

# Weekly Update



Friday 22nd November 2019



Dear Families & Friends,

There is no escaping the fact that the festive season is drawing near, and whilst we try to reserve this for December, we are practising carols and learning lines. Much is in the diary and lots of exciting things are planned ahead, so please do keep abreast by reading our newsletters, and also by 'liking' the social media pages so that these come up on your own feeds. Our PSA have been very active and thanks to their wonderful efforts, your children will benefit from fun events and gifts ....and don't forget the Christmas Fayre! Thank you PSA.

You will have noticed that the traffic wardens are now paying School Lane a regular visit. Due to the 'near misses' of children, safety in this area is of high concern. Our council has the authority to issue tickets, and we have been asked to retain numbers of vehicles parking illegally, or using the cross hatched areas illegally. I am so pleased to have had the support you have been sharing with me, as we are all concerned with the safety of the children. We are of course minimising the traffic as much as possible, so I would remind you politely that our carpark is for badge holding drivers only.

This week, year three completed their safety carousel. Many of our children commented on how much uniform the police officer needed to wear, and hopefully they all remember the jingle we taught them about safe strangers—Clever Never Goes. The children have been taught about safe road crossing and also about ensuring their safe online space too.

On Monday, OFSTED paid our school a visit. We were not being inspected, but the before/after school provider was. Dawn Til Dusk had their inspection on Monday afternoon, and staff in school were asked their views alongside lots of questions. We are looking forward to the published report. Well done ladies.

If you attended the open day at the Children's Centre, you will know that they are looking for views about the services families need, as they are now extending their services to children up to age 12. We have good partnerships with the services close to our school site, and many families access both for support. Your views are welcome.

We also had a visit this week from the local authority attendance officer. She was pleased to note the improvements the school has made to encourage children to have better attendance. We aren't at 97% yet, but it is better. Arriving late continues to be an issue, and this doesn't just affect the child who is late, but disrupts the beginning of learning for the whole class of children when it happens. It also accumulates an attendance penalty with the local authority, so we would remind parents that this happens and that we can offer family support too.

Please do scroll through the pages to note the menu choices for Christmas dinner. These are being booked now too. With 500+ families, we do need monies handed over in named envelopes please. We need everything named.

Book spriting continues and we hope that you enjoy upcycling your own books to take part in this fun too. We also have the book share under cover near our year 1 classes. This is a place for you to simply take a book you like, and put in a book you wish to pass on for someone else to take. It is free, and it helps the environment to share books in this way. Children can earn a daily house point each and every time they read. It is so important to their development, as well as fun to do.

Have a wonderful weekend, and remember the date of the 30th for the lights switch on!

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.’*

## News from the Kitchen

### Dinner Money

Please ensure you hand dinner money in, in a **named and sealed envelope**. Unfortunately, we cannot be responsible for any dinner money going missing that has been handed in without this.

### Christmas Lunch—Tuesday 17th December

Order forms for the Christmas Lunch have been sent home. Please return them by **Friday 6th December**, with a payment of £2.10 in a named envelope. **Unfortunately we will not be able to place any late orders after this date.**

Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals so payment will not be required.

Children in Years 3 and 4 are required to pay, unless your child receives Free School Meals.

### Well Done !

Well done to Priya in Hazel Class who has raised £255.56 for The Little Princess Trust charity by donating 12 inches of her hair to them. Well done Priya, what an achievement! Please see her Just Giving page, if you would like to donate <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/priya-haircut>.



## Savers Club

The last Savers Club will be on Thursday 5th December, and will start back on Thursday 16th January.

Savers Club are looking for people who can spare a Thursday morning, every other week, after school drop off until 11.00am. No experience necessary! A DBS check will be completed by the school. Please

## Year 4 Frontier Residential Payments

Frontier deposits of £25.00 are due today. The balance of this trip can be paid in instalments or in full, online on ParentMail or by cheque (payable to Shefford Lower School). Full payment of £110.00 will be required by Friday 31st January .

## Sun Readers

We have signed up for The Sun’s Books for Schools initiative. The Sun has teamed up with HarperCollins to provide schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland a free pack of 106 books, worth more than £600! Please help us collect tokens that will be printed in The Sun and The Sun on Sunday from Saturday 23rd November—Saturday 18th January 2020.





