

Weekly Update



Friday 14th February 2020



Happy half term to all our families and friends of the school.

It has been a much quicker half term than the two '8weekers!' we had in Autumn. The children have experienced so many additional activities and we are planning many more. There are events for parents too. Please do come along to the workshops we hold for your information.

Our first is E-safety. PC Denton is carrying this out for us, and it really is an event where you THINK you know. Each time he holds these talks for teachers we learn what is the latest danger to our children, and as a parent myself, I find his knowledge invaluable.

Our phonics workshop is also very useful. The Year 1 team have put together an event to help you, help your child. Reading is fundamental to all learning and all reasoning. This has been proven time and again in many different aspects of educational research. A structured phonics approach is building blocks of decoding the printed word, alongside a rich diet of different literature genres. This event will equip you with the knowledge of what is expected in the governments phonics screening test and ways in which you can help your child grow in confidence with their phonics.

We have World Book Day around the corner, and Miss Sharma has been devising activities in school for us all to enjoy together. We are holding this a little earlier in Shefford so that Year 4 can take part too.

Thank you for supporting us with traffic on entry to school. There is no need to drive up School Lane unless you have car park access, because it is a no parking zone, and no turning zone. The local authority have replaced the single yellow lines and are soon to repaint the cross-hatching area too. This also supports families who live in School Lane. The patrolling officer for the area spot checks our road and has added home times to his schedule.

Our wonderful PSA have events lined up next half term too. Please do come along to the Family Games Night, and if you have time to spare the committee, new members are being sought. Everyone is welcome and the group really are very amazing. Their sole purpose is to enhance the school offer for the children who attend, and I think you'll agree that this committee is worth being a part of.

If you prefer, we do also welcome volunteers. Perhaps you can spare time to support the library, or you might have a few moments to regularly tidy the book share. You may even have more regular time to hear readers and help with learning activities. Do contact our school office. We carry out the enhanced safeguarding checks here, so you don't need to.

Since I started at Shefford, we have introduced lots of lovely things such as house points, head teacher awards, finer diners and house celebrations. Undoubtedly, the children thrive on the positive ethos and values of our school. We remind the children that values are something the children should be doing EVEN IF NO ONE IS WATCHING. We have two simple rules, KIND & HELPFUL. This is because this is easy for even our youngest children to remember. If children are being helpful in all that they do, including learning readiness, then the classroom will be a hive of learning. If children are always kind, then courtesy and good behaviour comes with this. As adults, we model these expectations by no shouting, listening, understanding and doing our best to make Shefford Lower School the best it can be. We need your help with this always. Your feedback to us, and approaching us with matters helps us to resolve things quickly and improve the school all the time. We feel very lucky to have families that talk to us rather than about us. We all want the same thing—the best outcomes for the children and a good school in Shefford.

Thank you for your partnership and have a wonderful break this half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

Values

The values from January 27th—February 14th are **Love** and **Kindness**.

What is love (non romantic kind) and how it is shown through acts of kindness, and being thoughtful to others.

Parent E-Safety Session with PC Denton

On Tuesday 25th February we will be holding a Parent E-Safety Session with PC Denton at 9.00am in the hall. Come along for the latest information and advice on how to keep your children safe online.

Year 3 Swimming Lessons

Year 3 will start their swimming lessons after half term w/c 24/03/20—w/c 30/03/20.

Cedar & Hawthorn—Tuesday

Elm—Thursday



Frontier Centre Medication

Medication (including inhalers) for the Year 4 Frontier Centre needs to be handed in to the school office, along with the relevant forms, by **Wednesday 26th February**.

Year 1 Phonics Workshop



We will be holding a phonics workshop for parents of children in Year 1 on Thursday 27th February at 9.15am and 5.00pm. The aim of this is give parents and carers information on how we deliver phonics at school and how to support with phonics and reading at home. Please complete the form on ParentMail to let us know if you will be attending.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Monday 2nd March** due to the Year 4 children being at the Frontier Centre on the Thursday. Please keep an eye out on ParentMail for more information!

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Shefford Sporting Successes

We celebrate children's sporting successes on a Friday in assembly. Please let your child's class teacher know about any successes in sport they have had by Thursday morning at the latest.

Congratulations to the following children:

Willow

- Amber J—BX Dance Little Star Commendation

Hawthorn

- Hollie J—Commended grade for first dance exam & BX Dance Rising Star Commendation
- Evie E—2nd in Solo, 2 Baton, Duo, Poise and Personality for Baton Twirling



Music News

In our music assemblies this week we enjoyed listening to our guitar players – Harry, Daniel, Charlie, Simon and William, as well as Reuben on his trumpet and Enya, on her flute. Also, the year 3 recorder group performed several pieces.

