



Weekly Update

Friday 20th November



Dear Friends & Families,

We are very grateful to see the increases in wearing masks whilst dropping off and collecting. Thank you for your support with this. It is clear we have been very fortunate so far in school, and we have not had to close any class or year group bubbles, unlike other local schools. We remain vigilant of course. One of the clearest pinch points is the alley from Bloomfield Drive, and we urge you to leave 2 meters here, and also dismount bikes and scooters on this path as always. Thank you

I have been delighted this morning on my walk round classes. It is always a pleasure to have our youngest children explain to me how they are using their maths resources to calculate successfully, and a joy to see children using their phonics to write. Just today, I had the pleasure of seeing how early years are using their understanding of pattern to write maths in their workbooks. We have some superstars coming through the school for sure. Mrs Ross, as you may be aware, has responsibility in our school for ensuring talents and high abilities are spotted and nurtured in our open ended teaching and other strategies. We are always keen to hear about talents outside of school too. Please keep sending in photos, emails and messages.

Last week I promised to update you all with our Christmas Action Plan. I am delighted that we will be welcoming THE ARK who are a LIVING NATIVITY provider. We know that without their usual performance, making Christmas special and the story memorable is crucial. We are so excited about this. In addition, we are planning an extra special crafts dinner day. The dinners will be in class bubbles, with the boards showing the roaring fires and carols playing. The children will spend the morning designing and decorating their tables. In the afternoon they will design and make hats for a special competition with prizes. All this kicks off well before though, with advent. We will be having a decoration day in school on Monday 30th, and whilst we cannot have volunteers in, we will still be making this a lot of fun. The teachers will then be here after school putting up the decorations and winter boards for a wow the next day. Following on, we will have a daily class advent with a weekly wreath assembly.

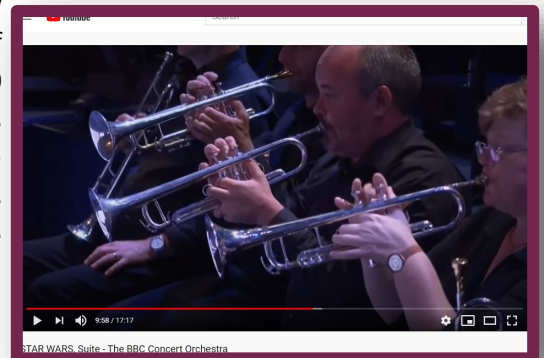
Performances will be slightly different, but we are not going entirely without. We are allowed to make music with bells and ukuleles and we can tell our stories with puppets and technologies. Each key stage is doing something different. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Children's Society Christingles. We aim to make our Christingle oranges to celebrate, so any donations for providing fruits, please see Mrs Ross.

There will be lots going on in classes individually, so we will take a speed film and collate this for you, being mindful of safeguarding to showcase you the activities rather than faces of children.

We are also connecting with our friends at Oak Manor, to send them greetings from our classes too. In addition, we aim to make ONE GIANT CAKE for a secret gifting—but more on that later. Our PSA have purchased wooden spoons to support us in making a spoonville too! By having the support of the PSA, this means no child misses out, and the decorated spoons will enable us to make a whole school photo to share with you all directly and on our media.

Our partner school in Sri Lanka remains closed at the moment, but our connections in other countries mean that we will compare Christmas around the world. Don't forget that the Eco-Council have found an alternative for cards this year too!

This week, Year 2 had a special assembly from Dave McCallum from the BBC Concert Orchestra. He wowed them with his expert trumpet playing and the different 'mutes' he uses to make different effects. We saw him play in the BBC Proms on YouTube below and were able to ask him lots of questions. He has been playing trumpet since learning the cornet first at school, 40 years ago. Among other tunes, he shared a bit of his Strictly Come Dancing, as he has been involved in some of the sound recordings for this show too. A clear favourite was Star Wars. If your child would like to take up an instrument, please do raise this with us. There are opportunities to learn an instrument as children go through the school, and Inspiring Music are still able to provide lessons for individuals.



Have a great weekend.

From Mrs Finch

Values

The values from 16th November— 18th December are **Peace and Understanding**

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

Understanding what peace is, and how we can 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.

House Points and Attendance

Well done to the winning houses for the W/C 02/11/20 and 09/11/20 for house points and attendance!

W/C 02/11/20

House Points

Earth—1001

Air—741

Water—691

Fire—444



House Attendance

Water—99.42

Earth—98.19

Fire—97.71

Air—97.11



W/C 09/11/20

House Points

Air—571

Earth—544

Fire—460

Water—287



House Attendance

Water—99.05

Fire—98.51

Air—96.81

Earth—96.55



Sheffield Sporting Successes

We celebrate children's sporting successes from home as well as those in school. Please send us photos of your child's certificates and medals which will be displayed on our PE celebration board., We know that most sports clubs won't be going ahead for a while but please can parents still send in any ways that children are keeping active at home so that we can celebrate this!

Congratulations to the following children:

Reception

Anella C—Swimming

Year 3

Evie H—Achieving Stage 3 in swimming.

