Weekly Update



Friday 17th December 2021



Please email schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk if you require support in accessing this newsletter in an alternative for the support in accessing the second s

Dear Families and Friends,

I wish you all a very merry Christmas. This term has been eventful in many respects, and has ended with the anxieties of Omicron hanging over us all. I hope that the break will offer respite for families and enable us all to begin the new year healthy and well.

We have decided to go ahead with our Christmas carols on the playground, but in light of new information, we will be 'on the field'. This is to ensure our class bubbles can distance and so that parents will have a bit more space. To enter the building for this event, you will need a mask. This is an event in school hours, so this can be decided by us. Therefore in the interests of both vulnerable families and staff ahead of the break, wearing a mask is required. Although we will be spaced out on the field, we will do our best to ensure the sound is managed with the equipment we have. We know this will be a lovely event, and if managed safely, we can all enjoy it.

At the time of writing this, school have received communication from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the Schools for the Future project. Originally, this saw Shefford Lower becoming Shefford Primary in 2023. The most recent communication follows an email sent to head teachers in the school holidays back in August. This stated that there would be a recalibration. The Shefford and Stotfold cluster of schools have worked hard together to obtain some clarity around what this means for your children. The latest letter is provided to you. You will see that this does not enable us to decipher the timings, or project roadmap at this stage. We continue to seek that clarity for you, whilst at the same time, address the best outcomes for our wonderful school.

We strive hard for a values led education, which puts the community values at the heart. The broad educational offer we have is met through the dedication of our wonderful staff team, who I am proud to say, always put the children first. The work we do to support families in need, and to provide a range of extra curricular activities is extensive for a lower school, and we wish this to continue. Pupils leave our school with higher outcomes than when they begin, and above the national averages in all areas before they start middle school. We are grateful to learn through our questionnaire that you rate our school too. You would recommend us. Therefore, we will continue to seek the information required so that we can plan properly for the changes, allocating budget and resources where needed in the lead up to change. We thank you for your continued support and patience. We will continue to seek the views and understanding of the changes from parents through our focus group, but you may also choose to email us, write or speak to us.

It is a time for thanks too as we break up for the Christmas holidays. Our wonderful PSA wrapped nearly a thousand gifts for Present Day. They also helped Santa wrap all of his books, because his elves were catching up for Christmas. Our PSA really do make the children's experiences at school much better and their efforts are to be applauded.

We say goodbye too to Mrs Wright, who moves on to nursing has her career choice next. Good luck!

Mr Nittolo also leaves us for retirement. He promises us he will be back. He and Mr Thorogood have been incredible in ensuring our school is safe and well cared for. Many big projects have taken place this year, and been completed. See you soon Mr Nittolo.

If you are using the holidays to buy new school equipment, we politely remind you of the following :

- Please buy drawstring bags so that they stay on pegs, and things do not get lost (and corridors stay hazard free)
- Please ensure clothing is free from endorsing gaming that is not age appropriate—plain clothes for PE and Forest School.
- Do name all (each and every item) equipment brought into school.

Spring term is well known in school as a time when children make superb progress. Our units for each curriculum area are displayed on our website. You can support your child by looking ahead, and sharing the vocabulary or some related experiences through reading/visits or games if you wish.

Most of all, have a wonderful family Christmas and we will see you all refreshed in the new year.

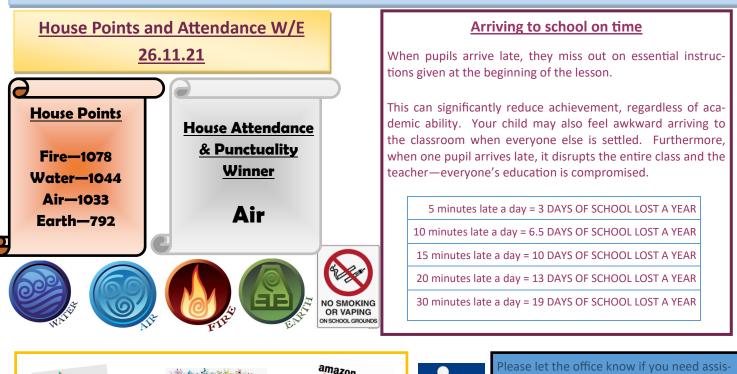


<u>Values</u>

The values of December will be Peace & Understanding

"All we are saying, is give peace a chance." John Lennon.

Understanding what peace is, and how can we bring peace about—conciliation, finding resolutions and solving problems together. Understanding the other perspective and point of view. Learning to understand the needs of others









E

Please let the office know if you need assistance or adjustments for any disability.

Blue badge holders can access the staff car park.

Thank you for your kind donations so far. We have added some more items to our Amazon wish list that will greatly benefit your children with their learning this year. If you would like to purchase a book for our school please click <u>here</u>

Safeguarding Information

At Shefford Lower School we take our responsibilities to promote safeguarding the welfare of all children seriously. The designated persons for safeguarding children is the Headteacher who can be contacted via the school office on 01462 629123 Please find useful information updated weekly

Mythbusters

Myth: "It's up to me if I smack my child to punish them."

