



Weekly Update

Friday 1st November 2019



Dear Families and Friends,

As I write this, I can see that we have lots of children excited to go out in their Halloween costumes. The range of spooky ideas has been really varied!

You will see in our pages how busy our PSA have been in raising funds and developing events that the children benefit from. Recently, their work resulted in a donation from the Co-op, which was collected by our PSA in the holidays.

In school, we had training from Dr Dennis Piper. This training is aimed at building resilience and managing anxiety for our pupils, many of whom need additional support from our vulnerable pupil team. We hosted to three other schools and the feedback has been entirely positive.

With 'Anti-bullying week' on the horizon, we are focussing on the values of Tolerance and Friendship. Our values underpin our school ethos, and I am sure you will all agree that through developing understanding, we will have a more respectful and harmonious school. We will be focussing on our TWO SCHOOL RULES—BE KIND ~ BE HELPFUL. Easy to remember, makes it easy to talk about. To celebrate difference, we will be allowing the children to wear their odd socks on ODD SOCK DAY, but will not be charging for donations.

The Rickshaw Challenge from BBC Children In Need is coming to Shefford—you may have heard? Each class is making a poster and we will be going in to town as a school to support this. We would appreciate as many parent volunteers as possible to help walk the children down, so please contact the school office if you are able to do this.

Our school Open days—Tuesday 5th 9.15am & Thursday 7th 9.15am— are aimed at new parents wanting to find out about our school. Please do share these dates with friends in the community. Mrs Ross and I look forward to meeting new families.

I had the absolute pleasure this week, being outside and families talking to me about the support they feel they have had so far this year. Thank you for sharing the good with me. I do always pass this on to our staff.

We have again contacted CBC about cars in school lane. One family had to step out of the way of a car this Thursday morning, and had it been a child I shudder to think of the consequences. Please drive slowly, and park responsibly. The entry to school is double yellow lines, and the cross hatched area protects the way onto our field for emergency vehicles.

We are seeing a very positive upward trend for attendance, and I wish to express my thanks to families for this. The impact on learning is significant.

This term, we welcome new receptionist, Mrs Fuller to the team. We also have Mrs Whitmill a TA in Reception.

Have a wonderful weekend, and if you are visiting a fireworks display we hope it is wonderful safe fun.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

Values

The values from October 29th—November 22nd are **Tolerance** and **Friendship**.

- *This is also Anti-bullying month.*
- *Tolerance is understanding, rather than 'putting up with.'*

Remembrance Day Parade—Sunday 10th November

A form was sent out on ParentMail before half term regarding the Remembrance Day Parade in Shefford on Sunday 10th November.

If children would like to represent Shefford Lower School on this special occasion please complete the form on ParentMail to let us know that you will be attending. Mr Bowen and Mrs Finch will be meeting children and parents at 10.25am at Old Bridge Way, we will then walk down to the War Memorial where we will be laying a wreath.

Children will need to wear school uniform and will need to be accompanied by a parent throughout the parade.



Dinner Money

School dinners can be paid via cash or cheque (made payable to Alliance in Partnership) and need to be paid for in advance. All payments should be made in a sealed envelope marked clearly with your child's name and class.

Daily: £2.10

Weekly: £10.50

Autumn Term 2 (29th October—20th February): £81.90

Aldi's Kit for Schools

We have managed to complete a Aldi's Kit for Schools poster; thank you for collecting the stickers! We have more stickers left over so we will now start completing a second poster so keep them coming! Stickers can be collected from Aldi stores until Sunday 3rd November.



Savers Club

The last Savers Club for this term will be on **Thursday 5th December**.

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

Oliver C
Ayaz G
Joshua S
Max P
Isaac P
Sienna A

Year 1

Rosie M
Freya G
Joshua B
Marley B
Lucas S
Crystal W
Joseph F

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

Year 2

Abhinaya S
Sam T
Hannah G
Frankie P
Charlie A

Year 4

Sienna H
JJ O
Willow C
Annaliese L
Vinnie C

Music News

At our music assembly this week, we prepared for our Remembrance assembly. We also enjoyed listening to William (Ash) play his violin and also our Year 4 recorder players.

Year 2 Recorder Tasters

Year 2 recorder tasters have now finished. All children who wish to continue must have their own instrument and tuition book so that they can practice at home.



Community Carol Singing at Shefford Christmas Lights

There will be community carol singing at the switching on of the Shefford Christmas lights on **Saturday 30th November.**

Christmas Music Concert

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



PSA News



Thank You

Thank you to our new friends at the Co-op who have generously donated £250.00 to our schools Immersive room phase 2 fund.



Bag 2 School

Thank you to everyone who dropped off the bags for Bag 2 School—this is an easy way for us to have a clear out AND raise money for the school.

PSA Christmas Cards

Christmas card proofs were sent home with children this week. To order please go to www.apfsorders.co.uk and input the unique code found on the artwork label, on the reverse of your child's artwork. Orders must be placed by midnight on **Monday 11th November**. Any orders placed after this date will be classed as a late order and will be subject to a handling and postage fee. If you have any problems ordering online please contact the school office.

Present Day

Our firm favourite is back again this year! A separate Parentmail has been sent with all instructions on how this works. Presents must be brought to school week commencing 2nd Dec ONLY and handed in to classrooms at drop off. The PSA team will collect and sort each day. No presents can be accepted after 9am on Friday 6th Dec. For those taking part - presents will be chosen by your child on Friday 13th Dec and wrapped by the elves, they will then bring them home that evening.

