



Weekly Update

Friday 21st January 2022



Please email schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk if you require support in accessing this newsletter in an alternative format.

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for your support with wearing face coverings on our site. We are trying very hard to keep numbers as low as we can. We have seen a considerable rise in covid confirmed cases, and we are following the advice for classes which breach thresholds. This includes ventilation, social distancing and increased hygiene. Additionally we are retaining our bubbles, although this is not included in the current advice from the government.

We will be seeking your view shortly regarding parents consultations. Last term we offered a mixture of virtual, telephone and face to face. This was with one parent per child, with face covering. With a more highly transmissible variant working through our school community we are considering whether face to face meetings are the most sensible option. Please help us with this decision by answering the parentmail poll when it arrives.

This week we have had a look at snacks that come into school. Children in Early Years, and in KS1 are offered a free piece of fruit or veg for their snack from the government. Snacks brought in should follow the same principles—fresh fruit or veg. This is not only healthy, but it also minimises litter on our site. Water should be in water bottles to ensure that teeth are not impacted by a steady flow of sugar if sipping juice from a bottle throughout the day. Water is also the healthiest drink and excellent for supporting learning. Our uniform policy is included with today's newsletter. Please note that children are not permitted to wear nail varnish, jewellery and accessories in school and footwear should be black, well fitting shoes. We can offer financial support to eligible families and urge those in need to come forward. All matters are confidential. As part of safeguarding, we do not allow the merchandising of children with games logos that are not age appropriate and may normalise activities that can lead to harm. Please do not send children to 'Forest School' or to lunch, with logo clothes or equipment.

Every morning I do love greeting the children and setting the tone for a cheerful day. It is so wonderful to get a cheery 'good morning' in return. I also like to give out our housepoints when I see our rules being followed, such as dismounting cycles & scooters from the path, or being super helpful. Thank you for encouraging this with the children too.

After I am out on the gate, I make a tour of the classrooms, and do this later in the day too. I come to know the children and what they are working on. It is an absolute pleasure to see children settling so fast in the mornings. All of our classes start their learning with a 'morning challenge' routine which contributes to the curriculum, and all classes also ensure a wellbeing check in. We encourage families to check in with us if you have any concerns. It is always our aim to work in partnership with you to support the children and ensure they feel safe and secure. All classes have a photo on the door of people who can help, so children know who they can go to for support.

I have noticed some wonderful reading coming into school and children keen to show me the book they are currently 'into'. Children also benefit from seeing adults read at home, and talking about books. In school teachers share their own reading habits and we make time for DEAR—Drop Everything And Read. Our Amazon wish list remains active, and you can also find ideas for reading by viewing our curriculum documents for your child's year group. On our 'Curriculum' page <https://www.sheffordlowschool.co.uk/curriculum> just click on the subject you are interested in, and enjoy exploring the reading that focusses that unit.



We have been posting some useful articles around children's development and the importance of reading on our facebook page too. We hope these have been interesting to you.

Have a great weekend.

From Mrs Finch



Values

The values of December will be Peace & Understanding

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

Understanding what peace is, and how can we 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 W/E

17.12.21

House Points

Air—822
Fire—756
Earth—747
Water—681

House Attendance & Punctuality Winner

Air



Arriving to school on time

When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson.

This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else is settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher—everyone's education is compromised.

5 minutes late a day = 3 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

10 minutes late a day = 6.5 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

15 minutes late a day = 10 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

20 minutes late a day = 13 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

30 minutes late a day = 19 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR



Thank you for your kind donations so far. We have added some more items to our Amazon wish list that will greatly benefit your children with their learning this year. If you would like to purchase a book for our school please click [here](#)



Please let the office know if you need assistance or adjustments for any disability.

Blue badge holders can access the staff car park.

Safeguarding Information

At Shefford Lower School we take our responsibilities to promote safeguarding the welfare of all children seriously. The designated persons for safeguarding children is the Headteacher who can be contacted via the school office on 01462 629123

Please find useful information updated weekly

Safer Internet day is on the 8th February 2022. Please find some useful links for guidance on how to protect your child's devices

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/home-activity-worksheets/early-years/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/>

If you are concerned about a child outside of school you can phone 999 in an emergency or 101 to make a report.

The NSPCC operated an urgent helpline on 0808800500

Reading at Home Support

Please find a list of questions you could use to support your child when sharing a book at home. These questions will prompt conversation around the text that has been read.

Author Technique Questions

Can your child tell you the overall effect the author has created for the reader from their writing?

Questions you could ask your child:

I wonder why the author has decided to describe the character like that. What do you think?

Why do you think the author chose this setting and described it in this way?

What makes this a good story? Why do you think that?

How does this story make you feel? / What is the author trying to tell you about ...?

Why do you think the author has written that sentence in that way? What effect do you think he is trying to have on the reader?

What does the description of this character tell us about how the character is feeling?

