

# Weekly Update

Friday 6th December 2019



Dear Families and Friends,

If you are beginning to feel a little Christmassy, it is hardly a surprise! What a lot of practice our children are doing. This week I have had the pleasure of the production from the Early Years Team - Cherry, Peach, Pear & Plum. Beginning with the true meaning of Christmas, and the sequence of the biblical story.



We have also had the wonderful music concert. The standard of playing, singing and performing really stood out. I also applaud our children for their amazing behaviour whilst awaiting their turn. It's a long time to sit after being at school all day, and siblings who came to watch either of those performances are an absolute credit to you. I am so proud to be the head teacher of such a wonderful school.

As you know, we have been doing our best to make the carpark and entry a safer space. I have been that end of the school most mornings, but do intend to greet at both ends again soon. It is important to be available to our families and make time in the mornings if you need me. At the moment, with a further near miss this week, and one of our staff unable to remove their car in an emergency due to double parking of visitors, we will continue to enforce the current rules. Our councillor has asked that we pass on registrations, so parking/stopping on the hatched area and double yellow lines is being reported. I am sorry we cannot do much beyond our school premises, and I am sorry that it appears we still have to. Please do arrive in time to park and stride to make our school a safe space.

Now for some more delightful news. Mrs Hoyte, as many of you know was expecting her baby in January. Last week we took a call and discovered that the baby couldn't wait for Christmas and has arrived early! Both mother and baby are doing well and we have requested photos..... Some of you may also have noticed that Miss Adams is going to have a baby. This is not until after Easter. We are again delighted for Miss Adams, and know you will share our best wishes for both of our staff.

We will of course be recruiting a teacher to be in Reception, so please watch out for our advert and help to share it.

Please enjoy the remaining performances. I know that our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure the children can beam with pride for you.

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.**

### Father Christmas and the Keech Smiley Sam Train

We had an exciting visit in school on Wednesday from Father Christmas and the Keech Hospice Care train, Smiley Sam! Thank you for all your kind donations to this great cause.



### Winter Displays

Our beautiful winter displays went up this week! Children and staff have worked very hard on these, which are linked to the children's poetry and writing.



### **Medical Appointments within School Time**

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment within school time please ensure you bring in the appointment letter or card; this will enable us to mark the absence as a medical. Without proof of an appointment an absence will be marked as unauthorised.

### **Scooters and Bikes**

If your child leaves their scooter or bike at school during the day, please ensure that they are left secure. Please be aware, scooters and bikes are left at your own risk and we can not be held responsible if they go missing.

### **Present Day**

The deadline has now passed for handing in presents, forms and money and these can now longer be accepted. We look forward to seeing the children choosing their presents for you on Friday 13th December. Thank you to our PSA who have worked really hard to organise this for our children.



### **Christmas Lunch**

The deadline for Christmas lunch orders is at the end of the school day today. We will not be able to place orders after this due to the kitchen needing to order supplies.

### **Santa Challenge**

Don't forget to walk, scoot or cycle to school next week...we still have until Friday 13th December to clock up our miles to our virtual journey to Lapland before Christmas! Remember to log your journeys on your record card to be in for a chance of winning a lightweight Frog bike..

### **SEND Coffee Morning—Monday 27th January**

There will be a SEND Coffee Morning on Monday 27th January. The focus of this will be ASD and The Avenue (a non profit organisation supporting children and families with Autistic Spectrum Disorder) will be attending.



