



## Weekly Update

Friday 23rd October 2020



Dear Families and Friends,

It's been a seven weeker! The children are ready for half term and we want to congratulate them for having had such a successful reintegration after the lockdown period.

This week across the school, the children have been getting ahead by making their poppies for a community display, and also creating Christmas art for their PSA cards. I have been told that the ordering system for these was very simple. We hope you like them.

The PSA are working hard to ensure fundraising and fun events go ahead and have a few different things for you in the new year already. Today, we are enjoying the PSA multi day, and those funds go into projects, trips and enjoyable events. Please do join their group if you wish to be involved.

As you are aware, we have reviewed the staggered times, liaising with Robert Bloomfield also. We are very pleased that many of you found the safety measures helpful, and have made time to feedback to us some of the challenges over the past couple of months, and also in our recent survey. With the review, we hope that learning time is positively impacted and gradually find ourselves nearer our original school timings.

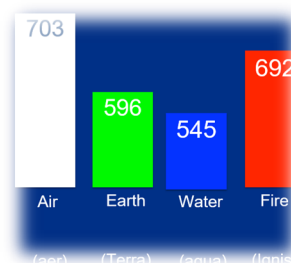
We will continue to have a flexible margin of arrival and drop off times, and we will also continue to be flexible for families with more than one drop. It has not been possible to organise the spacing for class queues as well as order the drop offs accurately. If this means it doesn't work for your family, do please let us know. We can accommodate slight alterations to ensure children are welcomed in helpfully.

We are retaining the one way walking on site, and respectfully request all families continue to adhere to this, helping all of our users to feel safe and comfortable on site.

Please remember that when we come back, we return on the Tuesday, and not the Monday, which is an INSET training day. Teachers will be looking at strategies for raising attainment and for lifting effective teaching time. We also have handover training for Class Teams. This will enable our remote learning feedback to be face to face, rather than by telephone, for pupils who are self isolating.



Today, artwork I received from Willow class to put on my wall after earning a head teacher's award was wonderful. I have shared these with you here. We have some very creative children. I also had maths work using greater/less than, and some fantastic story writing about Phileas Fogg. All the points add up, and this week's leader board looked like this! Well done to our captains. Air won 4 points, Fire won 3 points, Earth won 2 point and Water won one point this week.



Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

## Values

The values from 28th September — 16th October are **Respect and Responsibility**

*“Treat others as you would like to be treated.” The Golden Rule.*

*Respect for everyone and everything. Taking on responsibility, owning our mistakes or our errors of judgement and resolving them to learn from these experiences.*

*Developing our community by building each other up and including everyone in our groups so that they feel a sense of belonging.*

## Shefford 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. After half term our PE assemblies will be beamed into every class too.

Congratulations to the following children:

### Year 1

Isla R— Playing really well in her first football match for Hitchin Belles against Broxbourne.

### Year 3

Ashley A—Red stripe belt in Tae-Kwondo and 25m back crawl in swimming

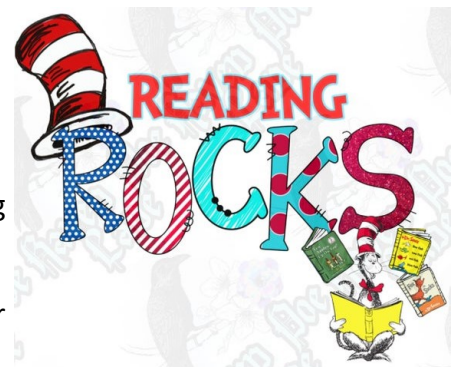
Maisie F-S—Star of the Week in her dance class



### **Useful websites and tips for reading with your child:**

- <https://readforgood.org/> has lots of fun resources for reading at home!
- Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children’s bedrooms too.
- Keep reading together. Just because your children are older, it doesn’t mean you have to stop sharing stories—perhaps you could try the Harry Potter series or A series of Unfortunate Events.

Don’t forget to look at the Read for Good resource attached to this ParentMail for more helpful tips!



## **Rosco the Dog**

Shortly after half term we will be gradually introducing Rosco the Dog.

Our children have had dogs as visitors before in school and it has been incredibly beneficial. We thoroughly risk assess such visits and avoid classes where allergies are present too. It is hoped that Rosco will become our school mascot and some trial visits will be supportive of the decisions governors make in November to ratify the policy to make this happen. We will welcome any and all feedback you have for us.



## 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 12/10/20



### Reception

**Peach** — Morgan P

**Pear** — Thomas C

**Plum** — Macie H



### Year 1

**Chestnut** — Luca H

**Holly** — Laila DJ

**Sycamore** — Robyn W



### Year 2

**Maple** — Max H

**Oak** — Lewie H

**Willow** — James R

### Year 3

**Cedar** — Masen W

**Elm** — Ben T

**Hawthorn** — Freddie

### Year 4

**Ash** — William L

**Beech** — Charlie H

**Hazel** — Jude B



## PSA News

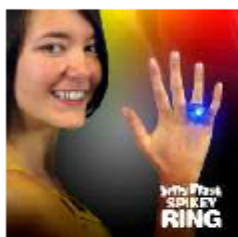
Next meeting – Wednesday 25 November @ 7.30 (online)

Would you like to join us?

