

Weekly Update

Friday 28th February 2020



Dear Families & Friends,

What fun it has been for our children to see snow. Many of our children brought in wellies and a change of shoes along with named gloves and hats to enjoy the outside weather. We were very glad it didn't settle and families had safe travel thereafter.

This week we held our E-Safety event with PC Denton. Rather disappointingly only 4 parents were able to attend, but the feedback afterwards was incredibly positive. Whilst we are always reminded of the hidden reasons age limits are set on games and social media (which in itself is eye opening), PC Denton also demonstrated the growing and local trend of 'drill videos'. We know from our pupil surveys that many of our children are accessing online devices unsupervised or without full parental controls set and PC Denton confirmed some of the very young age statistics local to Sheffield. If you were unable to make the event but want to know more, some helpful sites are <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> or the CEOPS site parent page on <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/How-can-CEOP-help-me-YP/How-can-CEOP-help-me-parent/> PC Denton also recommended <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> so that you can search about apps or games currently in use by young people and children.



Year 3 began this half term's carousel of activities for health and safety. All of our children had a session learning how to put another person in the recovery position. Whilst we hope the children will never need to use the recovery position, I'm sure you'll agree that it is useful at any age to learn about. They also used UV backlights to understand the importance of vigorous handwashing with soap. In another session, the children used a hazard picture to learn how to make hazards safe. In response to our pupil survey, where we learned how children consume fizzy drinks or energy drinks, we carried out a Science experiment to show the effects these drinks have on teeth, using eggs.

This newsletter contains important information about the COVID virus (Corona Virus). Although we understand our school to be very low risk, we urge everyone to remain vigilant to the latest advice, as this is changing every day.

A big thank you to our Year 1 staff for hosting a phonics workshop, and the stages of 'Letters & Sounds' Year 1 children need to know in order to pass the national phonics screening tests. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further queries. We are always happy to help.

Monday will be Sheffield's World Book Day. Children do NOT have to dress up in an outfit, and Miss Sharma has provided a range of alternatives such as pyjamas, or creating a potato character instead. We hope this will be a fun day, and aim to display the children's work in the corridors afterwards. We will share these displays on our Facebook page again, as we know how much you all enjoyed the photos last time. Remember also, the book fair follows on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March.

At our recent governors meeting, board members discussed a number of spending matters for maintaining our building and interior, having recently purchased 5 new Clevertouch interactive boards. We are fetching in quotes for widening paths, creating rooms, replacing the front doors, replacing exterior canopies and renewing gates. You will be aware that our board must prioritise from this list of requests, considering a range of options and needs, and we are always happy to answer queries about those decisions. Governor minutes are public records, and we also support the board to fill vacancies as they arise.

Staff and governors have reviewed the results of recent parent surveys and aim to work towards the matters raised. Already more clubs are in action, and whilst some are seasonal, some operate throughout the year. Dawn until Dusk operate childcare daily on site as well, and this is available in the mornings too. Please do contact them if you require extended provisions for your child or children.

On a final note, I hope to see many of you at our PSA Family Games Night tonight. Have a wonderful weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch

Values

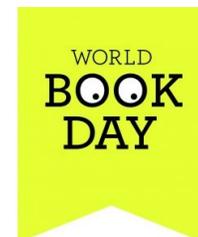
The values from February 24th—March 13th are **Courage** and **Determination**.

Book Week falls in this section. This is also time of 'Lent'.

Courage when you least feel like trying. Not giving up. Knowing it is worth it, if not immediately, then in the long run. Courage when you are a lone voice in the crowd, when peer pressure is high etc.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Monday 2nd March** due to the Year 4 children being at the Frontier Centre on Thursday. Children are able to choose how they would like to celebrate this day:



- Children can dress up as their favourite book character. Please see link for ideas <https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/dressing-up-gallery/>
- Wear their pyjamas or onesie
- Bring in a potato decorated to look like their favourite character. Please see link for ideas <http://thorntonincravenprimary.org.uk/photos/world-book-day-decorate-potato-book-character>
- 'Vocabulary Parade' - Children can come dressed up as a word. Please see the link for ideas https://www.google.com/search?q=vocabulary+parade&safe=strict&rlz=1C1GCEU_en-GB&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjLi8WVq7_nAhVfRhUIHXnqDtoQ_AUoAXoECA0QAw&biw=1536&bih=754

Safer Internet Day

Before half term, on Tuesday 11th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day in school. The theme this year was 'Free to Be Me'; understanding what our online identity is. Safer Internet Day aims to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together in helping to create a better internet.

