



# Weekly Update

## Friday 6th November



Dear Families,

We have had a very interesting week, as November always is in school. Our poppy display went down to Morrison's at the beginning of the week. We then learned about the significance of why the English let off fireworks on November 5th. Today, on the 6th we celebrate Diwali. I am very excited to see the bright cheerfulness in our school. Next week, we have Children in Need and we usually invite the children to wear something 'spotty' with their school uniform, and raise money for this children's charity. More on this later.

We have been having some wonderful ideas coming in for Christmas, and although we have definitively cancelled our performances, we will be delighting our children with much to come....shhhhh!

We know some of you are disappointed that cards aren't being given out from child to child this year, and present day from the PSA has been changed too. The added risk, and the likelihood of closing bubbles or year groups has to be the highest priority. We have found some alternatives, and there is some eco-learning to accompany those alternatives too. However, it is fully our intention to allow card exchanges again next year, and to make present day really fun. We haven't cancelled Santa visiting our school to deliver his quarantined gifts, and our class parties will be more fun than ever.

Covid safety is crucial for our school to stay open, so I take this opportunity to politely remind you to heed the markings on our pavements for 2m distancing. Robert Bloomfield have kindly marked their pathway that runs up to our site too. We also continue to keep the one way system in action, so please be mindful of this, as numbers rise for Covid both nationally and locally. We do not have a statutory obligation for you to wear masks, but it is something we advocate if you are able to do so. The DfE have not changed their rules on school attendance, so parents are legally responsible for ensuring their children arrive to school daily on time, in accordance with the law.

By the time you read this today, we will have had another special visitor in our school. Rosco, you will know from my previous letter, is Mrs Hall's dog. He has been trained to be in school, and has had a thorough risk assessment devised to support his interactions. This week, our governors ratified the policy for our dog 'mascot' and his first visit to Mrs Hudson's office can happen as he begins to become familiar with his surroundings. Please ensure we have the latest allergy information for your child.

On Sunday, I will be taking the school's poppy wreath into town in a special ceremony to commemorate those who have given their lives for our freedoms. This year is slightly different. We have been asked to have just one person from our school do this, and not to invite groups and families. Our children have been invited by the town mayor, Paul Mackin, to join him on Wednesday to raise the flag above the town hall. Mrs Pearson will be taking a group of children chosen from different classes to do this, including this week's winning school captain, vice captain and prefect. We will be able to view this in our classrooms, using the new technologies we have become familiar with over the lockdown period.

In school, staff have had the hand over training from the DfE to use TEAMS with classes. We know you have accessed our remote learning well through parent mail, and we will continue this if pupils need to self isolate for any reason. We will also continue this in any future lockdown. The benefit of TEAMS is that teachers can now catch up with their classes face to face as well as take and offer feedback. We can support learning more easily than through feedback via telephone, and class children would see each other during their shared feedback sessions.

Have a restful and healthy weekend everyone.

From Mrs Finch

## Values

The values from 19th October— 13th November are **Tolerance and Friendship**

*"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 supported in Anti-Bullying week.

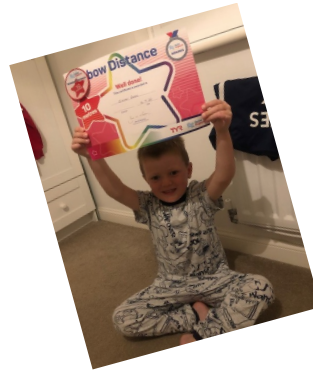
## Shefford Sporting Successes

We celebrate children's sporting successes from home as well as those in school. Please send us photos of your child's certificates and medals which will be displayed on our PE celebration board., We know that most sports clubs won't be going ahead for a while but please can parents still send in any ways that children are keeping active at home so that we can celebrate this!