## 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:

### Year 1

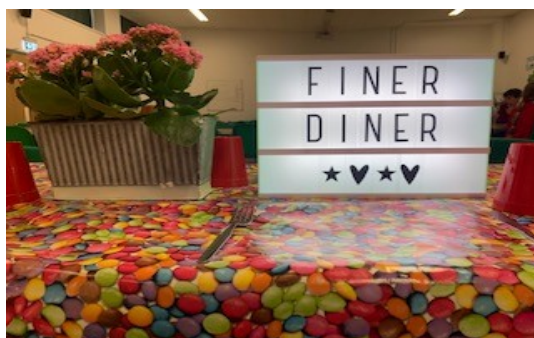
Jake M

Noah R

Isabelle P

Imogen L

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

### Year 2

Maisie F-S

Myla F

Devon C

Evie H

Faith M

### Year 4

Angel S

Aiva L

### Year 3

Pippa C

Harry D

Ryan A

## 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** — Isaac P

**Pear**— Effie B

**Plum**— Annie S



### Year 1

**Holly**— James R

### Year 2

**Maple**— Emelia N

**Oak**— Honey W

**Willow**—Amber J



### Year 3

**Cedar**— Eleanor B

**Elm**—Evelyn L

**Hawthorn**— Ruby T



### Year 4

**Ash**— Violet H

**Beech**— Nathan F

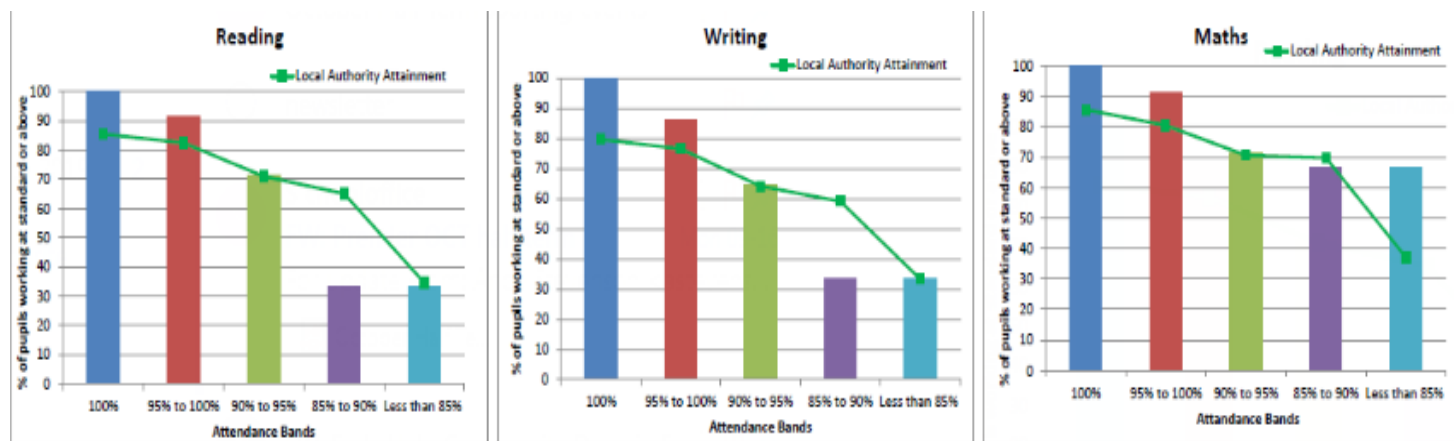
**Hazel**— Aston M



## 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



This week in our music assembly we enjoyed performances on the piano by Harpur, Poppy, Matthew B, Lucas, Abbie H, Katherine and Jessica.

Congratulations to Charmaine for passing Grade 1 Piano with distinction. A marvellous achievement and well deserved.

### Christmas Tree Festival

The school choir visited Shefford church and sang a selection of Christmas songs to mark the start of the Christmas tree festival. Their performance was greatly enjoyed by many. Following this, there was a huge gathering of children and adults for community singing at the switching on of the Shefford Christmas lights.

### Christmas Music Concert

Our evening Christmas music concert for year 3 and 4 musicians and choir members was held on Wednesday evening with performances from many instrumentalists and all of our school musical ensembles. The children sang and played with confidence, entertaining a large audience.



### Choir Visit to Oak Manor

The choir and some instrumentalists will be visiting Oak Manor residential home at **2pm** on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** to sing Christmas carols to the residents. Please inform the office if you are able to walk with the children. **There will be no after school choir on this day.**

### Year 2 Recorder Assembly

There will be a short performance for parents and carers by the Year 2 recorder players at **3pm** on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. Please wait at the Community entrance. This will finish in time to collect children from their classes at 3.20pm.

