



## Weekly Update



Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Families and Friends,

I am incredibly thrilled to be able to share with you this week's successes. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating the staff when you read the following:

You may have noticed we had a number of visitors in school, particularly if you came through the 'Bloomfield' entrance where we greeted you. These visitors were Local Authority School Improvement Professionals, and they were carrying out a two day audit of the school.

The experience was a huge undertaking, and left no part of our provision unturned. They visited classes, looked at work, talked to leaders, middle leaders and a variety of staff across the school. They even sat and had lunch with the children and met our newly elected school parliament.

The feedback from the improvement team was so positive, and we are now beginning the year ahead with a secure foundation for further developments.

The leadership team and staff were particularly proud of the children during the visit, and their conduct was given specific praise, in terms of the respect the children showed for adults, for each other and when building relationships. Our staff were praised for their enthusiasm, and their ambition for 'big ideas'. Our auditors told us that our middle leaders were articulate about research and they 'know their onions'.

Of particular note, was our Early Years team, under Mrs Freeman's leadership. Our auditors described this as a 'flagship' provision. We couldn't be happier.

Going forwards, our thrust for reading and developing the curriculum is part of our plan, and our focus on writing and learner groups is targeted. We are developing our action plans for each subject to take into account the pace of learning and to maximise the opportunities for fullest impact. Our focus on vulnerable learners and identifying barriers is part of our deeper assessment and features in our future development plan.

This week, we have also held meeting with our neighbouring school, Robert Bloomfield. Mr Farmer, the head teacher, visited Sheffield Lower and we discussed the opportunities our proximity enables us, so that we might provide greater continuity and fuller opportunities. Our shared aim is to focus on the needs of the children and to exploit opportunities that enhance both their academic skills and their life learning opportunities. We are beginning with a focus on reading, and look forward to seeing our alumni pupils inspire our current pupils.

For now, please forward your 'Extreme Reading' photos to Mrs Metcalfe, for her display. We have been thrilled with the number of children earning their daily house point for reading every night. Great team approach! We will be opening our book share on Monday, so please use this if you see it, and bring unused books to swap. You could also become a book sprite by using the flyer in this newsletter. We hope many more of you will join in.

A note on uniform. We take on board edits with regards to trousers being black or grey. The clarity for PE shoes is trainers and finally, Cherry Class have a slightly different dress code for nursery which is shared via the early years team.

As we break for the weekend, please know that we have held elections, and votes have been counted.....but it is a well kept secret who our house leadership team will be. Our captains, vice captains, prefects and ambassadors will find out during our celebration assembly on Monday. It's very exciting.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

## September Values

The values for this month are **Unity** and **Belonging**.

- ☑ Starting in our new classes with a sense of togetherness and belonging.
- ☑ Belonging and working together in our school, as a new class, in our house groups.
- ☑ *Developing our community by building each other up and including everyone in our groups so that they feel a sense of belonging.*

## Meet the Teacher Meetings

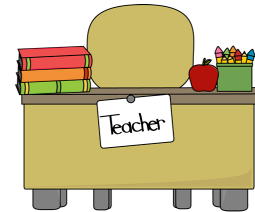
Meet the Teacher meetings will take place next week. These meetings will give you an opportunity to find out what you and your child can expect from their new year group and a chance to ask any questions. Meetings will take place in the hall from 9.00am-9.30am (please use the Community Entrance) on the following days:

**Monday 16th**—Year 1

**Tuesday 17th**—Year 3

**Wednesday 18th**—Year 4

**Thursday 19th**—Year 2



## **Transfer to Middle School 2020**

A leaflet was sent out this week via ParentMail regarding applying to middle school for 2020. Please be aware, that there is no automatic transfer to middle school even if you live in the catchment area and/or attend a feeder school; you must still make an application to the School Admissions Team. Applications can be made online or by paper. Paper applications are available from the school office. **The closing date for applications for transferring to middle school 2020 is Wednesday 15th January.**

For more information:

### **Contact the School Admissions Team ...**

by telephone: 0300 300 8037

by email: [admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

on the web: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

Write to School Admissions, Central Bedfordshire Council, Watling House,  
High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1LF

## **Savers Club**

Savers Club starts back next week on Thursday 19th September.



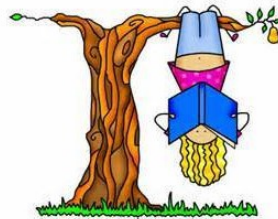
## **Jeans for Genes**

Next week on Friday 20th September, we will be celebrating Jeans for Genes Day. Children will be able to wear jeans along with their school jumper/cardigan and trainers/sensible shoes for a £1.00 donation. Donations will go towards grants for day-to-day support, equipment, nursing and patient support services and events which bring together children and their families who are affected by a genetic disorder.