Dear Parents/Carers

Here at Shefford Lower School we aim to teach our children that Christmas is a time for reflection, we feel it is not just about opening presents but opening our hearts to help others.

We are teaming up with Keech Children's hospice to raise awareness about the amazing work they do for children across Bedfordshire. Keech rely on voluntary contributions from the local community.

During school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December the children will have the opportunity to meet Father Christmas on the special Keech train Smiley Sam where they can put a voluntary donation in Santa's bucket.

Donation envelopes will be sent home soon. Thank you for supporting this very good cause.





# Christmas Lunch

Roast Turkey  
with Stuffing  
& Chipolata Sausage  
Or  
Vegetable Parcel

Served with  
Roast Potatoes  
Peas  
Carrots

A Selection of Sweet Treats

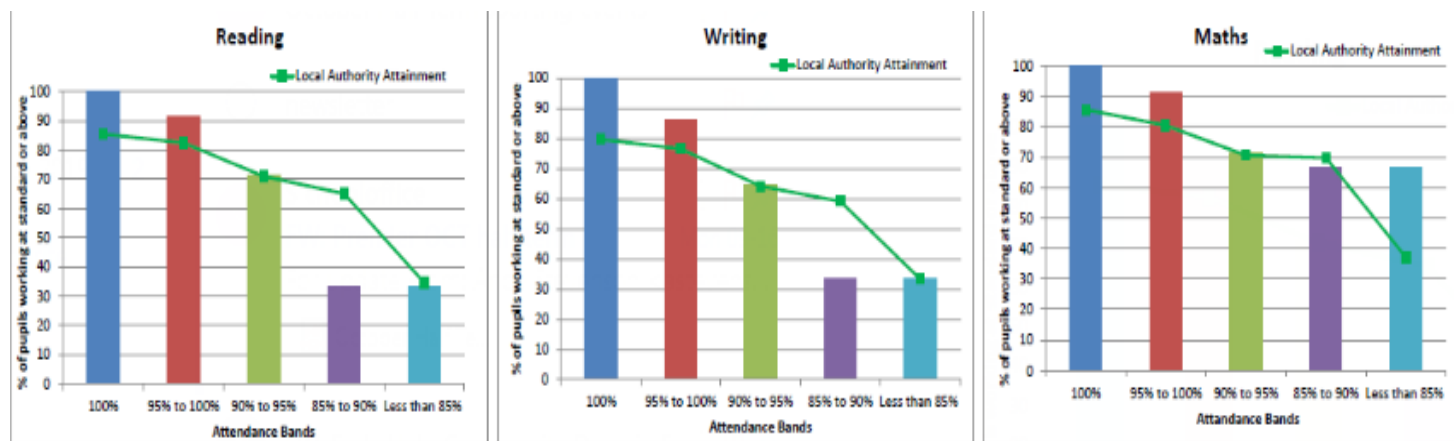
LET'S BE  
**FOOD**  
**SMART**  
FOR BODY AND BRAIN

**TUESDAY**  
**17TH DECEMBER**

## 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

## 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

Eden E-M  
Amelia R  
Adam B  
Alyssa-Mae B  
Kelly Y  
Amelia T

### Year 1

Immy H  
Denis J  
Remy S

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

### Year 2

Connie B  
Devon C  
Max H  
Heidi D

### Year 4

Harry H  
David R  
Lauren D  
Sophia J-S

### Year 3

Harrison B  
Riley C  
Reuben L  
Noah R

## 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!



### Reception

**Peach** — Grace M

**Pear** — Chloe P

**Plum** — Joshua S

### Year 1

**Chestnut** — Finley P

**Holly** — Theo T

**Sycamore** — Isabella T

### Year 2

**Maple** — Kelsey H

**Oak** — Emmanuel L

**Willow** — Lily-Joyce G



### Year 3

**Cedar** — Stevie B

**Elm** — Rocco S

**Hawthorn** — James G

### Year 4

**Ash** — Imogen C

**Beech** — Arjan G

**Hazel** — Kayla M



## Music News

### Assemblies

All children who learn a musical instrument are given the opportunity to play in our weekly music assemblies and also at the end of term class assemblies. This includes children who learn an instrument out of school.