At their class assembly, all children in Maple played “London’s Burning” on their ocarinas. Abhinaya performed her Grade 1 piano pieces and Poppy and Irina showed us what they have learnt on the violin. The Maple recorder players also played a selection of short pieces.

Class assemblies continue each Friday and all musicians in years 2, 3 and 4 will be offered the opportunity to perform. This includes children who learn an instrument out of school.

Instrumental lessons

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





Please see below regarding clubs **after half term**. Music and Spanish Clubs will continue as normal.

Monday

Year 1 PE Club - 3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Tuesday

Year 3 & 4 Technology Club—Lunchtime

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

Year 2 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Mid Beds Soccer (External Club)

w/c 06/01/20—10/02/20

(Booking form attached)

Wednesday

Year 1-4 Multi Skills Club—8.00am—8.50am

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Year 3 & 4 Mindfulness Club—Lunchtime

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

Year 3 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Thursday

Year 3 & 4 Press Club—Lunchtime

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Year 3 & 4 Science Club (Invite Only) - 3.20pm—4.00pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Year 1 & 2 Dance Club—3.20pm—4.00pm

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

Year 4 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Happy Little Yogi (External Club) - 3.30pm—4.30pm

w/c 24/02/20—30/03/20

(Booking form attached)

Friday

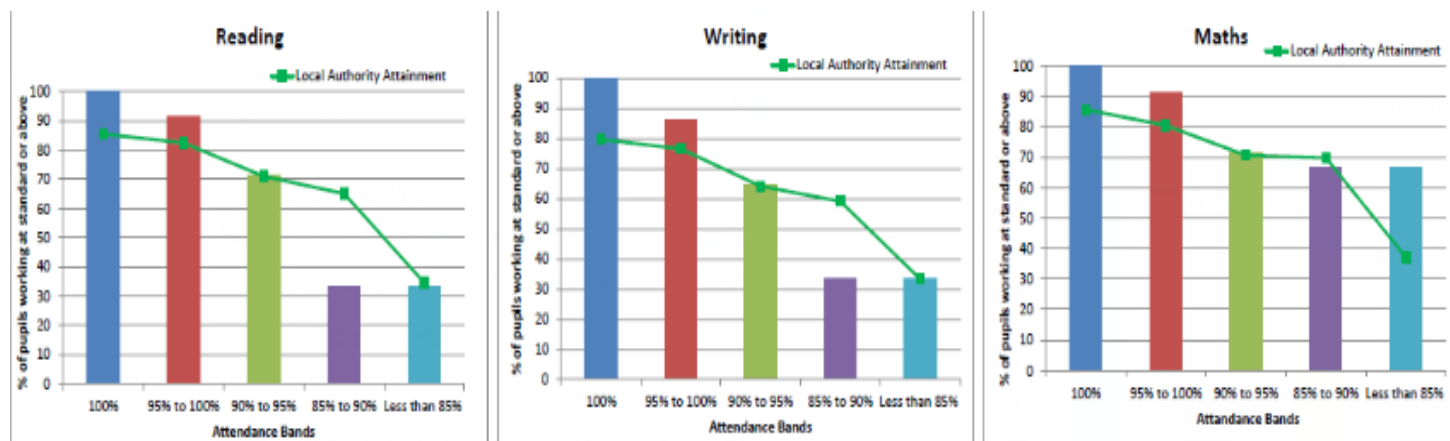
Little Ninja's (External Club) - 3.20pm—4.00pm

w/c 13/01/20—30/03/20

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

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!

W/C 03/02/20



Reception

Peach — Ben L

Pear — Livvy B

Plum — Maria D



Year 1

Chestnut — Marley B

Holly — Imogen H

Sycamore — Oscar D

Year 2

Maple — Theo K

Oak — Alice P

Willow — Kiera H



Year 3

Cedar — Sophie R

Elm — Amia N

Hawthorn — Harrison S



Year 4

Ash — Harry K

Beech — Jacob Z-N

Hazel — Kieran S

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

Charlie C
Jacob H
Oscar G
Bethany L
Maria D
Jemima C

Year 1

Summer C
Freya G
George C
Kayleigh F
James R

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

Year 2

Lily-Joyce G
Harry K
Sisilia N
Grace C
Scott B

Year 4

Annaliese L
Sophia J-S
Kayla M

Year 3

Katherine Z
Shenai L

PSA News



Forthcoming events:

Family Games Night – Friday 28th February

We still have a few tickets left for our Games night after half term, which includes, bingo, quizzes, raffle and several games of skill. There are many prizes to be won which include zoo passes, beauty vouchers, MOT's, soft play tickets and many more but more importantly, there is fun to be had with friends and family.

Tickets are £7.50 per person which includes a fish/sausage or veggie option & chip supper, served at 6pm followed by fun. Event should finish around 8.30pm. Refreshments available on the night along with a bar.


