



Weekly Update

Friday 5th November 2021



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

Dear Families and Friends,

It was wonderful to share the curriculum event with so many of you last night. Thank you for supporting us in this way.

Mrs Kumar provided lots of information about keeping children safe online and some useful signposting to sites to help families. This is obviously a key aspect of safeguarding in school too. <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics>

Mr Bowen shared our calculation policy, with some demonstrations of the CPA methodologies—Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract. This is not familiar to many adults, yet is crucial for the development of children’s numerical understanding. Whilst he advised that many resources are available to buy, he also suggested using natural materials such as acorns, pebbles, or pinecones to represent number. <https://mathsbot.com/manipulativeMenu>

You also heard from Miss Sharma, our English leader, who is working closely with the wider English Team in school. Comprising of RMs Metcalfe for Drama as part of English, Miss McIntyre for Spellings, Library and Phonics. Mrs Wood, who is lead for Communication, Language and Literacy as well as phonics and spelling is currently on maternity leave.

Mr Wakefield began with a whistle stop tour to the Shefford Connected Curriculum and the links to the school website were shared so that you can locate our curriculum map and the coherence documents which accompany each unit we teach. <https://www.sheffordlowschool.co.uk/curriculum>

We encourage your feedback after this event, and of course if you have any questions that were not covered last night.

We took a few initial questions, such as whether recorders and music clubs would be restarted. These have already begun with the expanded appointment of a music teacher to double the time that was bought in previously. Mrs Lawson is extending music lessons, developing the choir and school bank, as well as instrument lessons. Around this, a timetable of additional clubs have been set. For example, African Drumming begins this Monday morning. Peripatetic teachers are also beginning to visit for individual tuition. We sign post families to Inspiring Music if you are interested in booking lessons for your child. [Music lessons in schools—Inspiring Music—Central Bedfordshire](#)

We were also asked about Christmas concerts. As previously shared, we will crucially ensure the children are able to perform to an audience, which will be to other children and staff in school due to the reinstated measures for schools in Bedfordshire. The quality of sharing these live is insufficient from the stage, so instead we ask that parents celebrate with us at the outside carol service on the last day of term. Mrs Mansell is already organising practices.

This week in school has felt rather special. We had a ‘no pens day Wednesday’ to further develop creativity and curriculum access. Children do not always need to write things down to demonstrate their learning, and by having a day each year enables the wider scope of methods to gain a greater focus, many of which we already do at Shefford Lower.

Lion Learners were selected this week. Teachers have been talking to children about their values and efforts as we restarted from September. The children have shone and scooped up lots of house points, merits and head teacher awards. These have been for many things: reading, behaviour for learning, values stamps, sport, art, home learning to name just a few. The 3 rules of **Kind, Helpful and Safe** are well established and we wanted to frequently recognise children for whom this is always true. They are role models throughout the school and now feature on our special Lion Learner boards. These will be refreshed regularly throughout the year.

Diwali was also a very special day—thank you so much for taking part. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and we taught that this is a religious festival observed in our global community.

With Guy Fawkes night tonight, the week will end with lots of sparkles too.

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Finch



Values

The values of November will be Friendship & Tolerance

“A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside it.” Winnie the Pooh by A.A Milne.
Tolerance is understanding, rather than ‘putting up with’. Exploring building supportive and trusting networks and knowing who to talk to. This will also be explored in

Anti-bullying month

House Points and Attendance W/E

22.10.21

House Points

Fire—955
Water—893
Air—773
Earth—693

House Attendance & Punctuality Winner

Earth



We are hoping to collect plant donations for the values garden. Please bring them to Mr Wakefield via the school office.



Arriving to school on time

When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson.

This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else is settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher—everyone’s education is compromised.


5 minutes late a day = 3 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

10 minutes late a day = 6.5 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

15 minutes late a day = 10 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

20 minutes late a day = 13 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR

30 minutes late a day = 19 DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST A YEAR



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](#)



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: “It’s up to me if I smack my child to punish them.”

