



Weekly Update

Friday 25th February 2022



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

Dear Families and Friends,

Our 22.2.22 danceathon for Gorgeous George went incredibly well. It was superb for the wellbeing of our own school too, as doing things together whole school is wonderfully uplifting. This is true also for the staff, to see all of our pupils together like this. Mrs Pearson was an absolute star bringing this together for our school community. What a great session and hopefully we raise lots too. This was filmed, but as some member of our school cannot be shared on film, we are thinking about ways you may be able to see a part of it.

Headteachers were reminded by Central Bedfordshire this week of our duties regarding pupil absence and the threshold for absence fines, known as 'fixed penalty notices'. These come in currently at £60, per child, per parent. Please do notify us of exceptional circumstances leading towards an absence ahead of time, in accordance with our school's published policy ([click this link to be taken to the policy](#)) The eligibility for exceptional circumstances is also provided for your awareness in that policy.

Esmae, one of our younger pupils, in her role as Sheffield Princess, will be opening the park at Bellcote Meadow at 2pm on Saturday. The newly refurbished toddler area was done in consultation with children at Sheffield Lower and we thank the Town Council for involving our pupils. Please come along.

Parking continues to be of concern around the school zone. The staff carpark is insufficient for the numbers of staff employed here, and also at the Children's Centre and Acorn—double parking required. Therefore, the limited disabled spaces can only be used for certified blue badge holders.

At the front of school, where I stand each day, I see a number of pupils arrive so happily, and the polite behaviour I see is a real joy. As a values school, this does not go unnoticed, and recently I enjoyed a member of public who commented on the positive behaviour of our children. This is wonderful to share with you.

We began wellbeing Wednesday in school this week, so Mrs Ross and myself visited lots of children. We hope as the restrictions for Covid gradually ease, we can do more things like this. Please note the new regulations advised to schools are as follows for isolations:

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

You will by now be aware that Sam Farmer, the headteacher at Robert Bloomfield has been promoted to pastures new. We are thrilled for Sam, but sad to see him go. Nothing tested the school partnerships quite like the recent pandemic, and I am testimony to how collaboratively Same approached working between our two schools. On the horizon were other shared endeavours we had suggested and we will continue to work in partnership to bring them about. Meanwhile, good luck to Mr Farmer and we hope the remaining time in Sheffield is filled with fantastic memory making experiences.

Regards

Mrs Pamela Finch



Values

The values of February will be Love & Kindness

"Carry out a random act of kindness with no expectation of reward knowing someday someone will do the same for you." Princess Diana.

What is love? How it is shown through our acts of kindness, and being thoughtful to one another.

House Points and Attendance

W/E 11/02/22

House Points

Water—687
Fire—654
Air—610
Earth—553

House Attendance & Punctuality Winner

Water



NHS Healthy Scanner App



**Creamy hummus
dip with pitta
bread and
vegetable sticks**

Lunchbox tips



Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.

For this recipe please follow this link

[Lunchbox](#)

[Recipe](#)

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

Mythbusters

Myth: "I haven't got time to help my child with home-work."

Buster: OFSTED expect schools to set and monitor home-work that is age appropriate. All schools keep a record of frequent instances that impact on a child's development alongside their peers.

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



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](#)

WANTED PLAY DONATIONS

The PSA are fully funding playground trolleys with a range of equipment to encourage positive playtime and interactions. This also supports behaviour on our playground and healthy activity. To give these trolleys an extra boost we are appealing for toy donations of Dinosaurs, toy cars, pots, pans, utensils for the mud kitchen. All donations will be gratefully received.



DANCEATHON!

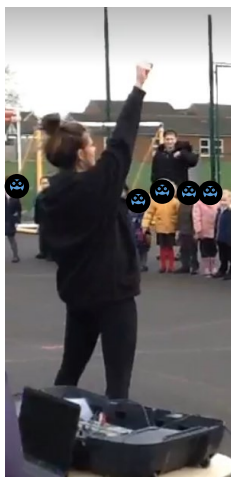
Gorgeous George One Big Fight



Our 22.2.22 danceathon for Gorgeous George—One Big Fight appeal went incredibly well. The whole school were able to dance on the ball court for 22 minutes and along with the non-uniform day before half term raised an amazing amount, which was gratefully received.

Link to the Gorgeous George fundraising page is here

https://www.gofundme.com/f/GorgeousGeorgeOneBigFight?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer



**Total astounding
amount raised so far**

£3200



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.

<u>Reception</u>	Plum—Olivia, Peach—Barnaby, Pear— Imogen
<u>Year 1</u>	Sycamore—Morgan, Chestnut—Eleanor, Holly—Dylan
<u>Year 2</u>	Willow—Maria, Oak—Jack, Maple—Lacey-Mae
<u>Year 3</u>	Cedar—Oscar, Hawthorn—Paige, Elm— Immy
<u>Year 4</u>	Hazel—Maisy, Ash—Maisie



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/or medals which will be displayed on our PE celebration board and celebrated in assembly. Well done to these children who have shared their sporting success this week.