Every class in school from Reception to Year 4 spent time thinking about their own online identity and staying safe online during their Computing lesson that week. The UK Safer Internet Centre has some parent information that you may find useful, please follow the link <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/i-am-parent-or-carer>





Music News

We all enjoyed listening to our musicians in Cedar class assembly at the end of last half term: Harry, Daniel and Charlie G (guitar), Katherine (piano), Abigail (flute), Lexi and Thomas (violin). Cedar recorder players also performed: Eleanor, Lacey, Abbie, Charlie H, Amely, Lexi, Daniel and Sophie. Well done to them all.



Guidance to Educational Settings about COVID-19

The Department for Education and Public Health England have published guidance for schools and other educational settings in relation to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) which can be found at the following [link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19)

The guidance covers:

- what to do if a case of COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed in a pupil, student or staff member;
- guidance in relation to pupils, students or staff that have travelled abroad in the last 14 days;
- what to do if someone becomes unwell with suspected COVID-19 within the setting;
- advice on how to prevent the spread of infection, including suggested teaching resources;
- guidance on the restrictions that apply to different countries, including a detailed map of the specific areas of Italy that are affected. The following restrictions apply:
 - **Travellers returning from Category 1 areas: Travellers should self-isolate, even if asymptomatic and call NHS 111 to inform of recent travel** (Category 1 areas are Wuhan/Hubei, Iran, Daegu/Cheongdo in the Republic of Korea and **any Italian town under containment measures**, as per the link above)
 - **Travellers returning from Category 2 areas: Travellers do not need to undertake any special measures but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111** (Category 2 areas now **include northern Italy**, defined as per the link above, along with the rest of China and Republic of Korea and a wider list of countries including Thailand and Singapore)
 - There are no restrictions for those returning from southern Italy.

This guidance continues to be updated when further information becomes available



Junior Road Safety Officers



Congratulations to our new Junior Road Safety Officers:

Ollie D

Sam W

Felicity B

Grace C

Harrison B

Bethany J

Book Fair

We're really excited to be welcoming back Primary Books Book Fair on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March. Children will be visiting the book fair within their classes and will be able to look at and purchase books. Envelopes for any money you wish to give your child for the book fair are being sent home today; please return these to your child's class teacher by **Friday 6th March**, at the latest.



Every child will also be receiving their World Book Day voucher when their class visits the book fair. They may use this to purchase one of this year's selection of £1.00 World Book Day books (please see link below) or they can use it to put towards the purchase of a full price book. <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

Savers is Closing!

The Bedford Credit Union (BCU) has written to us to say after careful review of their operations, they have concluded that they can not support School Savers Clubs anymore. The last Savers Club will be **Thursday 26th March 2020**. If the children want to continue to save in to their accounts with BCU, they can do so by going directly to BCU to set up a standing order. Alternatively, they can close their accounts and have the balance transferred in to a bank account. Forms for this will be sent out. If completed forms are returned by Thursday 26th March, the savers team can send them to BCU otherwise you will need to organise your child's account yourself. Thank you to everyone for all of their support.

The Savers Team





All clubs for this half term have now started; please see the timetable below. If your child no longer requires a place, please let the school office know so this can be given to someone else.

Monday

Year 1 PE Club - 3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Tuesday

Year 3 & 4 Technology Club—Lunchtime

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

Year 2 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Mid Beds Soccer (External Club)

w/c 06/01/20—10/02/20

(Booking form attached)

Wednesday

Year 1-4 Multi Skills Club—8.00am—8.50am

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Year 3 & 4 Mindfulness Club—Lunchtime

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

Year 3 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Thursday

Year 3 & 4 Press Club—Lunchtime

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Year 3 & 4 Science Club (Invite Only) - 3.20pm—4.00pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Year 1 & 2 Dance Club—3.20pm—4.00pm

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

Year 4 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

Happy Little Yogi (External Club) - 3.30pm—4.30pm

w/c 24/02/20—30/03/20

(Booking form attached)