## **Extreme Reading**

To encourage reading within school, we have introduced Extreme Reading. See how many weird and wonderful places you can read with your child; take a photo and we will put it on a dedicated display board within school!



## **Eco Council**

Our new Eco Warriors are soon to be announced...watch this space!

## **Batteries**

Please keep bringing your batteries in to school so we can send them off to be recycled.

## **Milk Bottle Tops**

Keep collecting your milk bottle tops so they can be upcycled and recycled! Please send them to:

Freepost

LUSH GREENHUB (**H**as to be in capitals)

Bottletops



## Phone Calls Home

Teachers will be making phone calls home every week to let parents and carers know how well their child has been working and for showing school values! Keep up the good work Shefford Lower!

06/09/19

### Year 1

**Chestnut**—Alfie

**Holly**—Mason

**Sycamore**—Rosie

### Year 2

**Maple**—Leo

**Oak**—Rose

**Willow**—Tristan



### Year 3

**Cedar**—Jack

**Elm**—Noah R

**Hawthorn**—Toby H

### Year 4

**Ash**—Jj

**Beech**—Summer

**Hazel**—Eli

12/06/19



### Year 1

**Chestnut**—Louis

**Holly**—Kayleigh

**Sycamore**—Tommy

### Year 2

**Maple**—Charlotte

**Oak**—Harry K

**Willow**—Kairo



### Year 3

**Cedar**—Lexi M

**Elm**—Charlie W

**Hawthorn**—Reuben L

### Year 4

**Ash**—Matthew F

**Beech**—Anais K

**Hazel**—Matthew F

## 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

Forrest H  
Isla R  
Livvy B  
Oscar G  
Zoe R

### Year 2

Tyler P  
Frankie P

THANK YOU

EXCUSE ME



### Year 3

Rose P  
Honey-Rose W  
Jessica W  
William H-M  
Leo B  
Lacey D  
Amely H  
Charlie G

### Year 4


Kimberly H  
Joseph R  
Ethan F  
Thomas C  
Abbie H

### **Become a Book Sprite**

Do you have books at home you don't read any more? Perhaps another child might enjoy reading a book that you have enjoyed. Find a waterproof cover, and use this flyer with your book inside, then all you have to do is find somewhere to hide your book that someone else might find. If you look around, you might find one that someone else has hidden. We'd love to see photos and posts on the "Shefford Book Sprites" page that give us clues on where to find them...happy hunting.

*Please remember not to use your names, or post photos that identify children by name or place on the media page.*

Use this flyer with your book, and now happy hunting wherever you look!

**Book sprites are everywhere, leaving books for you to find and enjoy.** 

**Congratulations** - Enjoy reading this book that you have found. When you have finished it, re-hide it so that someone else can enjoy it too.



If you like, you can share your findings on the 'Shefford book sprites' facebook page.



***NB: Safeguarding – photos should not be posted that identify young children by name, uniform or place.***

### **Book Swap 'n' Share**

Some kind and helpful Year 4 children earned house points this week by helping to build the book share greenhouse. This is part of our drive to make reading fun. Very soon you will see this in our playground and it is a place to put books and take books for free!

The idea is that you can bring books from home that you have read and no longer use, then you can also take some that catch your eye. It's a great way to share the joy of reading, and keep it fresh with new reads to open and new adventures.



## Music News

There are many opportunities for children to enjoy music at Shefford Lower. Pupils are encouraged to perform in the weekly music assemblies, class assemblies, music concerts, coffee mornings, community visits and at end of term productions. These recitals are all greatly enjoyed.

Music clubs will shortly be restarting and will include:

Recorder groups (Years 2, 3 and 4)

Choir (Years 3 and 4)

Ukulele group (Year 4)

Further details will be sent during the next week.