Congratulations to the following children:

### Reception

Ethan R—Achieved his 10 metre swimming award



### Year 4

Annelise P—Achieved her Learn to Swim Level 2 award

Noah R—Won 'Supportive Player' for Shefford Saints

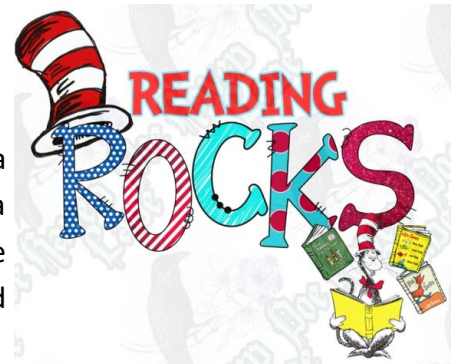
Ethan W—Won 'Golden Boot' for Shefford Saints

Joseph R—Won 'Supportive Player Runner Up' for Shefford Saints



### **Useful websites and tips for reading with your child:**

- Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is—pick up a newspaper or magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read a computer manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a detective novel. If you're cooking, get your children to join in - could they read the recipe?
- Do a project—make a craft or complete a cooking project based on the story that you read.
- Let your child choose the book—empower and excite your child by letting them choose what story you read to them.



Please see 'Reading with your Child' attached to this ParentMail from Book Trust.

## 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!

W/C 19/10/20



### Reception

**Peach** — Joe D

**Pear** — Nancy P

**Plum** — Jake D



### Year 1

**Chestnut** — Annie S

**Holly** — Poppy D

**Sycamore** — Quinnon G



### Year 2

**Maple** — Max H

**Oak** — Blake M

**Willow** — Bethan L

### Year 3

**Cedar** — Niamh R

**Elm** — Sid R

**Hawthorn** — Zion T

### Year 4

**Ash** — Evelyn L

**Beech** — Bailey S

**Hazel** — Paige H



## PSA News

### Next meeting – Wednesday 25 November @ 7.30 (online)

Do you want to share ideas, discuss and plan future fundraising events to support the school? Join us at our next meeting by contacting us through our Facebook page or calling the school office.

#### Upcoming events

##### Virtual Book Fair

We are excited that Emma's Pop-Up Bookshop will be joining us next week (9-13 November) to bring us a virtual book fair on our Facebook page – Shefford Lower School PSA.

A wide range of books, games and puzzles will be available to purchase directly with Emma's Pop-Up Bookshop – please quote SLS. There will also be special offers created specifically for us shared every day and also an exciting competition for the students to enter with the chance of winning a prize.

Every book that is purchased will enable the school to receive books for free.

The more books we purchase, the higher percentage of books the school will be able to receive.

##### Christmas hamper raffle

Tickets will be distributed within the next few weeks and hampers are being created with some gorgeous goodies for everyone.

Each student will be given 2 books at £1 per book.

If you would like more tickets then please email the school office and they will distribute to your child.

If you do not wish to purchase tickets then please return to your class teacher.

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



**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.***



**VIRTUAL DROP-IN  
FOR  
PARENTS**

**Early Help Team**

<b>Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Drop-In</b>	<b>Anger &amp; Behaviour Drop-In</b>
<b>Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 4:30pm – 5:30pm</b>	<b>Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 4:30pm – 5:30pm</b>
Please click on this link to sign-up to this drop-in session and find out more information: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-help-support-for-parents-drop-in-send-tickets-126801008229">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-help-support-for-parents-drop-in-send-tickets-126801008229</a>	Please click on this link to sign-up to this drop-in session and find out more information: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-help-support-for-parents-drop-in-anger-behaviour-tickets-126831096223">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-help-support-for-parents-drop-in-anger-behaviour-tickets-126831096223</a>

**NO QUESTION IS TOO BIG OR SMALL!**

# Diary Dates

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

<b>Autumn Term 2020</b>	
13th November	Children in Need
16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
<b><i>16th November</i></b>	<b><i>Road Safety Week</i></b>
26th November	Flu Immunisations for Year R, 1, 2,3 and 4
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