I wonder why the author described the character like that, what do you think?

Layout and Organization Questions

Can your child explain why the text has been set out in a certain way? E.g. why has the author used numbers in a set of instructions?

Questions you could ask your child:

What kind of text is this (fiction, non-fiction, information, narrative) How do you know?

What is the main event in this story?

What would you expect to find in a text like this? / Why has this picture been used here?

Why have these words been made to stand out? / Why are these words in italics?

Why are some parts of the text in boxes? What are the sub headings for?

What do the arrows tell you?

Retrieval Questions:

The answers are right there in what has been read, they just have to be found.

Questions you could ask your child:

Where did the story / event take place?

When did the story take place?

What did he/she/ it look like? / Who are the key characters in the story?

What happened first in the story, how did it end?

Read the part of the story that tells me about...?

Can you find the part when...?

How old is it?

Where did he go to school?

Inference and Deduction Questions

The answer is not given, it has to be worked out based on what your child HAS read.

For example: If your child reads "the boy dragged his feet and slumped his shoulders on the way home" can your child deduce that the character is feeling sad?

Questions you could ask your child:

What words tell you that he is...?

How do you feel about what happens? Why?

What sort of person do you think that character is after reading his description?

Predict what you think is going to happen. Why do you think that?

Did one of the characters change the story line? How? Why do you think that?

Uniform

Parents are asked to send their children to school clean, tidy and appropriately dressed. The school uniform comprises of:

Boys: Grey trousers or shorts, white polo-shirt and red jumper or sweatshirt. Black school shoes (not trainers); plain black, white or grey socks.

Girls: Grey skirt/pinafore dress or trousers, white polo-shirt, red jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan. Girls may wear plain black shorts under a skirt or dress. Black school shoes (not trainers); plain black, white or grey socks or tights.

Red and white checked dresses may be worn in the summer months – with black modesty shorts.

PE: Boys and girls wear black shorts and house t-shirts for PE with black plimsolls. Jogging bottoms, sweatshirts and trainers will be needed for outdoor activities.

Year 4 girls and boys need black football socks and shin pads for PE.

House colours:

Your child will be allocated a house group by the school office upon admission. Each house is designated a colour, which your child will wear for PE and sporting events.

Earth House - Green

Air House - White

Fire House - Red

Water House - Blue

Black, white or coloured trainers are only allowed for outdoor PE and are not acceptable for daily school wear.

PE kit must be kept in a **named draw-string bag and in school at all times**. Other bags are not allowed due to limited cloakroom space.

Ruck sacks in particular do not allow coats to be pegged over the top, and these then fall off and become a safety hazard.

Sweatshirts, cardigans, book bags, PE bags and summer hats displaying the school logo are available to purchase online. Some stock, including recycled uniform is available from the school office.



Lunchbox tips



Switch the sweets

Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for malt loaf, fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



For this recipe please follow this link

[Soft cheese and salad sandwich](#)

[Lunchbox Recipe](#)

Donation Request

Mrs Carter is wanting to start a chess club in the summer term and is looking for donations of chess sets.

If you have a set that you are happy to donate please could you bring this into the school office.

Thank you

Weekly Good News Calls

Here are the children whose parents and carers have received a phone call home this week to let them know how well their child has been working and showing their school values. Keep up the good work Shefford Lower.

Reception Plum—Allis, Pear—Ruby, Laurence & Jude, Peach—Emilia

Year 1 Holly—Heidi, Chestnut—Zoe, Sycamore—Mia

Year 2 Oak—Layton & Jack, Willow—Jesse

Year 3 Hawthorn—Scarlet, Elm—Cassian, Cedar—Lara

Year 4 Ash—Millie & Myla, Beech—Owen, Hazel—Willow



Music Successes

Well done to Rachel passed her Trinity Initial Piano exam over Christmas with Distinction

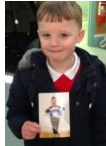


Shefford Sporting Successes

Water House James—Football & Miles—Swimming

Fire House Luca—Football

Harry—Swimming



Congratulations to the children below who have been recognised as a Finer Diner this week for displaying good manners and values at lunchtime

EXCUSE ME

THANK YOU

Reception Max, Henry, Imogen, George, Eddie & Essie

Year 1 Mya, Eleanor, Thomas, Connie, Althea, Jake, Morgan, Arla & Mia

Year 2 Layton & Bethany

Year 3 Blake, James, Benedict & Alexandra

Year 4 Victoria, Shae, Sisi & Freddi



Community News

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



JACK COLLISON
FORMER WEST HAM AND WALES INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLER

FEBRUARY HALF TERM CAMP!
FOOTBALL, COMPETITIONS, FUN AND PRIZES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 5-13!

MONDAY 14TH - THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 10.00-15.00
ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY, SG175BU
1,2,3 AND 4 DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE
*** ONLY 60 SPACES AVAILABLE ***
BOOK ONLINE NOW!