This week we enjoyed performances by Ellie (clarinet), Charmaine (piano) and Reuben (trumpet), as well as the Year 3 recorder groups.

### Christmas Tree Festival

On **Friday 29th November** at **11.00am** the choir will be visiting Shefford Church to sing carols at the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival. All parents, carers and children are welcome to join us there. We will be glad to have volunteers to help walk to and from the church with the children. Please speak to the office staff if you are able to help. As this is a school mufti day, children are expected to wear school uniform to the church and may bring other clothes to change in to on their return to school.

### Community Carol Singing at Shefford Christmas Lights

On **Saturday 30th November**, there will be community carol singing at the Shefford Christmas lights switch on. We will be meeting outside Lloyds chemist adjacent to the church at 5.00pm.

### Christmas Music Concert

Our evening Christmas music concert for Year 3 and 4 musicians and choir members will be on **Wednesday 4th December** at **6.00pm**. Please complete the form on ParentMail to let us know if your child will be taking part and how many seats you will require. **All children who wish to take part in the concert will need to have their instruments and music in school on both Tuesday 26th November and Tuesday 3rd December.**

### Choir Visit to Oak Manor

The choir will be visiting Oak Manor residential home on **Tuesday 10th December** at **2.00pm** to sing Christmas carols to the residents. Once again, we will be pleased to have parent volunteers to walk with children. Please inform the office if you are able to help.







# PSA News

## Raffle Tickets

We have 5 luxury hampers to be won PLUS a special children's one. One of this year's hampers has kindly been donated by the new Shefford Co-Op store. Don't forget to return your stubbs and money before the deadline. The raffle will be drawn during the last Christmas Concert on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Additional tickets are available via the school office

## Tea Towels

Your child has completed artwork for a year group tea towel design. These will make great gifts for Christmas! Order forms have been sent out. If you would like to order a tea towel, they are £4.00 each. Please complete the form and return to school with payment, cash or cheque (made payable to Shefford Lower School PSA) in a named envelope. Orders must be placed by **Friday 29th November** to ensure we have them back in time for Christmas (due 12th December).

## Mufti Day – Friday 29th November

The school is kindly allowing your children to wear their own clothes on mufti day, the last Friday of the month. In exchange for wearing 'mufti' we are requesting donations as contributions towards our Christmas Fayre please. There is a poster in the classroom windows too.

**Early years** = £1.00 **Years 1&2** = Chocolate for the tombola, **Year 3** = Bottles **Year 4** = Filled jars for Jars of Joy tombola

## Present Day – Friday 13th December

Our firm favourite is back again this year. You should have seen the separate Parentmail with all instructions on how this works. Presents must be brought to school the **week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6th December ONLY** and handed in at the classrooms at drop off. The PSA team will collect and sort each day. No presents can be accepted after 9am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. For those taking part - presents will be chosen by your children on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec and wrapped by the elves. They will bring them home that evening.

**We are collecting wrapping paper and sellotape. Please put them in the box provided in the main reception area by the front door. Any donations will be gratefully received, thank you.**

## Christmas Fayre—Friday 13th December from 3.00pm

We are holding this year's Christmas Fayre on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will take place in the afternoon and run after school for you to drop in 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.



# PSA News

## **Your School Lottery—EVERY Saturday**

There are winners EVERY WEEK. ITS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Tickets can be purchased at any time. Signing up this term will automatically enrol you into a further prize draw to win one of 3 £100.00 cash prizes **PLUS** a chance to win the national £25,000 weekly jackpot. It's easy to set up <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play> Good luck! This is an ongoing offer and you can apply and set up anytime you like. Remember the more tickets purchased the higher the prize fund.

## **Easy Fundraising**

Christmas is fast approaching and most online purchases can give us a kick back. 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 £380.00 for the school. Please use the following link to register <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sheffordpsa/?invite=E2CZEL&referral-campaign=s2s>. It costs NOTHING and once you've earned the school your first £5.00 they will also donate £5 to the PSA. It really couldn't be easier to raise money for the school whilst you go about your general online shopping.