Friday

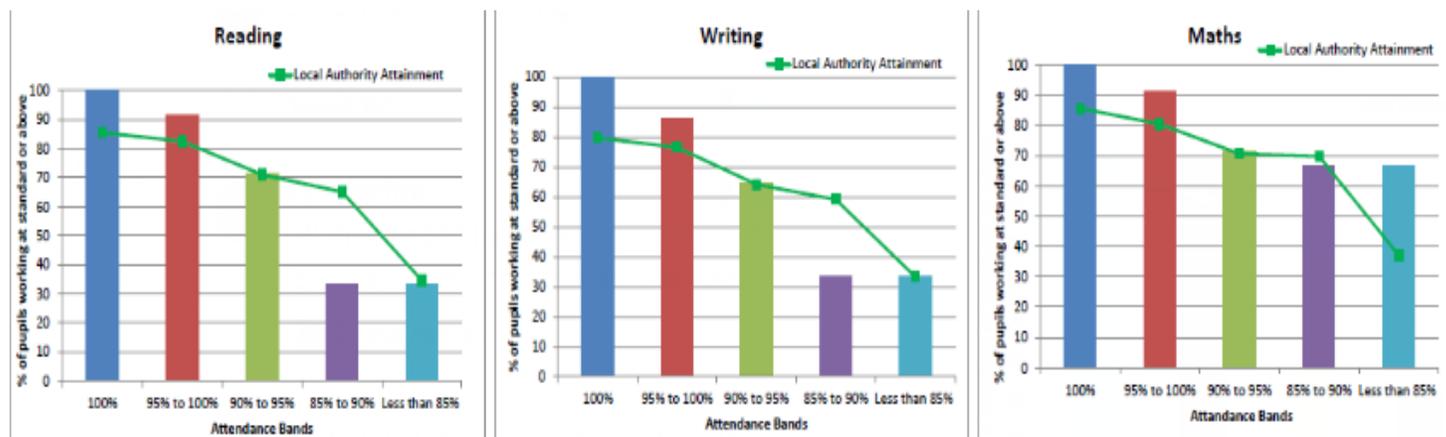
Little Ninja's (External Club) - 3.20pm—4.00pm

w/c 13/01/20—30/03/20

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

Jennifer B
Kiarno D
Vinnie G
Elisa C
Lyra B
Georgia H

Year 1

Summer C
Joshua B
Oscar D
James R

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

Year 2

Emelia N
Theo S
William H-M
Isla R

Year 4

Frankie M
Matthew F

Year 3

Bailey S
Bo M
Layla R
Albie H

PSA News



Forthcoming events:

Sponsored Bounce – Mon 30th March

Consent and sponsor forms have been sent out this week!

RAISE YOUR GAME
RAISE YOUR HEART RATE
RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOOL

SPONSORED
BOUNCE



Monday 30th March 2019
(During the school day)

Please return your **SPONSORSHIP FORM** and
SPONSOR MONEY to reception or form teacher
on or before **Friday 27th March**

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 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.

Community News

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

Central Bedfordshire Develop



Confidence For Work

Develop are running a free 12 hour course over 3 weeks for Parents and Carers who want to get back into work.

Your local course is running at:

Sandy Library

04/03/2020 - 9:30 - 12:30
11/03/2020 - 9:30 - 12:30
18/03/2020 - 9:30 - 12:30
20/03/2020 - 9:30 - 12:30

Register today to book your place!

Scan me 

Contact Paris Ovenden:
ovendenp@developebp.co.uk
01525 408697
Or drop us a text!
07900 410960 07827 340280



Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council working together | Education & Skills Funding Agency | matrix | Apprenticeships

Central Bedfordshire Develop



Confidence For Work

Develop are running a free course over 4 weeks for Parents and Carers who want to get back into work.

Your local course is running at:

Stotfold Children's Centre

23/04/2020 - 6-9pm
30/04/2020 - 6-9pm
07/05/2020 - 6-9pm
14/05/2020 - 6-9pm

Register today to book your place!

Contact Paris Ovenden:
ovendenp@developebp.co.uk
01525 408697
Or drop us a text!
07900 410960 07827 340289

Scan me 



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Diary Dates

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

Spring Term 2020	
25th February—31st March	Year 3 Swimming
27th February—2nd April	Year 3 Swimming
2nd March	World Book Day for SLS
4th—6th March	Year 4 Frontier Centre
6th March	Hawthorn Class Assembly 2.45pm
10th March	Book Fair
11th March	Book Fair
12th March	Pear Class Assembly 2.45pm
13th March	Ash Class Assembly 2.45pm
16th March	<i>Year 2 Titanic Day</i>
17th March	Year 4 Faith Tour
20th March	Plum Class Assembly 2.45pm
27th March	Beech Class Assembly 2.45pm
30th March	PSA Sponsored Bounce
6th April—19th April	Easter
20th April	Inset Day

Summer Term 2020	
21st April	Children Return to School
26th April	PSA Table Top Sale
29th April	Class Photos
1st May	Holly Assembly 2.45pm
6th May	Bag 2 School
6th May	Year 4 Bikeability
8th May	Bank Holiday
22nd May	Willow Assembly 2.45pm
25th May	Bank Holiday
26th—31st May	Half Term
1st June	Children Return to School
8th June	Road Safety Week
11th June	Year 3 Sing Out Play Out Concert at The Corn Exchange
12th June	Chestnut Class Assembly 2.45pm
15th June	Reception Open Evening
22nd June	Cherry Open Evening
24th June	EYFS Sports Day
25th June	KS2 Sports Day AM, KS1 Sports Day PM
3rd July	Move Up Day
15th July	Year 4 Leavers' Performance and Afternoon Tea
17th July	End of Term