



Weekly Update

Friday 11th October 2019



Hello Families and Friends

I am very sorry that the school has not had phone lines this week. When the local authority commissioned work to separate the lines for the children's centre, ours were cut off. Resolving this has not been easy and I write this knowing engineers are on their way today - Thursday.

Thank you for your patience.

I have some wonderful news to share. Many of you have already noticed Mrs Hoyte's happy news, as her tummy is no longer small enough to hide. A new baby is a source of joy and we wish her congratulations.

We have been advertising for teaching support roles this last week. Unfortunately, Mrs Kitchener and Mrs Brown move on to pastures new, and Mrs Harvey will remain as a volunteer. Mrs Constable in our office also moves on at half term, and we wish them lots of luck. All our staff are incredibly hard working at Shefford, and so I am sure you will join me in wishing them the absolute best in the future.

Many of you are aware that we do not own or control the paths and alleys leading up to, and around the school. We have had a number of suggestions about lessening the congestion of buggies etc. I am so happy to be outside most days to greet you and hear these suggestions. Whilst we cannot mark pathways, the recent suggestion of installing a gate for in-out access to our early years area is currently being explored. Thank you for this.

As I write this, we begin our Healthy Me Day. This involves our mental health awareness, along with reasons to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. We know many of you have inventive ways of encouraging your little ones to exceed their five a day. Mrs Polito and Mrs Pearson have arranged for the children to make smoothies and also to learn about brushing their teeth. Please ask your children to share their healthy learning with you over the weekend.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

Values

The values from September 30th—October 18th are **Respect** and **Responsibility**.

- *Respect for everyone and everything.*
- *Taking on responsibility, owning our mistakes or our errors of judgement and resolving to learn from these experiences.*

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival next week on Tuesday 15th October. All food donations will be going to the Preen Reuse Centre and the NEED Project, who support local families, within Central Bedfordshire who are facing severe hardship. We have had a lot of tins, jars and packets come in today. Monday is the deadline for any fresh food. All donations will be gratefully received.

Individual and Sibling School Photographs

We will be having individual and sibling school photographs next week on **Wednesday 16th October**. Please ensure your child has a jumper or cardigan with them.

Cherry Children

If your child doesn't attend Cherry Class on a Wednesday and you would like them to have their photo taken, there will be a sitting at 9.00am and 1.30pm. Please let Cherry Class at know which sitting you would like your child to attend.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Appointments for the parent consultation evenings on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th, can be booked now via ParentMail. On Wednesday 17th, due to the consultations starting early, parents will be able to collect their children from their classrooms at 3.00pm.

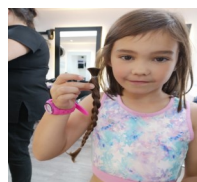
Lost Property

Our lost property box is overflowing and there are a number of coats in there. This will be outside in the main reception area next week for parents to have a look.



Well Done!

Well done to Rosa W in Oak Class who had her hair cut last Saturday to donate to The Little Princess Trust, who provide real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.



Finer Diners

Congratulations to the children below who have sat at the 'Finer Diner' table this week for displaying good manners and values at lunchtime:

Reception

Grace W
Jack W
Kiarno D
Raith C
Chloe P
Holly W

Year 1

Shiron A
Charles L
Scarlett C

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

Year 2

Amber J
Freya A-P
Harrison L
Jessica W

Year 4

Destiny R
Sky L
Summer L

Year 3

Sophie R
Reuben L
Lexi M
Henry P



Internal Clubs

Keep a look out for more clubs coming in the Spring Term!

Year 3 and 4 Press Club

Booking forms for Years 3 and 4 Press Club were sent out on Parentmail yesterday. This club will run the week commencing 28/10/19—09/12/19. Booking will close on **Thursday 17th October at 4.00pm**.

PE Club and Multi Skills Club

PE Clubs and Multi Skills will continue after half term and will finish the week commencing 09/12/19.

External Clubs

Little Ninja's

Little Ninja's will continue after half term and will finish on 20/12/19.

Mid Beds Soccer

Please see a Mid Beds Soccer booking form attached to this ParentMail. This starts on the 29/10/19—03/12/19.

Music News

All children who learn a musical instrument are given opportunity to play in our weekly music assemblies and also at the end of term and class assemblies. This includes children who learn an instrument out of school. If your child does have instrumental lessons outside of school, please let us know. This week we enjoyed piano performances from Abbie H and Katherine, Kimberley on the violin and also the morning recorder group.

Next week is our school harvest festival, where we hope to hear a variety of our musicians and singers perform.

Year 2 recorder taster sessions will continue for one more week. After half term, all children who wish to continue must have their own instrument and tuition book so that they can practise at home.