### Carols on the Playground

There will be carols on the playground at **2pm** on the **last day of term**. 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.

**There will be no music clubs the last week of term.**





# PSA News

## Present Day—Friday 13th December

All presents have now been collected and sorted. The 'shop' will be open during the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> December for participating children to choose their presents which will then be wrapped by the elves ready to bring home that evening and put under 'the tree'!

WE ARE COLLECTING WRAPPING PAPER AND SELOPTAPE DONATIONS VIA THE FRONT OFFICE. ANYTHING WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. THANK YOU

## Christmas Fayre—Friday 13th December from 3.00pm

We are holding this year's Christmas Fayre on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 stubs and money before the deadline. The raffle will be drawn during the last Christmas Concert on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Additional tickets are available via the school office

## Reindeer Food

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

## Living Life Calendar

Living Life magazine has produced a calendar for 2020 using photographs provided by local residents out and about in Shefford. These have been sponsored by local businesses who have covered printing costs. All proceeds from the sales of these calendars will aid the school's PSA fundraising efforts. Calendars are £4.00 and will make lovely gifts for relatives. The school office have these for sale, as does many of the towns' retail outlets. We will have them available at each of the Christmas concerts too.. Living Life will also be at our Christmas Fayre on the 13<sup>th</sup> December with stock.

**SPECIAL OFFER** – buy 4 calendars @ £16.00 and receive one free. Great stocking filler!





## 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 earnt 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.**



## Navigating Life Whilst Looking After Yourself & Others

Thursday 30th January 2020

We are pleased to announce the fourth session as part of the Child & Adolescent Emotional Wellbeing Programme which is being run by Bedfordshire CAMHS

**When:** Thursday 30th January 2020  
**Time:** 6 - 8.30pm (arrival from 5.45pm)  
**Where:** King's House, 245 Amphill Rd, Bedford MK42 9AZ

### Who can attend?

- ⇒ Any parent or carer who has a child registered at a Bedfordshire GP
  - ⇒ You do **NOT** need to be accessing CAMHS
  - ⇒ Siblings & family members over the age of 18

This session is on navigating life whilst looking after yourself & others and it will focus on the important elements of yourself and your family, with a primary focus on emotional wellbeing as a whole



### How can I book tickets?

Tickets are free and are available online from [Eventbrite](#). You can also scan the QR code on your smartphone for access to the website

### Where can I find more information?



@EastLondonNHSFoundationTrust



@camhs wellbeing1



www.camhs.elft.nhs.uk



www.eventbrite.co.uk



## Low Mood, Self-Harm & Suicide

Tuesday 10th December 2019

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### Who can attend?

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  - ⇒ You do **NOT** need to be accessing CAMHS
  - ⇒ Siblings & family members over the age of 18

In this session we will focus on low mood, self-harm and suicide to enable you to find ways to support the children and young people in your life. We will cover both signs & symptoms as well as strategies to help manage these difficulties



### How can I book tickets?

Tickets are free and are available online from [Eventbrite](#). You can also scan the QR code on your smartphone for access to the website

### Where can I find more information?



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www.camhs.elft.nhs.uk



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# Diary Dates

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

<b>Autumn Term 2019</b>	
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
18th December	Father Christmas Visiting School
19th December	Magic Show for Reception, KS1 and KS2
20th December	Carols on the Playground End of Term

<b>Spring Term 2020</b>	
<b><i>6th January</i></b>	<b><i>Children Return to School</i></b>
<b><i>16th January</i></b>	<b><i>Savers Club Recommences</i></b>
<b><i>27th January</i></b>	<b><i>SEND Coffee Morning</i></b>
<b><i>29th January</i></b>	<b><i>Year 2 St Alban's Cathedral—Materials Trail</i></b>