Buster: This will always be investigated and recorded on *CPOMS by schools, because the law forbids smacking except in exceptional circumstances. EG: If the violence you use is severe enough to leave a mark, a scratch or a bruise, you can be prosecuted for assault.

*Child Protection Online Management System

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

Mrs Ross will be posting weekly challenges for children to complete.

Answers will be welcome by Mrs Ross throughout the week.

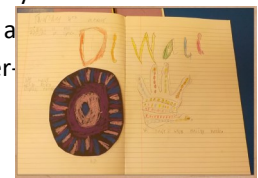
Good luck.

What am I?

- I have a broad flat tail that is used as a rudder and an alarm call
- My collective name is a colony
- I can close my nostrils and ears underwater
- My teeth never stop growing
- When food is scarce I will eat wood
- I can fell an 8 foot tree in five minutes



On Thursday, we celebrated Diwali. Children across the school learned about the Hindu celebration through lots of fun filled activities. Here are some of the comments from pupils. Year 2: 'Our favourite part of the day was creating our own rangoli patterns and creating a double page of Diwali facts and artwork.' Year 3: 'We loved learning some Bollywood style dance and painting rangoli patterns.' Year 4: We really enjoyed creating rangoli patterns with petals and 2D shapes, as well as acting out the story of Rama and Sita through freeze frames of different parts of the story.'



Love Quilts UK

Mrs Wright from Early Years is closely involved with a Charity called Love Quilts UK.

It's a world-wide group of volunteer stitchers and quilters who cross stitch squares for British children under the age of 19 years, who have life threatening or life-long illnesses. The squares are then made into beautiful quilts which are given to the children with no cost to their families.

If you think this is relevant to you or someone you know please take a look, or share the website. Mrs Wright is also happy to answer any questions you might have.

<http://www.lovequiltsuk.com/index.php>

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



FlashPark

Please be aware that we now have FlashPark in operation within our staff car park.

Permits will now need to be displayed when parking on school grounds.

Alternative parking is on Ampthill Road or Morrisons offer a park and walk option.

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

Blue badge holders can access the staff car park.

Congratulations to the winners of the Halloween colouring competition run by Sheridan's Estate Agents. Here are the lucky winners that received a £10 Book token

Reception—George

Year 1—Chloe

Year 2—Emily

Year 3 Imogen

Year 4—Maisie



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.

Reception

Pear— Arthur Plum— Francesca & Clara, Peach— Conor

Year 1

Chestnut— Freddy, Holly— Alice, Sycamore— Jasmine

Year 2

Maple— Charlie, Oak— Poppy, Willow—Jennifer

Year 3

Cedar— Isabella, Hawthorn— Paige, Elm— Amber

Year 4

Ash— Emmanuel, Hazel— Blake, Beech—Sisi



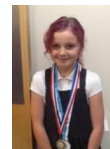
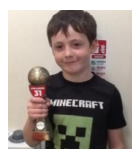
Shefford Sporting Successes

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.

Fire House Rose—Trampolining, Mark—Football, George—Swimming.

Earth House Emily—Swimming, Poppy—Swimming

Air House Freddie—Swimming, Harrison—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

Reception

Jean, Robin, Bobby, George, Joshua, Rory, Ava, Beatie, Seb, Jude, Aiden, Toby, Noah, Oscar & Eleanor

Year 1

Eva, Mia, Sienna, Katy, Eleanor, Catlyn, Katie, Logan, Toby, Grace, Ben, Lizzie, Alice, Teddy, Jackson, Elodie, Joseph & Arla

Year 2

Esme, Layton, Freddie, Sofya, Esmee & Sophie

Year 3

Poppy, Louis, Isla, Isabella, Dougie & Emmie

Year 4

Faith, Ekam, Mary, Max, Evie, Sam, Tristan & Evie



PSA News

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 18 November**

Due to restrictions being reintroduced this will now be virtual. If you would like to attend please contact the school office with your details and further information will be sent out 5 days before.

How to support the PSA

There are lots of ways to support the PSA throughout the year.

If you know of any other fundraising initiatives then please contact the office to let us know.

