

SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL

School Lane, Shefford,
Bedfordshire.
SG17 5XA



22nd January 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

With snow possibly on the way, we have been enjoying what sunshine we have, with lots of outdoor fun and games while we can.

Next week we have exceedingly high numbers as anticipated, so with increased bubble opening there has been some pupil movement. Whilst we are trying to avoid changing registration groups too much, this is unavoidable, with numbers of children accessing education changing each week as well as day to day. You need us to be flexible to fit with shift patterns and changes of circumstances, and we are able to match this. We remain full at capacity, with spaces reserved only for critical workers and those in the most vulnerable categories. Please only request a place if you cannot avoid doing so.

Learning being delivered in school, or on TEAMS is matched to the learning plans sent home via Parentmail. Some teachers may occasionally add extra bits to their TEAMS sessions, such as pop quizzes or a story they discovered to read. We encourage them to continue this, but please know that the plans sent to you on a Friday are the core curriculum we cover, and there is no additional pressure at home to mirror more.

Reception classes have switched to weekly plans being sent home, which match their TEAMS lessons. We realise some of you liked to receive these daily, but in order to plan ahead, many families are requesting a weekly schedule. The plans mirror the activities Reception staff have shared on Facebook.

To provide additional support, we can send home paper packs, and follow up with calls. We do also have a Facebook theme each month, and are on our last week of 'Hibernation' next week, before we move to 'Celebrations'. Some of you have been enjoying these as weekend activities, or simply to ring the changes.

Whilst we hope for fantastic weather to help everyone get the best of the outdoors, we know that snow brings its own outdoor fun. If we have snow, and you go out and enjoy it, send us in your photos and we will share them.

Lastly, I would urge families to keep up the reading. We know from international and UK research how crucial reading in the early years of education is, in ensuring success across all subjects. Our own pupil survey has been analysed. It is very clear that year groups and classes where reading is high, matches our pupil performance data. We recommend little and often every day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pamela Finch
M.Ed, NPQH, PG.Dip, PG.Cert, BAHons



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