FINAL DEADLINE FOR FOOD ORDERS – Wednesday 26th Feb. Please drop your forms back to the office straight after half term.


Sponsored Bounce – Mon 30th March

Consent and sponsor forms out soon!

RAISE YOUR GAME
RAISE YOUR HEART RATE
RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOOL

**SPONSORED
BOUNCE**



 **Monday 30th March 2019**
(During the school day)

Please return your **SPONSORSHIP FORM** and
SPONSOR MONEY to reception or form teacher
on or before **Friday 27th March**

Community News

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

ARE YOU A PARENT/CARER/FAMILY MEMBER OF
A CHILD WHO HAS ADDITIONAL NEEDS?

Do you ever feel:

- Isolated
- Exhausted
- Overwhelmed
- Frustrated
- Judged
- Angry
- Depressed
- Misunderstood?



You are not the only one. Come along to...

CONNECT

- A support group in Stotfold open to parents, carers and family members of children who have additional needs
- The group has been set up by two mums to offer encouragement and support, and information about organisations to help you & your child
- There is no agenda - just time and space to rest, recharge, chat, share stories and refreshments!

WHEN?	1 ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (DURING TERM TIME)
WHAT TIME?	9.00 - 10.30 A.M.
WHERE?	KINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, STOTFOLD
HOW MUCH?	£1 (inc. tea/coffee/biscuits/cake)

Come along & 'Connect!' You will receive a warm welcome.

Find 'Connect' on Facebook! 

Half-term fun for all the family... Children's Tickets for Wednesday's performance just £5!



19TH-22ND February 2020
St Christopher's School Theatre



Box office: 07511 519387 or
ticketsource.co.uk/young-arcadians
or scan the QR Code

Registered Charity no: 206099

Book by

Original Music and Lyrics by

KEVIN DEL AGUILA
GEORGE NORIEGA
& JOEL SOMEILLAN

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture

Half term activities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Get active

We're delighted to offer a series of February half term holiday activity sessions across Central Bedfordshire for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The sessions are an opportunity for the whole family to attend an event together and share experiences with other families who also have a child with SEND.

Monday February 17 (12-1pm)

Flitwick Climbing Wall at [Flitwick Leisure Centre](#)

Cost: £8 per person

Advanced booking required, contact [Jody Woodfield by email](#).

Wednesday February 19 – at various times

Trampolining at [Sandy Sports Centre](#)

Sessions available:

9.30-10.30am

10.45-11.45am

Cost: £2.50 per child per session

To book a place call Tina Jeeves on 01767681872

Parents will be expected to supervise their children during the session.

Wednesday February 19 - Saturday February 22 – at various times

Planetarium 2020 at Chiltern Gateway Centre at Dunstable Downs.

At this indoor planetarium, learn all about the solar system, with the experts from Dark Sky Wales who will be on hand to share their vast knowledge about the stars we can see in the night sky.

Wednesday 3:15-3:45pm

Thursday 9:30-10am

Friday 3:15-3:45pm

Saturday 9:30-10am

Cost £5 (carers go in free)

To book contact [Rebecca Whitmore by email](#), or call 01582 500920.

Diary Dates

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

Spring Term 2020	
17th—23rd February	Half Term
24th February	Children Return to School
<i>25th February</i>	<i>Parent E-Safety Session with PC Denton</i>
25th February—31st March	Year 3 Swimming
27th February—2nd April	Year 3 Swimming
27th February	Year 1 Phonics Workshop 9.15am & 5.00pm
27th February	Peach Class Assembly 2.45pm
28th February	Oak Class Assembly 2.45pm
28th February	PSA Family Games Night
2nd March	World Book Day for SLS
4th—6th March	Year 4 Frontier Centre
6th March	Hawthorn Class Assembly 2.45pm
10th March	Book Fair
11th March	Book Fair
12th March	Pear Class Assembly 2.45pm
13th March	Ash Class Assembly 2.45pm
17th March	Year 4 Faith Tour
20th March	Plum Class Assembly 2.45pm
27th March	Beech Class Assembly 2.45pm
30th March	PSA Sponsored Bounce
6th April—19th April	Easter
20th April	Inset Day

Summer Term 2020	
21st April	Children Return to School
26th April	PSA Table Top Sale
29th April	Class Photos
1st May	Holly Assembly 2.45pm
6th May	Bag 2 School
6th May	Year 4 Bikeability
8th May	Bank Holiday
22nd May	Willow Assembly 2.45pm
25th May	Bank Holiday
26th—31st May	Half Term
1st June	Children Return to School
11th June	Year 3 Sing Out Play Out Concert at The Corn Exchange
12th June	Chestnut Class Assembly 2.45pm
15th June	Reception Open Evening
22nd June	Cherry Open Evening