



Weekly Update

Friday 25th September 2020



Dear Friends and Family,

School life is very positive and our children filling the halls has been the biggest joy of 2020 so far. We have thoroughly enjoyed the focus on community, and building a sense of 'Unity & Belonging' through our Values Education.

On Monday, we will be focusing on the values of 'Respect & Responsibility'. The learning opportunities for these values are vaster than ever at the present time. We are continually reminded of our responsibilities to each other, such as walking the one way system, wearing masks, adhering to the rule of 6 and ensuring personal hygiene. We feel lucky that we have a respectful and responsible community and know that our children will continue to rise to the expectations and learn how to articulate their views and listen to the views of others respectfully too.

All pupils have been set up with a school email login. These will come out to you via your child's class. This means we can use Microsoft TEAMS to make contact about remote learning, to support queries, provide feedback and redirect any learning needs. We will continue to send out the remote learning in the same way, using Parentmail. Remote learning is sent to pupils isolating whilst pending test results, or if a bubble needs to close due to a positive result. It is likely that the school's safety measures will be in place for some time, and we implore our users to adhere to the requests for the safety of everyone, and to help us ensure that school bubbles remain open.

Safety has been a huge priority in all schools, and aspects of school curriculum have had to halt as a result of Covid measures. We have decided to go ahead with one school trip, as it is delivered in an outside area, and can be achieved in the same bubbles that the children are in when they are at school. We are confident that the coach risk assessment is stringent. We will not be accepting volunteer helpers to school including trips currently. Other school trips and after school clubs are being kept under review, to maximise the broad curriculum opportunities when it is possible to do so safely.

You will see that we have a new chair for our PSA—Hannah Hubbard. The team are working hard on behalf of your children again this year. Please do lend your time or expertise. Proceeds raised by the PSA support richer experiences for children at Sheffield Lower. I'd like to thank the PSA for agreeing to support the school with additional reading books this year, as we will be needing to quarantine much of our stock as children borrow books. Reading, as you all know, is of crucial importance.

As we plan this term, we are thinking about immediate events, and looking ahead beyond Christmas. Whilst we are not currently saying that Christmas shows won't happen, it is looking less likely that we will be able to have groups together. Don't worry. We ARE emphatic that we will make Christmas term at Sheffield Lower very very special.

Sooner than this, we have parent consultations. These are likely to be offered virtually, or by telephone. We will release details shortly.

For our families using the children's centre or Acorn, whilst you are few, please do be mindful of the one way walking. We do not expect a full circle, but request that you exit and walk across to the other side of the carpark to come back through. We have some vulnerable school users, and everyone's safety is crucial. Thank you.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good weekend. With some sunny weather to greet us, it will be a 'good one'.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

Values

The values from 4th—27th September are **Unity and Belonging**.

Starting in our new classes with a sense of togetherness and belonging.

Belonging and working together in our school as a new class, in our house groups.

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

New Role as SENDCo (Special Education Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator)

I'd like to introduce myself, for those of you who do not know me, as Shefford Lower School's SENDCo. I have been teaching at Shefford Lower since 2013 and I am really looking forward to taking on this role, as well as continuing to teach on a Thursday and Friday.



I believe passionately that all children have the right to be safe, happy and supported to achieve their very best, to have high aspirations and to ultimately lead successful lives.

A key part of my role within the school will be to coordinate the provision for our children with special educational needs, working alongside teachers and staff.

Good communication is vital in this and it is very important to me to get to know parents/carers and to work closely alongside you - with this in mind, please do get in touch if you have any worries or concerns, or if you just want to talk something through or ask for advice.

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Lauren Robinson



Healthy Eating Week and Healthy Me Day

Children will be taking part in various activities next week within their class bubbles (including a chance to use a smoothie bike!) to promote Healthy Eating Week and Healthy Me Day. If you would like to get involved in this with your child, you could try and complete the Healthy Eating challenges that were sent out on ParentMail!

Bike to School also coincides with our healthy week. Why not cycle to school...it's free, there is no need to register and it can have a positive impact on your child's health and wellbeing. There is also a family competition with a chance to win a new bike. For more information please see the ParentMail.



Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you to everyone who wore their jeans last Friday and donated £1.00. We managed to raise £349.30, which will go towards helping children and their families who are affected by a genetic disorder



Dropping Items at the School Office

Please can parents ensure that their child has everything with them that they need for the school day, when dropping them off in the morning e.g. coats, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. This is to limit the number of people entering the main reception. If you do need to enter reception to speak to the school office please wear a face covering.

Flu Immunisations

Flu immunisations have been confirmed for **Thursday 26th November**, rather than Monday 23rd November. More information regarding immunisations will be sent out nearer the time.



Shefford Lower Facebook Pages

We welcome communication with you through our social media however we have developed a few community guidelines to ensure our pages can be managed efficiently.

1. The purpose of this page is to provide an online community for parents and families at Shefford Lower School, to share constructive news, information and tips.
2. We encourage you to post however please contact us directly at the school office on 01462 629123 or by email at schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk to raise any issues you may have, so they can be dealt with efficiently. Please be aware that our Facebook inbox is not manned daily.
3. Please use appropriate language when posting and bear in mind that what you post is public to all members of this page.
4. When posting do not include any private or personal information about yourself or other individuals. We ask that children's full names are not posted.
5. Posts that do not comply with the purpose of the page will be removed without discussion by admin.

PSA News

Welcome from your new PSA

Following the AGM in March we would like to introduce ourselves officially as the new PSA for this academic year.

Chair

Hannah Hubbard



Vice Chair

Kim Massey



Secretary

Nicola Burr



Treasurer

Claire Newton



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 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.

We had our first meeting this week with the current committee via Zoom and we are excited about some forthcoming events even though these will be different to normal due to the present circumstances.



Book donation

We are pleased to announce that this week we have delivered all of these lovely books, games and puzzles to school to hopefully help with the pupils' wellbeing. We hope you enjoy using them.

Ongoing fundraising

Your school Lottery – EVERY Saturday

Shefford Lower school has a guaranteed winner EVERY WEEK. A massive **thank you** to all those who have signed up already and also those who have been kindly donating their winnings to the PSA. Tickets can be purchased at any time. Signing up this term will automatically enrol you into a further prize draw PLUS the chance to win the national £25,000.00 weekly jackpot. It's easy to set up. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play> Good luck! This is an ongoing offer and you can set up anytime you like. Remember the more tickets purchased the higher the prize fund.

Easy Fundraising

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 so all you need to do is click on the link below and shop! https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sheffordpsa/?invite=E2C7EL&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.



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.



Tourettes Action Parent Webinar - Support in School

A workshop for parents of children with TS

Hosted by TA Education Manager Lucy Toghil, this webinar will explain how to work with your school so they can understand how best to meet your child's needs. It will bring awareness to the types of hidden barriers that may present at school and strategies that can be put in place to best support your child. You will gain an understanding of what schools are legally obliged to provide and the kind of support you can expect.

Hosted over Zoom, the link to join the webinar will be included with your booking confirmation.

Book your tickets here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/tourettes-action/421656>

Diary Dates

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

Autumn Term 2020	
2nd October	Healthy Me Day
12th October	Harvest
13th October	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
20th October	Parent Consultation Evening
21st October	Individual School Photographs
22nd October	Parent Consultation Evening
23rd October	PSA Mufti Day
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
<i>26th November</i>	<i>Flu Immunisations for Year R, 1, 2,3 and 4</i>

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