Instrumental Lessons

There are still spaces available for children in Years 2, 3 and 4 to commence violin, flute, clarinet, piano, guitar and trumpet lessons.

There is a cost for these lessons but the loan of an instrument for approximately two years is included in the price, subject to availability (except piano and guitar). Group lessons are offered subject to the availability of another pupil of a similar ability. Please enquire at the school office for more details or check the inspiring music website. <https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/lessons-schools/overview>

Christmas Music Concert

Our evening Christmas music concert for Years 3 and 4 musicians and choir members will be on **Wednesday 4th December**.





PSA News

Your School Lottery— EVERY Saturday

We have our first winner! Congratulations to James N on winning our first lottery draw last Saturday. It's not too late to buy a ticket and enter. Signing up to this term will automatically enrol you into a further prize draw to win one of 3 £100 cash prizes PLUS a chance to win the national £25,000 weekly jackpot. It's easy to set up, just follow the link <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play>. Good luck! This an ongoing offer and you can apply and set up anytime you like. Remember the more tickets purchased the higher the prize fund.

Family Photo Shoot—Sunday 13th October

All places are now full for this event.

Bag 2 School

Before half term your child will be bringing home a bag to fill with unwanted clothing. Please take the time to fill it if you can and return to school on Wednesday 30th October. Bags are weighed and monies raised go directly towards our fundraising targets.

Easy Fundraising

We have a link with the Easyfundraising company that allows online shopping to feed commission back to a chosen charity. The PSA have registered with this and have so far raised an additional £367.00 for the school. Please use the following link to register <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/E2CZEL>. It costs **NOTHING** and once it's set up there are reminders as you send on applicable websites. It really couldn't be easier to raise money for the school whilst you go about your general online shopping.

PSA News

Go Henry

Does your child receive pocket money? Do you want to have more control over how they save and spend? If so, Go Henry could be the solution for your family. Combining a pre-paid debit card and an app with unique parental controls, it's been built from the ground up for both parents and children. **Sign up today for your one month's free trial offer**, after which it's just £2.99 per child per month. The card can be used online, in-store, and at ATMs, so as we move ever closer to a cashless society, it allows children to experience money in all its different forms. This summer term gohenry is offering to give £20 to our PSA for every parent who activates. Go on – give it a try by clicking on the link <https://www.gohenry.com/uk/pta-referrals//?promotion=UKPTASLS&ght=UKPTASLS>

Next meeting: Wed 13th Oct @ 7.00pm

We are always looking for new supporters so if you are interested in joining our team or learning more about what we do please call into the school office to register your interest.



supporting

your school lottery

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
EXTRA
CASH PRIZES**

Buy Your Lottery ticket this term for a chance
to **WIN** one of **THREE £100 prizes!**

- Chance to win £25,000 jackpot
- 40p in every £1 goes to school funds
- Local cash prizes **EVERY** week
- Extra cash prizes this term

Community News

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



Anxiety, Panic & School Pressure Monday 14th October 2019

We are pleased to announce the first session as part of the Child & Adolescent Emotional Wellbeing Programme which is being run by Bedfordshire CAMHS

When: Monday 14th October 2019
Time: 6 - 8.30pm (arrival from 5.45pm)
Where: King's House, 245 Amphill Rd, Bedford MK42 9AZ

Who can attend?

- ⇒ Any parent or carer who has a child registered at a Bedfordshire GP
 - ⇒ You do NOT need to be accessing CAMHS
 - ⇒ Siblings & family members over the age of 18

In this session we will focus on anxiety, panic and school pressure to enable you to find ways to support the children and young people in your life We will cover both signs, & symptoms as well as strategies to help manage these difficulties



How can I book tickets?

Tickets are free and are available online from [Eventbrite](#). You can also scan the QR code on your smartphone for access to the website

Where can I find more information?



@EastLondonNHSFoundationTrust



@camhs wellbeing1



www.camhs.elft.nhs.uk



www.eventbrite.co.uk



Managing Emotions, Resilience, Self-Esteem & Risk-Taking Behaviours Wednesday 13th November 2019

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In this session we will focus on managing emotions, resilience, self-esteem & risk-taking behaviours to enable you to find ways to support the children and young people in your life. We will cover both signs & symptoms as well as strategies to help manage these difficulties



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www.camhs.elft.nhs.uk



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Supporting the Community for over 25 years

Fireworks Display

2nd November 2019

In the grounds of the

STMA, Shefford, SG17 5JA (Digswell)

Outside Bar provided by the **STMA**

BBQ run by **Shefford Saints Football Club**

Glow Sticks sold by **Shefford Lower School PSA**

With all proceeds raised going directly to these groups

NO Animals are permitted onsite (except Guide dogs) &
NO personal fireworks or sparklers.

