

Weekly Update



Friday 29th November 2019



Dear Families and Friends,

As I write this, we are readying for our trip to the Christmas Tree Festival. The season of goodwill is upon us and our values of Peace & Understanding come to the fore, as we ramp up the festivities and continue in our busy school.

It will not have escaped your notice that we have had a number of children and staff absent with sickness. Whilst it is incumbent upon a school to drive up attendance, because this has been so starkly linked to pupil outcomes, we do still operate a 48 hour rule. Enteric illnesses spread quickly and are passed on easily, so the NHS advise 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting. This remains our policy.

We were again visited by the traffic warden, and I am thrilled that the safety of our children is being taken seriously. We have delivered road safety sessions with each child now, and we see that you also reinforce road safety when you ensure children use the pavements and zebra crossings. The other aspect we have taught is the visibility of clothing, as some of our older children attend things later in the evenings around town. Thank you for your continued support on this matter and your reporting of dangerous driving and parking to the local authority—it does help us.

This week in school we were visited by a Buddhist monk. Miss Sharma organised a fully packed day for our children in all year groups, and we were delighted about the feedback from these sessions. Our children have good knowledge, and their enquiry skills were also commented on. Asking questions and seeking answers is how children learn best. Our thanks to Miss Sharma.

Children's language skills are paramount for developing enquiry, and of course all reading supports language development, which we continue to drive as an area of importance. Our children have been building their daily house points and increasing their reading too.

Poetry has been a focus this week. We have been developing our Winter descriptions and linking this to poems and art for our winter displays. I'm looking forward to sharing photos of those displays with you next week—watch this space.

Sheffield lights are switched on tomorrow, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Our choir will be performing, and Mrs Rayner has some alumni musicians in attendance too, which is absolutely wonderful.

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch



Values

The values from November 25th—December 20th are **Peace** and **Understanding**.

Following on from tolerance, what is peace, and how can we bring peace about—conciliation, finding resolutions, solving problems together. Understanding the other perspective, understanding what other's need.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

With an increase of illnesses within school at the moment, we would like to remind parents that children with sickness and/or diarrhoea, need to remain off 48 hours after the last bout.

Batteries

With Christmas fast approaching, you may be clearing out old toys to make way for the new! Please can we remind you to recycle of any old batteries that you may have by bringing them in to school.

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.

Santa Challenge

Next week from Monday 2nd—Friday 13th December, we will be taking part in the Sustrans Santa Challenge, a virtual trip to Lapland! Each time you or your child travels actively to school, by walking, scooting or cycling, you will be credited with 1 mile. Sustrans will be adding up all of the miles completed by the schools taking part in Bedfordshire, to see whether we can reach our goal of arriving in Lapland, 2,050 miles from Bedfordshire, before Christmas! Record cards have been sent home this week for you to record your journeys. If you return your record card you may be in for a chance to win a lightweight Frog bike!

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 4th 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