NEW! 10% off for ALL SLS students—use code JCSSSCHOOL10 at the checkout

[Jack Collison Soccer School »](#)
[SHEFFORD HALF TERM CAMP](#)



DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DRAMA

One of the greatest life skills we can give our children is the ability to communicate confidently.

ROLEPLAY is vital to a child's development and increases social interaction, problem solving and communication skills. Through imaginative play, we explore emotions and feelings which help to boost **WELL BEING** and **SELF-AWARENESS**. WE GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD WILL DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SKILLS THEY WILL NEED IN EVERYDAY LIFE!

WHAT IS OUR CURRICULUM?
• ANIMALS IN ALL SITUATIONS
• THE STORY OF THE MONUMENTS MEN
• THE STORY OF THE MONUMENTS MEN
• THE STORY OF THE MONUMENTS MEN
• THE STORY OF THE MONUMENTS MEN

Our internationally acclaimed Drama Academy benefits tens of thousands of children around the world each week. Each class follows a curriculum designed by world-class experts.

CONTACT US TO SECURE YOUR FREE TRIAL CLASS:
Email: info@developmentthroughdrama.co.uk
Phone: 01753 811111
Website: www.developmentthroughdrama.co.uk

40 YEARS
1979-2019

[Click for more information](#)



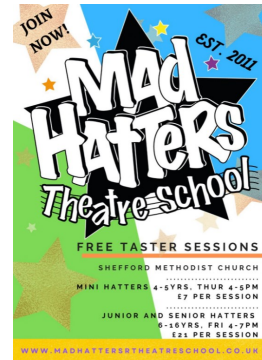
Start your journey with Mid Beds Futsal
It's all about the journey, not the outcome.

ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY
Futsal is a fun and creative environment. FA Affiliated Licensed Coaches. CEB Checked. Player to coach ratio to maximise player development. 30% Sessions 70% Matches. Popular.

4-4 Years: 6-7pm (MUGA)
Limited places available - contact us on midbedsfutsal@gmail.com to book a place

midbedsfutsal@gmail.com

[Click for more information](#)



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Mad Hatters Theatre School
EST. 2011

FREE TASTER SESSIONS
SHEFFORD METHODIST CHURCH
MINI HATTERS: 4-5 YRS, THUR 4-6 PM, £7 PER SESSION
JUNIOR AND SENIOR HATTERS: 6-16 YRS, FRI 4-7 PM, £20 PER SESSION

www.madhatterstheatreschool.co.uk

[Click for more information](#)



Coffee afternoon with SEND support

Do you have a child aged 0-25 years with a disability, additional need or not yet diagnosed?

Join us at our coffee afternoon to meet other local families, share ideas and support each other in a friendly environment, come along with or without your child

Monday 10th January
Monday 14th February
Monday 14th March
1.30-2.30

Shefford and Shefford Children's Centre 0300 300 8112
Email: sheffordchildrenscentre@sheffordchildrenscentre.gov.uk



Premier Education

February Half-term Holiday Camps

On our camps, our fully qualified coaches ensure every child is safe while they relax, play and make new friends. Make their half-term fun, physical and one to remember!

BOOK NOW AT:
premier-education.com/holiday-camps

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@PremierEducationUK

[Click for more information](#)



JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR February 2022 Camp

Tennis, Dance, Go Karting, Nerf, Baking, & More

Feb 14th - 18th
Templeton Lower School
Langthorpe Manor
Milton Keynes
Home and elsewhere

Feb 21st - 25th
Barnby Cherry Fields
Wilton Primary School
Great Linton Primary School
Tadworth Park Primary School

SPORTY SCHOLARS
BOOK NOW www.sportyscholars.com Tel: 07811194519

[Click for more information](#)



sustrans
BIG WALK AND WHEEL
21 March - 1 April 2022

Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

Spring Term 2022

1st February	Chinese New Year
2nd February	Year 3 Egyptian Day
8th February	Safer Internet Day
8th and 10 February	Parents Consultation Evenings
11th February	Year 4 Bikeability
14th—18th February	Half Term
W/C 21st February	Year 3 Swimming lessons begin for 6 weeks
14th—18th March	Science Week
16th March	Year 1 Woburn Trip
<i>18th March</i>	<i>Red Nose Day</i>
<i>21st March—1st April</i>	<i>Big Walk and Wheel</i>
30th March—1st April	Year 4 Residential Trip
1st April	Last day of Spring Term
19th April	SUMMER TERM Begins—Children Return
27th April	Whole Class Photos
6th June 2022	Extra Bank Holiday to mark The Queen's Platinum

Drop off times—08.45—09.00am

Collection times—3.20pm

**The school office will be open from 8.30am
to 3.45pm for any queries, please call 01462
629123 or email**

schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk

Please refer to our school website for the Academic Calendar for 2021/2022

[Term Dates Links](#)