Air House	Myla—Swimming, Lewie—Football, Miles—Football
Water House	Ollie—Skiing, Annabelle—Skiing
Fire House	Thomas—Swimming, George—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

<u>Reception</u>	Lee, Samantha, Barnaby, Millie, Aiden, George, Rory, Lacey, Klara & Olivia
<u>Year 1</u>	Esme, Louie, Niven, Jannat, Annabelle, Mia & Lilly
<u>Year 2</u>	Jack, Aria, Poppy, Ayaz, Sarah & Joshua
<u>Year 3</u>	Leah, Lily, Myla, Denis & Layla
<u>Year 4</u>	Faith, Reece, Miles, Heidie, Poppy, Jamie, Frankie & Niamh



WANTED - NEW GOVERNORS

What are we looking for?

Our school Governing Body is made up of Governors from all walks of life and many come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills, and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves.

We want you –

We are currently looking for new Governors and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

1. An interest in the performance of the school.
 2. A desire to contribute to and represent the community.
 3. An open and enquiring mind
 4. The ability to look at issues objectively
 5. The confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
 6. A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
 7. The ability to work well with others
- Time to spare



Everyone has something to offer, and we want people from as many backgrounds and with as wide a range of interests as possible.

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our School
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- The pleasure of helping students reach their potential

What is the Governing Body's Role?

The Governing Body of our school plays a key role in: • setting targets for raising standards of educational achievement.

1. Monitoring progress towards meeting these targets.
2. Supporting and challenging the performance of the headteacher
3. Deciding policy and future development plans

As well as attending meetings governors are also asked to look at specific areas of the school's work in more detail. To help support governors, everyone has access to further training to help build on existing skills or to develop new ones.

Please look out on the school Parent Mail for further information or hand you details to the school office. The chair of Governors, Jo Elliott will then be in contact.

schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk

PSA News

Our next meeting is our AGM on **Thursday 24th March @ 7.30pm** and we need YOU!

This is a great opportunity to join the PSA as a new committee take the lead on discussing, planning and running lots of exciting events for all of the students at Shefford Lower School.

If you are keen to get involved then please contact the office.

All roles within the elected committee need filling as the current team step down after 2 years. No previous experience is necessary – the current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer all took on the roles in their first meeting at the AGM in 2020 and are willing to guide and assist anyone wishing to put themselves forward for these roles.

Please take a look at the descriptions below of what is entailed in each position and get in touch with the office to find out more about them.

PSA Chairperson (The Chair)

The Chair is the public face of the elected committee, representing the PSA where necessary at public events and meetings within the school. They are usually the 'nominated person' for the committee at the AGM and also the main liaison with the Head Teacher and staff at the school

- Responsible for making interim decisions if necessary, that do not need the full committee. (All major decisions need to go to the full committee)
- To understand the roles and legal obligations of the committee ensuring confidentiality requirements of the school and discussions within the PSA meetings are met
- Responsible for ensuring all PSA members adhere to the school safe guarding policies
- Takes charge of open meetings (AGM etc) and committee meetings. Ensuring meetings are effective, kept to time and the agenda fully covered. The chair has the casting vote of any decisions that need to be made at meetings
- Must support and authorise the work of the secretary and treasurer
- Receive a copy of all bank statements
- Authorised to create sub committees for events and smaller expenditure when/if necessary.

PSA Vice-Chair

- The Vice Chair provides support to the chair and shares the workload if necessary
- The Vice Chair should conduct meetings in the absence of The Chair
- The Vice Chair may be called upon to assist The Chair with immediate decision making where a full PSA meeting may be inappropriate or too far away

PSA Treasurer

- Maintain an overview of the PSA bank accounts
- Report status of accounts at the meetings
- Keep notes of incoming and outgoing expenditure
- Arrange floats for events - drop off at school if necessary
- The ability to bank large amounts of money regularly
- The ability to respond to emails regularly
- To work with The Chair and school to make sure invoices are paid
- Oversee administration of the Your School Lottery account

PSA Secretary

- Discuss items for the next meeting with 'The Chair', ideally a week or two before the meeting.
- Write the agenda and email the committee and school representatives separately (via Paula Hudson).
- Attend every meeting and take the minutes
- Write up the minutes and circulate round the committee and school representatives separately within a suitable time frame (1 week of meeting)
- Keep a list of all member's details for correspondence
- Contact any parents who have shown an interest in joining the committee i.e. after a coffee morning or new parent evenings.
- Save the agendas and minutes onto the PSA page of the school intranet (See Paula H in the office)
- Keep PSA Noticeboard up to date
- Keep school community updated through newsletter and social media.