Help us raise **FREE** funds for

Shefford Lower School PSA

every time you **shop online**

Just search for us on [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)



DINO BANK

You'll find him in the school entrance.

He's always hungry and is kept happy by feeding him your spare change!

Thank you



How the lottery works

£1 per ticket

That's right, unlike many other lotteries, our lottery tickets are only £1 per week.



Help us do more

For every ticket you play, 76% goes to our school and prizes.



£25,000 grand prize

Match all 6 numbers and you win the JACKPOT!



A big thank you to everyone for your continued support of our PSA

PSA Mufti Day

We raised an amazing **£334.30** on the 22nd October.

The PSA would like to thank you all for supporting them raise funds for such a great cause.

Community News

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



Was your child born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018?

They will start school in September 2022, so you need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2022.

Apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You can also complete a paper application form which is available from your local school or by contacting School Admissions admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk 0300 300 8037

A great place to live and work.

If your child is due to start lower school or transfer to middle school you need to apply for your school place by the 15th January

Please follow the link for application guidance

[Application Guidance](#)

Children's Community Health HUB 

Your one stop contact point

0300 555 0606 Open 9am-5pm every weekday (excluding BH)
coa.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net

New contact number and email address for the Beds and Luton 0-19 services, including:

- Health Visiting
- School Nursing

New contact number for:

- Luton Community Paediatric services (Edwin Lobo Centre)
- Beds and Luton Looked after Children's services

Health HUB - a single contact point, making it easier for you to get in touch with us.




Bedfordshire Community Health Services

Children's Occupational Therapy Service

for children and young people who experience difficulties with everyday activities

You can find information and access the resources listed below on our webpage:
www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/bedfordshireservices/occupational-therapy

- "You make the difference" videos - for parents and carers of children aged under 5, to promote use of hands and independence skills.
- Sensory Processing Awareness Training - online video, planning wheels and strategies.
- Development Skills Package - provides information to support the development of the skills notes below.

This information is also available in easy read or other languages, please see the website or scan the QR code to use our RECITE function. 

- Play
- Eating
- Dressing
- Self-care (eg washing)



- Managing at school (e.g. school tasks and helping a child with a physical disability with supportive seating or to get around their classroom)



Further information (including details of your Local Offer pages) can be found at:
www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/bedfordshireservices/occupational-therapy

MEET SANTA AND HIS ELVES AND SUPPORT CHUMS CHARITY 

AT BARTON ROVERS CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS!

PRESENTS FROM SANTA, CHRISTMAS MUSIC, MAGICAL SNOW GLOBE, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, CHILDREN'S RIDES, FESTIVE STALLS, DISCO FROM 8PM AND MORE...

DECEMBER 17 | 4 PM
BARTON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

FOR TICKETS CONTACT
EMMA.STEWART@CHUMSCHARITY.ORG OR
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SANTAFORCHUMS](https://bit.ly/santaforchums)



Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

Autumn Term 2021

9th and 10th November	Year 1's Shuttleworth Trip
11th November	Remembrance
12th November	Children in Need Fundraiser
15th—19th November	Anti Bullying Week
2nd December	EYFS Christmas Concert PM to the school
3rd December	EYFS Christmas Concert PM to the school
6th December	Year 4 Christmas Concert to the school
7th December	Year 2 Christmas Concert to the school
8th December	Year 1 Christmas Concert to the school
9th December	Year 3 Christmas Concert to the school
10th December	PSA Present Day
14th December	Christmas Dinner Day
15th December	EYFS Christmas Party and Santa
16th December	KS1 (AM) and KS2 (PM) Christmas Party and Santa
17th December	Carols on the playground and End of Term
4th January 2022	SPRING TERM Begins—Children Return
13th January	Year 2 St Albans Material Trail
1st February	Chinese New Year
8th and 10 February	Parents Consultation Evening
11th February	Year 4 Bikeability
14th—18th February	Half Term
6th June 2022	Extra Bank Holiday to mark The Queen's Platinum

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

[Term Dates Links](#)