Your School Lottery— EVERY Saturday

We have had 2 winners during the school holidays...Well done Kim M who won £20.00 and James N who has won for a second time. Your winnings are on their way to you both. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN! Tickets can be purchased at any time. 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.



PSA News

Raffle Tickets

Prior to half term we sent some raffle tickets home with your children for this years Christmas Hamper draw. We have 5 luxury hampers to be won PLUS a special children's one. One of this years hampers has been kindly donated by the new Shefford Co-Op store. The raffle will be drawn during the last Christmas Concert on 12th December. Additional tickets are available via the school office .

Christmas Fayre

We are also holding this year's Christmas Fayre on Friday 13th December. This will take place in the afternoon and run after school for you to drop in at after you've collected your children from their classes. There will be the usual favourite game stalls, tombola's, crafts to purchase and refreshments including hot dogs and cakes. Please come along and support this fun event!

We are also collecting jam jars to fill for the tombola – if anyone has the ones they may have won at the circus still lying around we are happy to take these back (full or empty). Please return to school office.

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.

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: Wednesday 13th November from 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 in to the school office to register your interest.

Mufti Day

Friday 29th November 2019

The PSA ask that the children bring in the following donations for the Christmas fair and in return they can wear mufti to school!

Reception & Cherry Class £1.00 donation

Year 1 & 2

Chocolate : Selection boxes, chocolate bars, bags of chocolate sweets, box of chocolates



Year 3

Bottles : Wine, juice, bubble bath, anything in a bottle!

Year 4


Filled Jam Jars : Use an empty glass jar and fill it with anything you like. These will be used on our tombola's

All food and drink items need to have a 'Best Before' date of at least Jan 2020



Community News

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



Managing Emotions, Resilience, Self-Esteem & Risk-Taking Behaviours

Wednesday 13th November 2019


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

When: Wednesday 13th November 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 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



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	 @camhswellbeing1
 www.camhs.elft.nhs.uk	 www.eventbrite.co.uk



Etonbury

4 Corner coaching

Football Development Centre



Wednesdays:
Etonbury Academy, Arlesey. SG15 6XS – 5.00-6.00pm - Astroturf – Ages 4 – 6 year olds and 6 to 12 year olds (Mixed Sessions).

SOG's small sided games 3v3, 4v4

Individual skills sessions – players supported in all 4 corners
Technical – Physical – Psychological – Social

Matches 5v5, 6v6, 7v7

To book onto the course visit www.4cornercoaching.co.uk
Cost £4 per session – paid in blocks of sessions

Contact : Natasha – 07957980492 – natasha@4cornercoaching.co.uk
All coaches DBS Safeguarding and Emergency Aid.



Diary Dates

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

Autumn Term 2019	
2nd November	STMA Fireworks—Glowsticks sold by the PSA
<i>5th November</i>	<i>Open Day 9.15am</i>
6th November	RBA Open Evening 4.15pm
<i>7th November</i>	<i>Open Day 9.15am</i>
8th November	Diwali Day
11th—15th November	Anti-Bullying Week
12th November	Odd Sock Day
15th November	Children in Need
18th—24th November	Road Safety Week—'Step Up for Safe Streets'
19th November	Flu Vaccinations for Years R –4
20th November	Beep Beep Day
22nd November	Year 2 Cake Sale
26th November	Oak Manor Music Visit
29th November	PSA Mufti Day
<i>30th November</i>	<i>Community Carols at Shefford Christmas Lights</i>

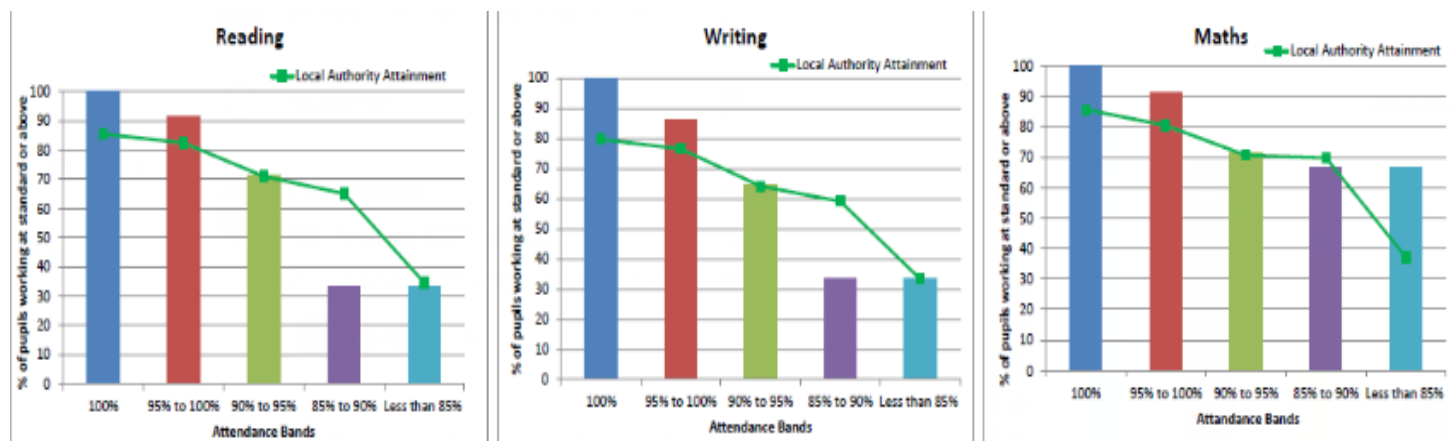
Autumn Term 2019

2nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
3rd December	EYFS Concert 2.30pm
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