### Instrumental Lessons

There are spaces available for children in Years 2, 3 and 4 to commence violin, flute, clarinet, piano, guitar and trumpet lessons. Research into music has shown it to have many wide-reaching benefits including intellectual development, boosting self-confidence, self-expression, speech and developing maths skills. Lessons take place during normal lesson time, break or lunchtime. There is a cost for these lessons but the loan of an instrument for approximately 2 years is included in the price, subject to availability (except piano and guitar). Group lessons are offered subject to 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>

Below is the music lesson timetable; this may be subject to change:



#### **Monday**

Woodwind

Piano

#### **Wednesday**

Violin

Guitar

#### **Thursday**

Brass



## **Internal Clubs**

### **PE Club and Multi Skills Club**

ParentMail's were sent out yesterday to notify you of whether your child has been allocated a space in PE and Multi Skills club. These clubs take place on the following days and will run from **16/09/19-09/12/19**:

**Monday**—Year 1 PE Club 3.20pm-4.30pm

**Tuesday**—Year 2 PE Club 3.20pm-4.30pm

**Wednesday**—Year 3 PE Club 3.20pm-4.30pm

Multi Skills 8.00am—8.50am

**Thursday**—Year 4 PE Club 3.20pm-4.30pm

Other internal clubs will commence after half term. Booking forms will be available soon.

## **External Clubs**

### **Little Ninja's**

Little Ninja's runs on a Friday from 3.20pm-4.30pm until 20/12/19.

### **Mid Beds Soccer**

Mid Beds Soccer runs on a Tuesday 3.20pm-4.30pm until 15/10/19



## Music News

This week, children were introduced to the musical opportunities that are available at Shefford Lower and letters regarding music clubs and instrument purchases have been sent home. Please could all replies be returned to school by Monday 16th November so that orders are placed promptly.

All music clubs will commence on Tuesday 17th September and will include:

Recorder groups (Years 2, 3 and 4)

Choir (Years 3 and 4)

Ukulele group (Year 4)



### **Instrumental Lessons**

There are spaces available for children in Years 2, 3 and 4 to commence violin, flute, clarinet, piano, guitar and trumpet lessons. Research into music has shown it to have many wide-reaching benefits including intellectual development, boosting self-confidence, self-expression, speech and developing maths skills. Lessons take place during normal lesson time, break or lunchtime. There is a cost for these lessons but the loan of an instrument for approximately 2 years is included in the price, subject to availability (except piano and guitar). Group lessons are offered subject to 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>

Please see a flyer attached to this ParentMail regarding violin lessons with Kayleigh Tir .

Below is the music lesson timetable; this may be subject to change:

### **Monday**

Woodwind

Piano

### **Wednesday**

Violin

Guitar

### **Thursday**

Brass





## **PSA News**

### **Shefford Circus—Saturday 28th September**

We still have tickets available for the circus later this month. The 2.30pm show is almost sold out—we have a couple of tickets left. Seats can still be purchased for the first show at 1.00pm. Forms are available from the school office. Tickets are £8.00 per person (over 2years old). Alongside the circus we are running several stalls which will be open from 12.00pm-5.00pm. Stalls include tombolas, candy floss, popcorn, ice-cream, burgers plus many more.

### **Your School Lottery—Saturday 5th October**

Our first lottery is now only 4 weeks away. We have 40 tickets already signed up for and we are aiming for at least 50 as this will give the PSA an annual income of £1000 and a £20.00 weekly prize fund. Enrolling and buying your tickets this term will automatically enrol you in a further prize draw to win 1 of 3 £100 cash prizes PLUS a chance to win the national £25,000 weekly jackpot.

### **Family Photo Shoot—Sunday 13th October**

Back by popular demand we have Figment Photography returning to the school to take family portrait photos in time for Christmas gifts. As slots are limited, please contact the school office to book your place and secure with a £10.00 sitting fee (non-refundable).



# 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

[Click here to support today](#)

## Community News

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



# SHEFFORD PRINCE AND PRINCESSES



**Invite you to join them at the  
crowning of the 2019/20  
Prince and Princesses.**

Are you age 5-13 years?  
Do you live in Shefford or attend Shefford Lower School or Robert  
Bloomfield Academy?  
Do you want to be the Shefford Prince or Princess?  
Pick up an application at your school to enter.

**The crowning ceremony will be held following  
the judging of contestants which starts at 2pm  
on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

**The event will be held on the lawns  
surrounding St. Michael and All Angels  
Church Shefford.**

For further information, queries or application forms please contact  
Sarah Potter 07929113728 or Glennis Pollard 07787318277



**Shefford  
Festival 2019**





# Shefford Prince and Princess 2019

Application form for the Prince and Princess event (Ages 5-13)  
To be held in Shefford Town Centre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Date of Birth...../...../.....Age.....

School.....

Interests/Hobbies.....

Parents Name.....

E-mail.....

Telephone Number.....

Mobile Number.....

**\*PLEASE NOTE: All Applicants must live in Shefford or attend one of the schools in SHEFFORD. Incomplete forms will not be entered.**  
(Please ensure a correct contact number or e-mail is written on the form).