This is a Safe Space



If you need to talk to someone about what is happening in your relationship because you are afraid of someone you live with or an ex-partner then you can contact one of the local or national helplines to discuss your options

Local Support Services

- Bedfordshire Signpost Hub 0800 028 2887
- Bedford Women's Centre 01234 316801
- Change Ur Life
- Luton All Women's Centre 01582 416783
- Stepping Stones 01582 457114
- Women's Aid in Luton 01582 391856

National Support Services

- National 24h Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (offers live chat service)
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327 (web chat available)
- LGBTQ+ DV helpline: 0300 999 5428 (offers live chat service)
- Karma Nirvana - 'Honour'-Based Abuse Helpline: 0800 5999 247
- National Stalking Helpline: 0808 802 0300
- Revenge Porn Helpline: 0345 6000 459
- Respect Phone line: 0808 802 4040 (for those who are worried about or want to change their behaviour - web chat service available)
- Child line: 0800 1111 (provides night chat service)
- Victim Support 24hr Support Line: 0808 168 9111 (offers live chat service)
- Police non-emergency: 101

If you are scared of your partner, ex-partner or a family member, it is not your fault and you are not alone.
If you are in immediate danger please call 999.

Frightened

by somebody who you are in a relationship with?

Central Bedfordshire

Worried

about abuse at home?

Am I in an unhealthy relationship?



Young people experience **abuse** too

For help and information about unhealthy relationships you can contact one of these services

- [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) 0808 2000 247
- [CHUMS](#) 01525 863924 info@chums.uk.com
- [NSPCC](#) 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk
- [Sorted Bedfordshire](#) 01582 674442 info@sortedbedfordshire.org.uk
- [Childline](#) 0800 1111
- [The Mix](#) 0808 808 4994
- [Young Minds](#)
- [The Hideout](#)
- [Embrace](#) 0345 609 9960 info@embracelvoc.org.uk
- [Kooth Counselling Service](#)

f @bedsdv

RELATIONSHIPS SHOULDN'T HURT

Domestic abuse comes in many forms and can be committed by a partner, ex-partner or family member.

IS THIS FAMILIAR?

- I'M BEING TOLD WHAT TO WEAR
- I'M BEING STOPPED FROM SEEING MY FRIENDS
- I DON'T HAVE CONTROL OF MY OWN MONEY
- I'M ISOLATED
- WHEN I'M PHYSICALLY HURT, I'M TOLD I'M TO BLAME
- I'M BEING STALKED ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- I'M UNDER THEIR CONTROL
- THEY THREATEN TO 'OUT' ME TO MY FAMILY
- I'M OLDER AND FEEL I'M BEING EXPLOITED BY MY FAMILY
- I'M SUBJECT TO EMOTIONAL BLACKMAIL
- MY CHILDREN ARE THREATENED
- INTIMATE CONTACT IS NEVER MY CHOICE
- I FEEL SCARED WHEN I'M AT HOME.

YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN

Help is at hand...

If you identify with what you've read, or know somebody who you think needs help, you can contact the on National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247, it's open 24/7

More information about local support services can be found on the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website bedsdv.org.uk

If you feel immediate danger, call the police on 999



Domestic Abuse Awareness Workshop

Join us on our Domestic Abuse Awareness Workshop, and learn how to create a Safe Space in your workplace for staff and clients.

14 workshops to choose from
November 17th 2021 - March 29th 2022

Do you want to help create a safe space in the workplace?

Employers do play a huge role in supporting victims of domestic abuse, by creating a safe space in the workplace to provide a network of support outside of a victim's home. The workplace could be one of the few places where victims feel safe to speak out about what is happening to them.

Through our work with victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, we know the difference it makes to victims when their employers offer a safe and supportive environment.



Scan me to see all available workshops

Please visit
oneymca.org/safe-space-in-the-workplace
to find a suitable date for you.



Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

Spring Term 2022

W/C 21st February	Year 3 Swimming lessons begin for 6 weeks
<u>4th March—DATE CHANGE</u>	<u>World Book Day—Come dress as your favourite book character FRIDAY</u>
<u>10th & 12th March</u>	<u>WOW English Project—Safari Stu & Birds of Prey will be visiting the school</u>
14th—18th March	Science Week
16th March	Year 1 Woburn Trip
<u>18th March</u>	<u>Red Nose Day—Noses will be available to buy from class at £1.50</u>
21st March—1st April	Big Walk and Wheel to school days—We want to encourage more families to travel to school actively, to help create healthier and happier communities
30th March—1st April	Year 4 Residential Trip
1st April	Last day of Spring Term
19th April	SUMMER TERM Begins—Children Return
20th & 21st April	<u>National Child Measurement Programme—Reception children.—The School nurse team will be in school for the NCMP—information sent out via Parentmail</u>
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

Moving to become a primary as part of Central Bedfordshire's Schools For The Future project.

<https://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/>

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

Blue badge holders can access the staff car park.



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

[Term Dates Links](#)