## **Next meeting: Wed 15<sup>th</sup> January @ 7.45pm**

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 into 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



## PSA Winter Fayre

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Stalls include:

- Wine, Water, Whatever
- Chocolate & 'Jars of Joy' tombola
- Crafty gifts
- Xmas games
- Plus lots more

*Hot dogs & refreshments available*

School Hall from 3pm  
via Community Entrance

**Parentkind**  
Member Association

# Diary Dates

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

**N.B**—Please note in replacement of the parties with Santa on the 18th and 19th December, Santa will be visiting school on the 18th and there will be a Magic Show for children in Reception, KS1 and KS2.

<b>Autumn Term 2019</b>	
29th November	PSA Mufti Day
29th November	Carols at St Michael & All Angels Church for the Christmas Tree Festival 11.00am
30th November	Community Carols at Shefford Christmas Lights
2nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
3rd December	EYFS Concert 2.30pm
4th December	Christmas Music Concert for Musicians and Choir Members in Years 3 & 4
4th December	Father Christmas & Smiley Sam Visit for Keech Hospice Care 3.20pm
6th December	EYFS Concert 2.30pm
9th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal AM, KS2 Dress Rehearsal PM
10th December	Choir Visit to Oak Manor to Sing Carols
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	Carols on the Playground End of Term

# Community News

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



East London  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Low Mood, Self-Harm & Suicide

Tuesday 10th December 2019

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

**When:** Tuesday 10th December 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 low mood, self-harm and suicide 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



@camhs wellbeing1



[www.camhs.elff.nhs.uk](http://www.camhs.elff.nhs.uk)



[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)



East London  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Navigating Life Whilst Looking After Yourself & Others

Thursday 30th January 2020

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**When:** Thursday 30th January 2020  
**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

This session is on navigating life whilst looking after yourself & others and it will focus on the important elements of yourself and your family, with a primary focus on emotional wellbeing as a whole



### 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



@camhs wellbeing1



[www.camhs.elff.nhs.uk](http://www.camhs.elff.nhs.uk)



[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, SHEFFORD

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
10.45am – 4pm*

*Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
10am – 6pm*

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
11.30am – 3.30pm*

*Donations to  
Shefford Parish Church  
and  
Motor Neurone Disease  
Association*

*Ribbon cutting  
by the Shefford  
Gala Prince & Princesses  
Saturday @ 10am*

*Refreshments available  
all day  
Fri / Sat / Sun*

**FESTIVAL SERVICE  
SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 4PM**

## Free training course



**SEE THE SIGNS SAVE A LIFE**  
See the signs of suicide risk

This training is for **non-mental health** workforce participants who would like to access training in Suicide Awareness

# See the Signs



Around 6,000 people die by suicide each year in the UK  
1 in 5 will experience suicidal thoughts at some point in their life

By attending this course you will:-

- Be able to recognise the signs and symptoms of someone who maybe having suicidal thoughts
- Identify tools and techniques so you can support the person in crisis
- Identify how to communicate with a person with suicidal thoughts
- Recognise the importance of early professional help

**Spaces are limited and must be pre-booked - Please select your chosen date, time and location**

Date	Time	Venue
21/11/2019	12.30 – 3pm	Flitwick Library
03/12/2019	10.30 - 1 pm	Astral Park Sports & Community Centre L Buzzard
05/12/2019	10am – 12.30pm	Bletchley Leisure Centre fully booked
28/01/2020	12.30 – 3pm	Priory Church, Newnham Ave, Bedford fully booked
27/02/2020	10am – 12.30pm	Rocroft Centre, Church Street Stotfold
27/03/2020	10am – 12.30pm	Priory Heritage Centre Dunstable

**To book your place or find out more information please contact:-**

Mind BLMK Training (Sally Crawley or Jeanette Skipsey)

Telephone: 0300 330 0635

Email: [training@mind-blmk.org.uk](mailto:training@mind-blmk.org.uk)

Visit our website: [www.mind-blmk.org.uk](http://www.mind-blmk.org.uk)