



Weekly Update

Friday 18th September 2020



Hello Family and Friends,

It's been a very different week and we are moving into curriculum areas now that our children are settling into the new routines of the school. The learning environments are strong and our children are settled whilst in school.

We are very mindful of our obligations to send children home and keep the school safe so that we do not risk our open status for as many children as possible. We are adhering to the guidance for the type of cough and measure of temperature we should action. However, the huge challenges being faced to obtain testing is known to us. It is the same currently for our teachers, who are not prioritised as key workers, so lobbyists are doing all they can to ensure this is made a priority. Getting children into school safely and keeping the school a safe place to learn and play, is our highest goal. The issues arising from the poor testing facilities is more than frustrating and is impactful for families in already difficult circumstances. We are able to send home links to our learning. Going forward, as we move into our curriculum after reintegration, our pupils have their own logins, which we will be rolling out so that their key stage leaders can meet with them at the ends of the day to feedback about any learning queries.

With this in mind, please do help us by sticking to the measures we have in place to keep everyone safe. We know many of you have supported the measures with other parents and are helping us to keep the messages alive.

This week in school we have been working on our house captain manifestoes. Our children learn lots about the democratic process, and gaining votes through hustings, by undertaking the process. We begin with Year 4 voting in their classes after hearing what candidates offer. The winners of the initial rounds will then carry out their hustings into each class virtually using their TEAMS platform.

Excitingly, we have plans for Harvest and this will be the first opportunity for our captains to carry out their community role and demonstrate their leadership.

The children had their first virtual assembly this week. We talked about the power of our values 'Unity and Belonging' and how we include everyone in our school community. As we are not allowed to sing in class at the moment, we began to learn a BSL song and learned the sign for 'together'. We will do it again on Monday and see if the children have remembered it.

The weather has been a real boon, because we have increased our outside learning; this is partly for ventilation and hugely to maximise the potential of enjoyment in the curriculum. The happy faces have said it all.

A final reminder about the school site, whilst we have the majority of users treating our school site with respect, we have had dogs and discarded masks this week. We politely ask that you don't put our staff in the awkward position of asking you to leave, or pick up such items.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

Values

The values from 4th—27th September 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.

School Parliament

Children have voted in their classes for representatives for School Parliament 2020-2021. Please see the results below:

Year 1

Chestnut—Sophie B and Max P

Holly—Jack R and Holly W

Sycamore—Robyn W and Reuben

Year 3

Cedar—Charlie A and Evie E

Elm—Rose P and Harry K

Hawthorn—Ashley A and Abhinaya S

Year 2

Maple—Charlie W and Emmie K

Oak—Rosie M and Ollie W

Willow—Poppy K and Sen L

Year 4

Ash—Matthew B and Harper R

Beech—Katherine Z and Charlie G

Hazel—Ewan C and Grace C



Apply for your child's school place for 2021

Applications are now open if your child is due to start school, or transferring to a middle , secondary or upper school in September 2021.

If you are applying for a place for a place **to start school** or **to join a middle school**, you have until **15th January 2021** to make an application.

The deadline for applications for young people **transferring to a secondary or upper school** next year is **31st October 2020**.

To ensure you have the necessary information to enable you to make an informed choice regarding your child's education, Central Bedfordshire's school admission webpages also contain further information about schools in Central Bedfordshire and about the application process.

We would encourage you to apply for a school place using Central Bedfordshire's online application system. It's a quick and simple process that allows applications to be reviewed or amended at any time up until the deadline date.

Alternatively, paper application forms are available from our School Admissions team. Call 0300 300 8037, email or write to School Admissions , Central Bedfordshire Council, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, LU6 1LF.

parent safety measures

Walk the one way

The one way system prevents the risk of contamination from passers by, and also helps to maintain the social distancing.

Keep the distance

Covid spreads less easily if people aren't close to each other. We have marked out lines to stay behind, and a safety box at the door to keep clear. Please stay outside of the box when talking to teachers.

One adult per drop off or collection

With 500 families, keeping numbers down will help to keep you safe, reduce the infection rate and help to keep our school empty. Please do not arrive on site in twos, or threes, or with friends.

Fewer adults on site

at the same time

Our staggered timings reduce the numbers of adults on site at any one time. We know they don't fit everyone, particularly if you have several drop-offs, so please talk to us if you have exceptional challenges. We have classes using different doors, and we also request adults move on after their designated time to help us keep congestion down. We are available by phone or email to answer queries and support you.

Sanitise and hand wash

Kill the virus in its tracks by using soap or hand sanitiser, and support your child to understand the benefits of hand hygiene

Masks

If you enter the reception foyer, you will be in an enclosed space with other users. We advise you wear a mask. In all situations, please do not discard masks on the school grounds. Use bins or take them home to dispose of. We recommend contacting the office by phone or email in most circumstances.

**Thank you
for your support**



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



Select & Collect Children –

are you bored with the
books you have at home?

You can now order
some new ones
from the library!



Go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
or phone 0300 300 8067

 CBClibraries
 @cbc_libraries

 www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Diary Dates

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

Autumn Term 2020	
<i>2nd October</i>	<i>Healthy Me Day</i>
12th October	Harvest
13th October	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
20th October	Parent Consultation Evening
21st October	Individual School Photographs
22nd October	Parent Consultation Evening
23rd October	PSA Mufti Day
26th October	Half Term
2nd November	Inset Day
3rd November	Children Return to School
3rd November	Year 1 Vision Screening
6th November	Diwali Day
13th November	Children in Need
16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
<i>23rd November</i>	<i>Flu Immunisations for Year R, 1, 2,3 and 4</i>

2nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
3rd December	EYFS Concert 10.00am
4th December	EYFS Concert 2.00pm
7th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal AM, KS2 Dress Rehearsal PM
9th December	KS1 Concert 9.30am, KS2 Concert 2.30pm
10th December	KS2 Concert 9.30am, KS2 Concert 2.30pm
11th December	Present Day
14th December	Christingle 50th Anniversary
15th December	Christmas Dinner
16th December	EYFS Parties with Santa AM
17th December	KS1 Parties with Santa AM
17th December	KS2 Parties with Santa PM
18th December	Christmas Carols End of Term