

SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL

School Lane, Shefford,
Bedfordshire.
SG17 5XA



8th January 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

What a start to the term it has been! We do hope you have all been well and kept safe.

Thank you for getting information back to us so quickly when it is asked of you. We have been able to get up an running quickly as a result.

In school we have been able to open a bubble for each year group and an additional bubble in KS1 for years one and two. Those bubbles are now full, and we therefore operate priority criteria only. It may not be possible to move children into classes with their explicit friends, but we will of course do our best.

We are now aiming at ensuring provision for Cherry is available more fully from Monday, and your support in returning information is gratefully received.

Attendance has been much discussed in the news, particularly as the government have set minimum hours for school work. This was between 3-5 hours depending on the age of your child. However this changed, with a stronger directive that KS2 children should be working 4 hours. This affects our children in year 3 and in year 4. The learning plans for the week are sent out to you by Parentmail on Fridays. Some families have requested this so that they can begin at the weekend and do less in the week. Where families do not have internet access, we have been able to organise work packs and regular feedback calls.

We have gone beyond DfE expectations, to ensure that you have more than one route for school contact, and we know that this is what families need. Whilst we have set up feedback sessions on Microsoft TEAMS, we have also been able to continue phone contact for pupils who cant reach those sessions and are more than happy to take queries by email too. We understand you have working lives and commitments.

Please do ensure you have had school contact. We will endeavour to ensure contact with your family regularly, using your chosen method. Children who have not been contacted by school are deemed 'missing'. In discussion, the Local Authority requested we raise concerns for children who fall into this category after 3 days.

Free school meals are now issued via the voucher system and we ask that you ensure we have your latest contact details. If you have changed your phone over Christmas, or moved house please let us know. Additionally, please ensure we have the latest medical information for your child.



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In school, we are mirroring the same curriculum with your child that we are sending home. This is to ensure that children returning to school when lockdown eases will be at similar starting points. Please let us know if you cannot access your child's curriculum.

In school, Mr Tilbury has been taking children for two PE sessions each day. We are remaining active as well as learning. If you would like support in staying active at home, please do contact us.

We have had some very helpful suggestions from families as well as our community partners, and we welcome your ideas. Look out for our 'hearts' community project coming soon!

We understand this is a stressful time, but at Shefford Lower School we are optimistic about the year ahead.

Have a safe and healthy weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Pamela Finch

M.Ed, NPQH, PG.Dip, PG.Cert, BAHons