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

Bethany L
Effie B
William R
Daisy F

Year 1

Max H
Albie D
Poppy K
Oliver W

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

Year 2

Jamie E
Tristan D
Joel B
Masen W

Year 4

Mya S
Sophie I
Miles M

Year 3

Renae I
Bo M
Theo H
Kirstie M

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 — Charlie C

Pear — Oscar G

Plum — Eliza B

Year 1

Chestnut — Charlie W

Holly — Albie D

Sycamore — Lola D

Year 2

Maple — Zion T

Oak — Alice P

Willow — Kairo P-S



Year 3

Cedar — Shenai L

Elm — Matthew B

Hawthorn — Pippa C

Year 4

Ash — Angel S

Beech — Willow C

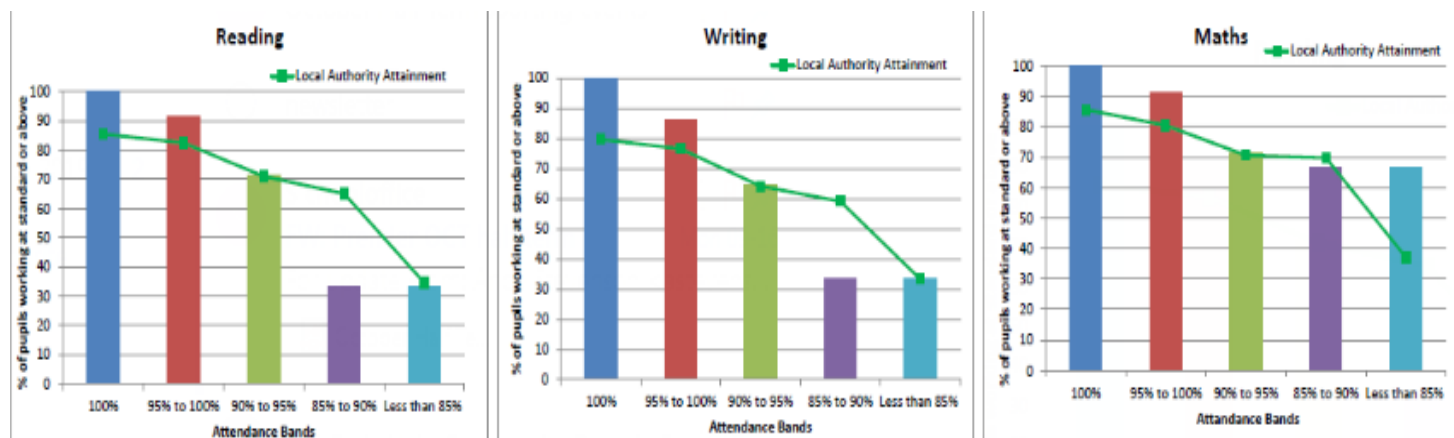
Hazel — Annabel G



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

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 on the piano by Lilly, Phoebe, Priya and Kayla as well as Kimberley playing her violin.

Christmas Tree Festival

On **Friday 29th November** at **11.00am** the children in Year 3 and 4 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. At 5.00pm. We will be meeting outside Lloyds chemist adjacent to the church at 4.50pm. If there are any parents, carers or friends who are joining in on an orchestral instrument, we will be delighted to see them. Music will be provided.

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 by **Tuesday 3rd** at **9.00am**. **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. **There will be no choir after school on this day.**

Carols on the Playground

There will be carols on the playground at 2.00pm on the last day of term, Friday 20th December. If there are any parents, carers or friends who are able to join in on an orchestral instrument, please inform the school office. Music will be provided.



PSA News

Mufti Day—Friday 29th November

Thank you to everyone who came in Mufti today and gave their donations towards our Christmas Fayre on Friday 13th December.

Christmas Light Switch On

Tomorrow evening see's the annual Shefford Light Switch on. There will be lots going on including Santa's grotto, fair rides and singing from children of our school. Please join us from 4.00pm. The PSA will have a stall selling 'flashers', raffle tickets, reindeer food etc. so please come and say hello!

Reindeer Food

This is will be on sale from Monday via the school office at 50p per bag. Please bring the correct money as change cannot be given.

Christmas Fayre—Friday 13th December from 3.00pm

We are also holding this year's Christmas Fayre on Friday 13th 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.

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 12th December. Additional tickets are available via the 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 £25,000.00 weekly jackpot. It's easy to set up. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play> Good luck. This is an ongoing offer and you can 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: Wednesday 15th 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.



PSA Winter Fayre

Friday 13th 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

Community News

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



Christmas Craft Session

Christmas card making
at
Shefford Library

On Saturday 14th Dec.
From 11.30 am - 1



Come and join in –
it's FREE!



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

CBCLibraries
@cbc_libraries
@centralbedslibraries



4Cornercoaching Christmas Cracker Football days



Monday 23rd Dec:
Sandy Sports Centre indoor sports hall - SG19 1BL - Ages 5 – 14
Time/cost - 10am – 4pm = £15
Extended day - Time/cost - 9.30am – 4.30pm = £20

Tuesday 24th Dec:
Sandy Sports Centre indoor sports hall - SG19 1BL - Ages 5 – 14
Time/cost - 10am – 3pm = £15



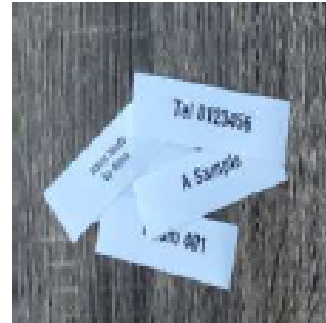
Contact : Natasha – 07957980492 – natasha@4cornercoaching.co.uk
Mark – 07419764033 – mark@4cornercoaching.co.uk
www.4cornercoaching.co.uk



CLOTHES LABELS



15 Iron On Name Labels £ 1.99
25 Iron On Name Labels £ 2.99
50 Iron On Name Labels £ 4.99



10 Sew On Labels £ 1.99
20 Sew On Labels £ 3.50
30 Sew On Labels £ 5.00



15 Plain Name Labels £ 0.99
25 Plain Name Labels £ 1.60
50 Plain Name Labels £ 3.00



Peel & Stick Shoe Labels – 5 pairs for £1.50

Order From - www.labelcreating.co.uk

Email - labelcreating@gmail.com

Tel - Marion - 07754 515586

Diary Dates

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

| Autumn Term 2019 | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 2.00pm |
| 12th December | Hamper Raffle Prize Draw |
| 12th December | KS2 Concert 9.30am, KS1 Concert 2.00pm |
| 13th December | Present Day AM |
| 13th December | Winter Fayre |
| 17th December | Christmas Dinner |
| <i>18th December</i> | <i>Father Christmas Visiting School</i> |
| <i>19th December</i> | <i>Magic Show for Reception, KS1 and KS2</i> |
| 20th December | Carols on the Playground End of Term |