our Christmas show for all of you to enjoy in a couple of weeks time - Miss Sharma, Mrs Morreale and Miss Sutton have dusted off their dancing shoes to choreograph a super performance! (Christmas is their favourite time of the year and you can usually tell by the amount of glitter found in and around Miss Sharma's classroom!) We hope you enjoy the show and come away having learnt lots about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. In Science we have been investigating types of soil and thought carefully about which kinds we might find in our own field, as well as in the woods when we visit. Winter has definitely arrived - we have loved writing our own wintry poetry based on the 5 senses and tried hard to include alliteration and rhyme. We loved reading some famous poems first to see how closely we could replicate them. Maths has been busy this half term - we have been learning how to use grid method as well as how to divide numbers using a number line. Both methods are fun and once we learnt the concept, we could do this with huge numbers! It has been a long half term and a jam-packed one at that but we are enjoying all the Christmas activities in the run up to the holidays, including the visiting pantomime! Thank you for all your support with homework and spellings over the last few weeks, the children are showcasing some amazing home learning! We wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Best wishes from, Team Year Three :)

The **Year 4s** have continued with their learning on 'Invaders' and are now concentrating on the 'Anglo Saxons', finding out new knowledge and information on their invasions. The children have been producing some amazing epic narratives and writing their own tales of quests and invasions, adding their own heroes and villains and descriptive settings. The Year 4s have also been excitedly working on a sculpture project in Art and Design where they have researched, sketched and designed their own monsters eye and are now all very keen to bring their sculptures to life in clay in the coming weeks. In Life Learning the children have also had fun learning about roles and responsibilities by interviewing staff and creating fact files of their trusted adults in school. In R.E we are focusing on Christianity and learning all about the gospels and The Holy Trinity and are also eagerly awaiting our scientific changing state investigation using the very popular ingredient of CHOCOLATE!!!! The Ukuleles are also sounding very good in Year 4 and the children are now mastering ; Animal Fair, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Michael Finnegan, Auld Lang Syne and Jingle Bells!!!!

What have we been up to?

Sports News

We have had a fantastic turn out for our clubs this half term! Thank you to everyone who has signed up! We will have Multi-Skills running again on Tuesday and Thursday morning, P.E club after school Monday-Thursday and a Dance Club for KS1 on a Tuesday. We also had our second sport festival. Multiple children took part in a Boccia and Kurling Festival against other schools. They had a brilliant time and were a credit to our school. Well done for everyone who participated. Our next sporting event is coming up on the 26th January 2024.



Community Update

Our Eco-Council visited the Millennium Green with the Mayor and members of the town council to raise the community green flag and to celebrate achieving our school green flag. They also created a bug hotel using reused tree bark.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent forum on homework – feedback from this to follow shortly.

Unfortunately, there have been some incidents of racism within school and our local community. To address this, we are working within school and with other schools, in the town, to consider further ways that we can ensure that we educate children to accept and embrace all our differences and that we are all unique in many ways. We would be grateful if you could reinforce these messages at home.

Mrs Freeman is setting up an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group. If you would like to be part of this please let the school office know.

Congratulations to the Kitchen!

Our fabulous kitchen staff have been awarded 5 stars from environmental health. Well done!



Drop off times—08:45—09:00am

Collection times—3:20pm (3:15pm for Reception)

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.