

Weekly Update

Friday 4th March 2022



Please email <u>schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk</u> if you require support in accessing this newsletter in an alternative format.

Dear Families & Friends,

We have had a wonderful week, with lots happening in school. Shrove Tuesday brought all the pancake fun with it, and we are following this with World Book Day.

The purpose of World Book Day is to foster a love of reading, which is so crucial to learning. The act of reading alters the level of language children are exposed to, and their critical thinking skills. This impacts all areas of learning, both academically and socially. The 'Connected Curriculum' at Shefford Lower is pivoted around reading. When you look at the coherence documents we have for each subject (<u>these are available on our website</u>) you will notice that each element is connected to a reading book that has been selected for the richness of content.

As a school, we undertook a pilot project with the highly regarding Mary Myatt. Our curriculum leader, Mr Wakefield, is acknowledged now as one of her contributors. The work we have done to raise standards in reading and curriculum links has been paying dividends in the very good results we are showing on our current data. Shefford Lower School has always been a school which prepares children exceptionally well for their next phase of learning, and more recently we have built further on these successes. Please do engage with our reading initiatives, including the wonderful 'Book Sprites' which we will soon be restarting, and our book fair. Children receive a book voucher to spend. Reading little and often each day has the maximum benefit for your child, and they also earn a daily house point for their team. If you would like to volunteer to hear readers or support in class, please let Mrs Hudson in our office have your details. Thank you.

At school we have a number of people to help children beyond the classroom. Our superb staff in Poplar Class work using nurture principles to provide social, emotional and mental health support for a variety of needs and reasons. Mrs Parry and her trusty furry friend, Rosco, provide a warm welcome for families. With Rosco's birthday on 12th March, she will be doing the rounds to remind children of her role soon. She has been our long standing family support worker and is available by phone or email too. Mrs Robinson, our Inclusion Manager and SENDco works within this team to ensure support for additional learning and development needs are met. Mrs Freeman leads the support for our more vulnerable pupils, as our Assistant Head teacher. With the recent pandemic, we have seen a range of support needs increase, and want our families to know we are here to help. No question is ever too small.

One of things we recognise is that children, as they develop will need to learn to resolve conflicts, develop kindness, safety, tolerance and other valuable intentions. Our values led principles help to provide children with the language and skills to resolve issues peacefully. We are an anti-bullying school, and as such, we encourage kind words and calm playtimes. We are very grateful to the PSA for their recent funding of playtime trolleys to support the children at break and lunchtimes. We do have a reach out in this newsletter for some of the equipment we are looking for—please do check if you have any of these items you can donate. And save the date for the next PSA meeting too! **24th March**. It is with the support of the PSA, we have been able to fund Wow Events that the children love, such as next week's Safari Stu and Birds of Prey. This also invigorates children's writing, so we can't wait to see what they choose to write about afterwards.

Please do remember to send children to school with draw string bags, and not ruck sacks. This is to prevent the hazards in our cloakrooms as coats fall off pegs when placed over ruck sacks. It also helps to reduce lost property. Book bags, that fit into your child's tray are to be used to bring in reading books and diaries.

Similarly, to keep people safe, we encourage our pupils to dismount scooters and bikes when they approach school up the pathway. Thank you for supporting us with this.



<u>Values</u>

The values of March will be Courage & Determination

"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" Vincent Van Gogh.

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 long voice in a crowd, when peer pressure is high.



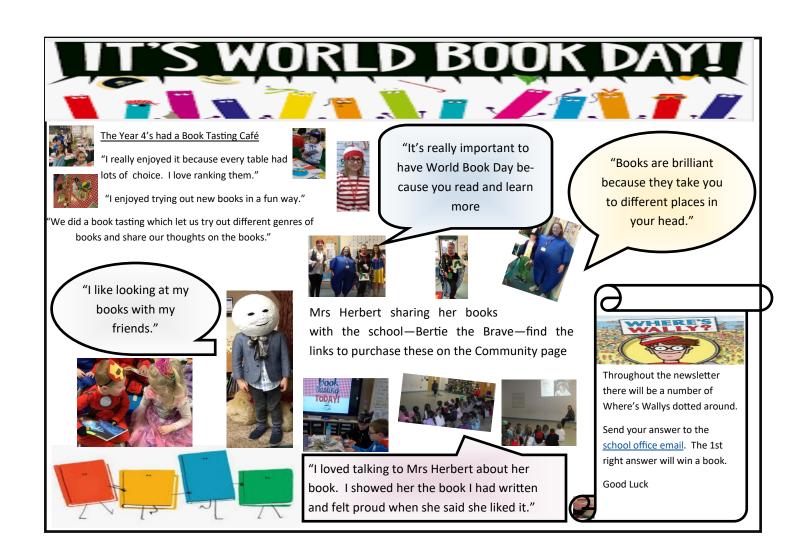
WANTED PLAY DONATIONS

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.











Shefford Museum and Gallery is growing fast at Shefford Lower School. It features copies of some the most famous paintings in the world and authentic historical and natural history artefacts. We would like to share a different exhibit each week in the news letter. This week's featured exhibit is

<u>Rosetta stone</u>

The Rosetta Stone is a granodiorite stele inscribed with three versions of a decree issued in Memphis, Egypt, in 196 BC during the Ptolemaic dynasty on behalf of King Ptolemy V Epiphanes. The top and middle texts are in Ancient Egyptian using hieroglyphic and Demotic scripts respectively, while the bottom is in Ancient Greek. The decree has only minor differences between the three versions, making the Rosetta Stone key to deciphering the Egyptian scripts.