Gates open 7.00 pm Display starts 8.00 pm.

Adults £5, Under 16's £3, Under 5's Free.

(No card payment available)

Please come along and Help us Support Shefford Community groups and causes.

For more details please visit www.sheffordfireworksappeal.co.uk

Sponsored by

COUNTRY PROPERTIES
PART OF HUNTERS

Central
Bedfordshire
Libraries

Central
Bedfordshire

great
lifestyles

Half term craft session


It's free, just drop in!


Shefford Library

Fri 25th Oct
2.30 -4pm



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

 CBCLibraries

 @cbc_libraries

Diary Dates

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

N.B—Please be aware of the date changes for the following:

Parent Consultation Evening

PSA Mufti Day

Present Day

KS2 Parties with Santa

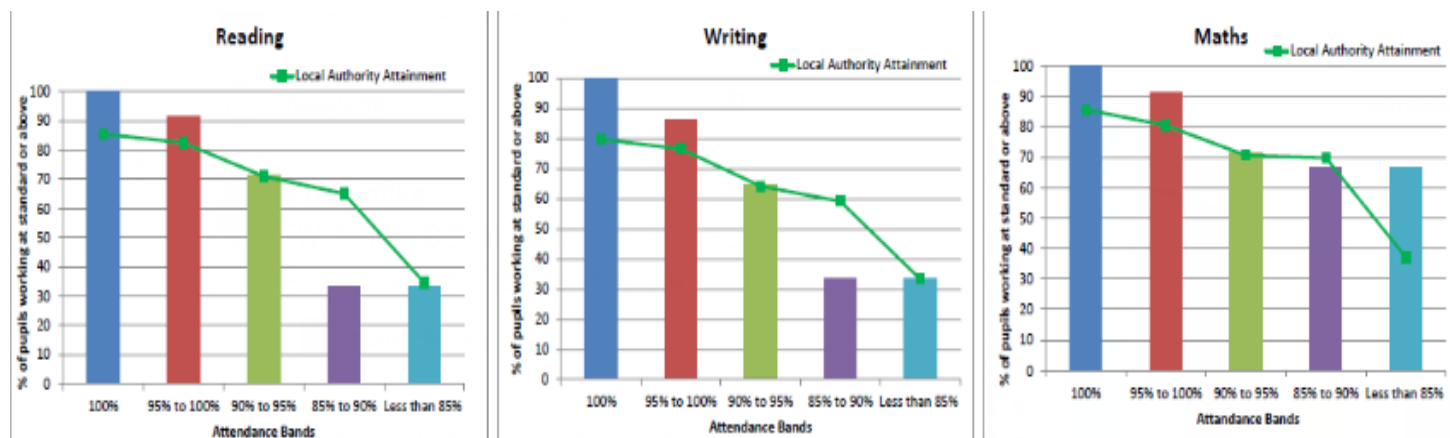
Autumn Term 2019	
13th October	PSA Family Photo Shoot—Figment Photography
15th October	Harvest Festival
16th October	Parent Consultation Evening
<i>17th October</i>	<i>Parent Consultation Evening</i>
16th October	Individual and Family Photos
18th October	Parent Consultation Evening
21st October	Half Term
28th October	Inset Day
29th October	Children Return to School
30th October	Bag 2 School
1st November	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
2nd November	STMA Fireworks—Glowsticks sold by the PSA
8th November	Diwali Day
11th—15th November	Anti-Bullying Week
15th November	Children in Need
19th November	Flu Vaccinations for Years R –4
22nd November	Year 2 Cake Sale
26th November	Oak Manor Music Visit
<i>29th November</i>	<i>PSA Mufti Day</i>

Autumn Term 2019	
2nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
3rd December	EYFS Concert 9.30am
4th December	Christmas Music Concert
6th December	EYFS Concert 2.30pm
9th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal AM, KS2 Dress Rehearsal PM
11th December	KS1 Concert 9,30am, KS2 Concert 2.30pm
12th December	Hamper Raffle Prize Draw
12th December	KS2 Concert 9.30am, KS1 Concert 2.30pm
13th December	Present Day AM
13th December	Winter Fayre
17th December	Christmas Dinner
18th December	EYFS Parties with Santa AM
18th December	KS1 Parties with Santa PM
19th December	KS2 Parties with Santa PM
20th December	Christmas Carols End of Term

Absence

Please see the graph below on this years SATS results in relation to attendance.

Please see the list below of exceptional circumstances in which a holiday may be authorised. Just a reminder the school office will need proof of all medical appointments for absences to be marked as 'Medical' otherwise these will be marked as 'Unauthorised'.



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.

When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis

Where disability means it is difficult for the family to organise care at 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