Completed forms need to be emailed to the email address below.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Event to be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September in Shefford Town Centre  
by St Michael and All Angels Church.

Please meet at the Prince and Princess Marquee by 2pm for judging.

Any further queries / questions please contact:  
Sarah Potter 07929113728 [itsallbizarre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:itsallbizarre@hotmail.co.uk)

Or Glynis Pollard 07787318277

This event is supported by Shefford Town Council

# Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS



## FREE Drop In for SEND Information, Advice & Support

We are a free impartial & confidential support service for parents/carers, children and young people with Special Educational Needs & Disability in an educational setting aged 0 – 25 years.

### Get advice about:

- Finding a school
- Classroom Support
- SEND Support Plans
- Behaviour issues
- Education Health & Care Plans
- Annual Reviews
- Exclusions

### How we help:

- Telephone helpline
- Leaflets and information
- Website and downloadable resources
- Help with forms, letters, EHCP
- Information on local support groups
- Home visits and support at school meetings

### Autumn Term Dates 2019

#### **Dunstable South Children's Centre (Wednesdays 10-11.30am)**

11<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 11<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre (Fridays 9.30-11am)**

6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Shefford District Children's Centre (Wednesdays 9.30-11am)**

25<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 27<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Sandy Children's Centre (Thursdays 9.00-10.30am)**

19<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 19<sup>th</sup> December

No appointment necessary. If you cannot get to a session and would like to talk to us, please contact us:



0300 300 8088



[sendiass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership)



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# CYCLE SEPTEMBER

## THE GLOBAL BIKE CHALLENGE

TAKE PART IN A FUN, FRIENDLY  
WORKPLACE CYCLING CAMPAIGN

- Ride anytime, anywhere
- Encourage others to ride
- Achieve personal goals
- Join today to win prizes!

[lovetoride.net/bedfordshire](http://lovetoride.net/bedfordshire)








*French classes for children who can  
already understand and speak French.*

*Ecole des Petits Loups is a French Saturday school based  
near Letchworth. It specialises in teaching French to  
children from bilingual families (where at least one  
parent speaks French fluently)*

*Starting September 2019*

*If you would like more information, please email us at:  
[sophieecoledespetslousps@gmail.com](mailto:sophieecoledespetslousps@gmail.com)*

**Ecole des Petits Loups** -  
Sophie Graves -  
Tel: 077793843770 - [sophieecoledespetslousps@gmail.com](mailto:sophieecoledespetslousps@gmail.com) -  
[www.ecoledespetslousps.com](http://www.ecoledespetslousps.com)

# Diary Dates

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

<b>Autumn Term 2019</b>	
20th September	Jeans for Genes Day
23rd-27th September	Bike to School Week
24th September	SEND Coffee Morning 9.15am—10.30am
28th September	PSA Shefford Circus
4th October	Harvest Festival
7th October	Year 4 Alban and the Roman Trail Trip—St Albans Cathedral
11th October	Healthy Me Day
13th October	PSA Family Photo Shoot—Figment Photography
16th October	Parent Consultation Evening
16th October	Individual and Family Photos
17th October	Year 4 Cake Sale
18th October	Parent Consultation Evening
21st October	Half Term
28th October	Inset Day
29th October	Children Return to School
1st November	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
8th November	Diwali Day
11th—15th November	Anti-Bullying Week
15th November	Children in Need
22nd November	Year 2 Cake Sale
26th November	Oak Manor Music Visit



**Autumn Term 2019**

2nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
3rd December	Music Concert
3rd December	EYFS Concert 9.30am
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	KS2 Concert 9.30am, KS1 Concert 2.30pm
17th December	Christmas Dinner
18th December	EYFS Parties with Santa AM
18th December	KS1 Parties with Santa PM
18th December	KS2 Parties with Santa PM
20th December	Christmas Carols End of Term

## Absence

Please see the graph below on the impact absence can have on later achievement.

Just a reminder the school office will need proof of all medical appointments for these absences to be marked as 'Medical' otherwise these will be marked as 'Unauthorised'.

### 2018 Key Stage 2 by Attendance Analysis

2018 Provisional Key Stage 2 by Autumn 17/Spring 18 attendance					
Pupils attendance record:	% Reaching Expected Standard				
	Reading, Writing and Mathematics	Reading	Writing	Maths	
100% Attendance Record	75	82	87	85	
95% to 100% Attendance Record	64	76	81	76	
90% to 95% Attendance Record	57	70	75	69	
85% to 90% Attendance Record	43	64	60	56	
Less than 85% Attendance Record	34	50	44	40	
<b>Central Bedfordshire Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	