AN INTERESTING WATCH: https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/the-rosetta-stone

The Rosetta Stone is perhaps the most important archaeological find of all time; it was thanks to it that we understand the language of the hieroglyphs and came to comprehend the ancient Egyptian civilization that lay beyond them. When the stone was discovered by mistake by Napoleonic forces in 1799, its importance was obvious; with the same text translated into three languages, it offered the chance at last to understand Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. But the cracking of the code was not at all straightforward and it took some of the greatest minds of Europe years before the most widely-anticipated code-breaking of all time was achieved. Professor Richard Parkinson tells the story of Thomas Young, Jean-Francois Champollion and the other great Egyptologists behind the unlocking of the Stone's secrets, while also offering



us an insight into the story of the Stone itself, from the questionable artifact-handling of the Victorian era through to its place today at the centre of the British Museum and of the world's consciousness.

Period: 196 BC https://www.britannica.com/video/204713/more-writing-Rosetta-Stone



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
- 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 al 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

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-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.

Community News

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





<u>Ivel Valley Parent Bulletin</u> Ivel Valley Early Help Bulletin

ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Central Bedfordshire Council www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse

Safe Spaces Scheme

Introduction

The Central Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Safe Spaces Scheme is part of the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Safe Spaces Scheme where specific locations within the community are available to:

Central

Bedfordshire

- offer a safe space for somebody to go to who needs to access support
- offer a safe space for someone to contact a support service to help them safely

What is a Safe Space?

A Safe Space is an area in your building that enables someone experiencing domestic abuse to be able to make a confidential call, use the internet safely to get help or to just be somewhere safe.

The Safe Space will display, if possible, information about the local and national services that can support victims. If these information details can't be displayed for some reason, the Safe Space would provide access to the information for people who need it. There is a list of local and national services at the end of this guidance that could be displayed or made available in your safe space

Staff who manage and work in the Safe Space do not need to be experts in domestic abuse. Just having information about support services displayed and providing a safe environment for someone affected by domestic abuse to make a call or access on-line services, could make a big difference. If you are approached by someone asking about a Safe Space, then all you should have to do is show them where they can access the allocated Safe Space area at your location.

Why do we need the Safe Space scheme?

Whatever the situation, everyone deserves to live a life free from fear and abuse and there is support for victims and perpetrators at every stage of their life and at every stage of a relationship.

Not everyone has a safe space to go to when they need to get away from abuse or talk to someone who can help them in confidence. That's why we would like to have places in our communities that are safe for individuals to go to.

One of the most important things we would encourage anyone affected by domestic abuse to do, is to talk about what is happening to them.

Support for Safe Spaces in Central Bedfordshire

We will be able to give you support if you would like to become a safe space or find out more about how you can support individuals in your community. We will:

- Come to your place of work to have an initial conversation about being a Safe Space and answer any queries that you may have
- Provide a point of contact to you who will be able to be your first point of contact for any domestic abuse support
- Provide training for someone in your workplace to be trained as a Domestic Abuse Responder

Top tips for your Safe Space

- Brief your staff teams and remind them frequently about Safe Spaces so that everyone knows about the scheme and knows where to direct any queries from individuals.
- Remember to register your safe space details by providing the name of your location/service, postal
 address, website address if available and a contact email address or phone number so that we can
 send you updates or resources to BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
- Display the resources, including the logo image, in your safe space and consider where else they
 could be displayed such as: toilet, restrooms, staff rooms, reception areas, break out areas etc.
- Keep in touch. Let us know if there is anything we can provide to help you promote or improve your safe space.

How do I become a Safe Space?

If you think that you are able to provide a Safe Space to someone affected by domestic abuse, then all you need to do is let us know that you would like to join the scheme.

Please email your details to: BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

- Please provide: • Name of your location/service
 - Postal address
 - Opening hours if applicable.
 - Website address if available.
 - Contact email address or phone number so that we can send you updates or resources (this detail will NOT be displayed on any public website page)

We are aiming to build and publish a directory of local Safe Spaces across Bedfordshire and you can help us do this by registering to join the scheme.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

If you think a child you know is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, please contact your local authority and share your concerns with them.

For safeguarding advice or to report a concern:

- - Contact the Central Bedfordshire <u>Access and Referral Hub</u> on 0300 300 8585 or for out of hours contact 0300 300 8123

If you think a vulnerable adult you know is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, please contact your local authority and share your concerns with them.

For safeguarding advice or to report a concern:

 Contact the Central Bedfordshire <u>Adult Safeguarding team</u> on 0300 300 8122 or for out of hours 0300 300 8123, or email <u>adult.protection@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</u>

Support Services

There are local and national services that provide support to those affected by domestic abuse. This includes the police, the local authority and the many voluntary and community services across Bedfordshire and beyond.

- For more information about the specialist support services available, please utilise the following resources:
 - Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Website Get Help Page
 - Bedfordshire Support Services Directory

If you are worried that you or someone you know is in immediate danger, you should call the police on 999.

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 expartner 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.

Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

2022 Upcoming Dates

W/C 21st February	Year 3 Swimming lessons begin for 6 weeks
8th & 9th March	<u>Book Fair</u>
10th & 12th March	WOW English Project—Safari Stu & Birds of Prey will be visiting the school
14th—18th March	Science Week
16th March	Year 1 Woburn Trip
18th March	Red Nose Day—Noses will be available to buy from class at £1.50
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
<u>28th March</u>	Year 4's 1940s Activity Workship
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	National Child Measurement Programme—Reception children.—The School nurse team will be in school for the NCMP—information sent out via Parentmail
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 <u>Term Dates Links</u>