Please feel free to contact us via the school office email or our Facebook page if you would like to find out more about what the PSA does and how you can get involved.

We have a core elected committee along with a wider committee that you are welcome to join.

We also have a list of people who would be happy to volunteer time or skills at events throughout the year. We are always looking for more people to join us, all you need is to be a legal parent/guardian of a child attending Shefford Lower.



Thank you to everyone who brought a spikey ring or foam stick – we hope you are enjoying them.

Update on funds raised will be given soon.



### Upcoming events

Friday 23 October – PSA Mufti – Thank you to everyone who has donated money today to wear your own clothes – we will update soon on how much this has raised.

Christmas Cards – Hopefully you have all received your children's artwork.

If you wish to order Christmas cards, wrapping paper, gift tags or mugs then head to the website [www.apfsorders.co.uk](http://www.apfsorders.co.uk). All deliveries are returned to the school free of charge.

If you are ordering any items please ensure you return the artwork by Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the latest.

Virtual Book Fair – Details coming soon on the PSA Facebook page for a new event – a virtual book fair – perfect for getting ahead with Christmas presents.

Christmas hamper raffle – tickets have been ordered and hampers are being filled for the annual Christmas hamper raffle. More information will be coming out soon – look out for the raffle tickets in your child's book bag in November.



# Ideas for a Spooky (and safe) Halloween from Central Bedfordshire

## Alternatives to trick or treating

With social distancing guidelines in place, and with recent research showing that the virus can stay on surfaces for longer than previously thought, trick or treating might not be practical.

So this year, why not organise your own community pumpkin hunt?

We have created a poster, which you can download, to print off and stick in your window. Household groups can then make their way safely around your neighbourhood, being careful to stay 2 metres away from anyone not in their household. Whenever children spot a pumpkin in a window, their parents can give them a treat!

**Please see the Pumpkin Poster attached to this ParentMail**

With sweets only circulating amongst households, we'll all avoid the risk of touching surfaces that others have been in contact with. And, by sticking to household groups and spotting pumpkins from a distance, we'll all be able to follow social distancing rules as we won't be crowding around doors trick or treating.

All of these small steps can help us reduce our chances of picking up or transmitting the virus.

## If you don't want to go out...

### Ideas for a spooky (and safe) Halloween

Central  
Bedfordshire

**Have a monster movie marathon at home - get the cushions ready to hide behind!**

**Have a household fancy dress competition. Who will win; dreadful dad? Alarming auntie? Ghoulish grandma? Or bogeyman brother?**

**Host a virtual Halloween party!**

**Hide some treacherous treats around your house and garden, and have a hair-raising hide-and-seek with the rest of your household!**





**Do you find it hard  
to make yourself  
understood?**

**Pegasus** is a scheme  
for people who may have difficulty  
in communicating their details when  
making contact with the emergency services.

**It's free of charge to join the scheme...**

You won't have to waste time providing personal  
details, and can tell us why you might need our help right away.

- Register online at [bedfordshire.police.uk/Pegasus](http://bedfordshire.police.uk/Pegasus).
- Your PIN card will be posted directly to you, or a trusted person, or both.

**You can show your PIN card to a police officer, or other  
emergency services staff if you need help.**



**If you need us...**

1. Dial 999/Textphone 1800 or chat to us live through our webchat service.
2. Say "police"
3. Wait for the operator
4. Say "Pegasus"
5. Give your PIN or name
6. Tell us how we can help you

**Take a photo  
of this poster  
to register later**

Visit [bedfordshire.police.uk/Pegasus](http://bedfordshire.police.uk/Pegasus) or  
email [autism.champions@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:autism.champions@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)  
for more information.



**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.*

### **Dance Lessons in Shefford, Campton and Fairfield Park**

**Ballet  
Modern**

**Tap  
Jazz**

**Classes offer, exercise, confidence,  
self esteem, posture, flexibility, social skills and  
lots of fun.**

**Trial lesson free**

**Fully qualified dance teacher (ISTD, RAD &  
IDTA) with 25+ years' teaching experience**

**Find us on FACEBOOK  
@CamptonSchoolOfDance**

**For details phone Lynda on 07765 964495**

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# Diary Dates

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

<b>Autumn Term 2020</b>	
26th October	Half Term
2nd November	Inset Day
3rd November	Children Return to School
3rd November	Year 1 Vision Screening
6th November	Diwali Day
13th November	Children in Need
16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
26th November	Flu Immunisations for Year R, 1, 2,3 and 4
2nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
3rd December	EYFS Concert 10.00am
4th December	EYFS Concert 2.00pm
7th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal AM, KS2 Dress Rehearsal PM
9th December	KS1 Concert 9.30am, KS2 Concert 2.30pm
10th December	KS2 Concert 9.30am, KS2 Concert 2.30pm
11th December	Present Day
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