Year 4

Eleanor B—Gymnastics

Phoebe B—Puddle Jumping



Flu E-consent Form

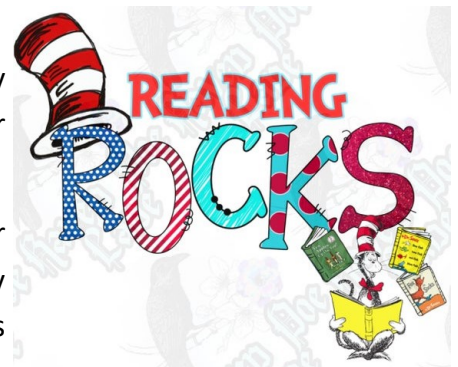
Just a reminder that the deadline for flu immunisation e-consent forms is **5.00pm on Tuesday 24th November**. The form can be found here <https://immsconsent.eput.nhs.uk/FluConsent/Form1/#!/Page1>. The 'School URN' that it asks for is **109479**.

If you have difficulties opening the link please try an alternative device or contact the team on 0300 790 0594.

Flu vaccinations will be taking place in school on Thursday 26th November.

Useful websites and tips for reading with your child:

- Follow Up—Build reading comprehension and critical thinking skills by asking follow up questions about the stories you read together. For older children ask them to write a paragraph about the story and explain what they learnt.
- Keep a Book Basket in Every Room—Make books accessible by keeping a basket of age-appropriate books in every room of your home.
- Do a Reading Night—Substitute movie night or game night for reading night and have the whole family sit together in the family room and read. Start with 15 minutes and work your way up as the children get older.



Amazon Wish List

We are very excited to announce that we have created a Wish List on Amazon which contains carefully selected books and resources which we know will greatly benefit your children with their learning this year. If you wish to purchase a book for our school, please use the link below to find the full list:



https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2ZZUJD59NIDQ7/?ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist#

This list is updated by staff throughout the year and can be accessed by anyone. We've made it really easy to donate a book to the school:

You can choose to get the books delivered directly to the school office or if you wish you can add it to your personal shopping and simply bring it in.

Thank you so much for your help with this matter. Your donations will be gratefully received and the children will benefit massively.

Phone Calls Home

Teachers will be making phone calls home every week to let parents and carers know how well their child has been working and for showing school values! Keep up the good work Shefford Lower!

W/C 09/11/20



Reception

Peach — Leo B-B

Pear — Toby A

Plum — Alice J, Sophie C and Anna L



Year 1

Chestnut — Jessica R

Holly — Eva L

Sycamore — Reuben W



Year 2

Maple — Alexandra D

Oak — Scarlett N

Willow —

Year 3

Cedar — Freya A-P

Elm — Jack C

Hawthorn — Abhinaya S

Year 4

Ash — Isla H

Beech — Shenai L

Hazel — Pippa C



PSA News

Next meeting – Wednesday 25 November @ 7.30 (online)

Do you want to share ideas, discuss and plan future fundraising events to support the school? Join us at our next meeting by contacting us through our Facebook page or calling the school office.

Recent Updates

Virtual Book Fair

A massive thank you to everyone who ordered a book during our virtual book fair. We were able to purchase £75 worth of books which will be a great addition to the topic boxes for KS1 and KS2 and also some marvellous maths books for EYFS.

Christmas hamper raffle

Each student should now have received 2 books at £1 per book.

If you would like more tickets then please email the school office and they will distribute to your child.

If you do not wish to purchase tickets then please return to your class teacher.

Photos of the hampers have been shared on our Facebook page so make sure you take a look at the fabulous prizes on offer.

Your School Lottery & Easyfundraising

Thank you so much for your continued support with both of these ongoing fundraising projects that we are a part of.

If you are not already signed up then please check out our Facebook page over the weekend for more details.

A big thank you to everyone for your continued support of our PSA



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell
But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP

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**



Community News

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

SNAP PCF Annual Survey

SNAP PCF are running their annual survey to measure parents satisfaction of SEND services across education, health and care in Central Bedfordshire. This survey is important as we need a benchmark of parents current experiences to be able to measure progress over the next 18 months.

We will anonymise the survey data and report our findings to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), the Department for Education (DfE) OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of the Written Statement of Action Central Bedfordshire received for significant areas weaknesses in six areas https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/133/improving_send_services

Parents can enter a prize draw for completing the survey to win M&S gift vouchers.

Link to the Satisfaction of SEND Services survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FKVZYW3>

If parents would like to become a member of SNAP PCF please complete our membership form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>

Stagecoach Performing Arts Biggleswade

Stagecoach Performing Arts Biggleswade is coming to Shefford Lower School January 2021! We offer safe and socially distanced classes in Drama, Singing, and Dance. Please head to our website www.Stagecoach.co.uk/biggleswade to book your two week trial. Alternatively you can call 01767 777051 for more information.

Diary Dates

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

Autumn Term 2020	
26th November	Flu Immunisations for Year R, 1, 2,3 and 4
<i>3rd December</i>	<i>Ark Farm—Living Nativity</i>
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