Buster: This will always be investigated and recorded on *CPOMS by schools, because the law forbids smacking except in exceptional circumstances. EG: If the violence you use is severe enough to leave a mark, a scratch or a bruise, you can be prosecuted for assault.

*Child Protection Online Management System

If you are concerned about a child outside of school you can phone 999 in an emergency or 101 to make a report.

The NSPCC operated an urgent helpline on 0808800500

Merry Christmas from all the Shefford Lower Kitchen Staff at AIP. They served a record 460 Christmas Dinners on Tuesday





Even Rosco got in the Christmas Spirit with his Jumper on Tuesday

Thank you to everyone that has donated money for the Christingle at Shefford Lower School. The money donated will go to the Children's Society. We had a lovely presentation from the school choir with their L.E.D. lit Christingles singing Silent Night and then a Christmas message from Reverend Lorna. The children then got the opportunity to sing a few Christmas songs in our virtual assembly. We are very grateful for the donations of oranges from **Morrisons**, **Tesco Express**, The **Co-op** and **Asda** in Biggleswade. The children in Key stage 2 enjoyed making their Christingles and discussing the symbolic meaning of each part of the Christingle.



Mrs Ross will be posting weekly challenges for children to complete.

Answers will be welcome by Mrs Ross throughout the week.

Good luck.

Last weeks answer was

Stonehenge

Where am I?

- 600 species of plant 1/3 of all the species in Britain
- Britain's only desert as classified by the Met Office due to lack of freshwater and surface vegetation
- Said to be the largest area of shingle in Europe
- Marconi conducted his early trials of radio in this place
- It has a RSPB nature reserve
- It has the largest number of medicinal leeches in the country!

Lunchbox tips



Plan to Eatwell

The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced

NO DOGS ALLOWED IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Eatwell Guide

diet. It can be really useful when thinking

about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.

Weekly Good News Calls

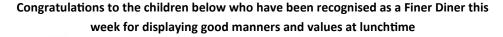
Here are the children whose parents and carers have received a phone call home this week to let them know how well their child has been working and showing their school values. Keep up the good work Shefford Lower.

<u>Reception</u>	Plum—Bella, Pear—Louie, Peach—Bonnie
<u>Year 1</u>	Holly—Esmae, Sycamore—Arla, Chestnut—Louis
<u>Year 2</u>	Oak—Georgia, Willow—Joshua, Maple— Kelly
<u>Year 3</u>	Cedar—Isla, Hawthorn—Giovanni, Elm—Denis
Year 4	Ash—Victoria, Hazel—Matthew, Beech— Ella



Shefford Sporting Successes

Since September, we have had over 100 sports awards celebrated in our Friday PE assembly! We have had a wide range of sports including football, swimming, gymnastics, rugby, Taekwon-do, basketball, running, dance, twirling and motorcross. We have still had achievements coming in this week, but these will be celebrated in the first week back after the Christmas holidays. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication to their sports and for being so active. Miss Leary and Mr Tilbury





EXCUSE N



<u>Reception</u>	Elsie, Harriet, Albie, Amelia, Nancy, Louie, Joshua, Teddy, George, Francessca, Noa Max & Renae	эh,
<u>Year 1</u>	Eva, Freddie, Sienna, Katie, Vinnie, Connie, Furqan & Robin	
Year 2	Reagen, Kelly, Eva, Ollie, Jesse & Daisy	
<u>Year 3</u>	Poppy, Joshua, James, Denis, Laila & Ruben	
<u>Year 4</u>	Lexi, Shae, Poppy, Leo , Joel & Livvie	nchtime

Community News

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



They will start school in September 2022, so you need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2022. O Apply online at www.centralbedfordshir e a paper application for ol Admissions 🕜 adm chool .uk 🕓 0300 300 803

If your child is due to start lower school or transfer to middle school you need to apply for your school place by the 15th January

Please follow the link for application guidance

Application Guidance



Booking Link

BOOK NOW:



Histmas

FOOTBALL CAM

Booking link



Booking Link





lars.com Tel: 07877 86 11 12



Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

Spring Term 2022

<u>5th January 2022</u>	<u>SPRING TERM Begins—Children Return</u>
13th January	Year 2 St Albans Material Trail
1stFebruary	Chinese New Year
2nd February	Year 3 Egyptian Day
8th and 10 February	Parents Consultation Evenings
11th February	Year 4 Bikeability
14th—18th February	Half Term
W/C 21st February	Year 3 Swimming lessons begin for 6 weeks
14th—18th March	Science Week
16th March	Year 1 Woburn Trip
<u>18th March</u>	<u>Red Nose Day</u>
30th March—1st April	Year 4 Residential Trip
1st April	Last day of Spring Term
19th April	SUMMER TERM Begins—Children Return
27th April	Whole Class Photos
6th June 2022	Extra Bank Holiday to mark The Queen's Platinum

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.

Please refer to our school website for the Academic Calendar for 2021/2022

Term Dates Links