



Weekly Update



Friday 6th September 2019

Welcome back to you all.

We were excited to have the pupils return and fill the school with a flurry of activity. I am delighted at how well the first day started, and continued.

I always stand outside at the entrance, and your cheery 'Hellos' are easily the best way for any head teacher to start the day, but also to be available for any immediate queries. Please do just stop and chat.

Our school office have been busy with new admissions, and Monday will see the newest children to our school begin their journey with Mrs Freeman and her early years team in Cherry Class. We understand that many will have queries, and we are always approachable by phone, email or visit.

Our children are excited to be in their new house groups and to vote for their captains. We will be listening to their manifestos and learning about democracy as we cast our ballots. We have started our Values Education with the values of 'Unity & Belonging' sharing what it means to be part of a school or class team as well as a house team; how we at Sheffield Lower School come together to Believe~Achieve~Succeed – our school motto. We know that you have supported your children in coming to school happily for their first day, and to try their best. Our teachers will greet you at the door and be available to welcome your child; should you need more time to talk to your child's teacher, they will be happy to arrange a suitable time.

You may have noticed some improvements over the break, as Robert Bloomfield have installed a second ramp on the drive. This was in response to our parents raising the need for pushchairs and two way pedestrian traffic. Our thanks to Mr Farmer's team for resolving this ready for the start of term.

Mr Gardiner has been painting areas of the school and it looks fresh and new inside. Our learning environment is important, and we teach our children to respect and care for it too.

Over the break, the amazing *immersive room* was installed. This has been a project paid for by the PSA after considerable fund raising. The room projects interactive screens onto full walls so that the children are immersed into an experience to enhance their learning. Please see the pictures below! There are so many possibilities. The PSA aren't finished there either – this was a two step project, with the portable floor projection to come.

As we start our new school year, we always reflect back on our previous year. We are delighted with our outcomes. It is always our intention as a staff to work towards the best outcomes by the time children leave us, and become "next phase ready". In Early Years, our pupils learning accelerates and the children leave our provision with higher than average results in all 17 areas. The Year 2 SATs show that our pupils achieve better than the data collated from other schools in the local authority. Our Year 4 results show that we exceed the outcomes produced by the local authority for Reading, Writing & Maths, and that we also have a much higher number of pupils reaching the 'exceeding' grades. It is clear that when our pupils leave and go onto their next phase of education, they have a solid foundation and are equipped well for the curriculums that will follow.

For a minority of pupils who have poor attendance, the local authority have produced data for each of the measures they collate. Quite starkly, we see that as the attendance drops, so do the outcomes. We will be doing our best to be an outstanding provision for children, and this includes encouraging excellent attendance and punctuality. We are even celebrating good attendance and punctuality within our house groups.

Next week, we will be having a scoping audit by the local authority. This involves three school improvement professionals visiting and scrutinising every aspect of our school and learning provisions. It's a bit like an inspection. We are excited to have this, as the feedback will inform our goal setting for the year ahead.

As you may already know, Mrs Ross has taken over the reins as SENDco (special education needs disabilities coordinator), from Miss Bambridge. With Mrs Freeman, she is managing Care Guidance & Support for all pupil groups, and is supported by a wider pastoral team which includes Mrs Parry, Mrs Herbert and Mrs Woods. We welcome any support information you can provide regarding your child, so please do drop us a line, by phone or email. You can pop in and make an appointment, or simply attend our coffee morning on 24th September.

Each year we are asked if we have places in our school. Most year groups are full, although we do have a couple of spaces in Year 1 and in Year 2. Please enquire at the office if you would like further details.

We begin again with Finer Diners next week. Our children truly love practising their table manners and earning a space at the special table. Another new initiative we have started is our Shefford Book Sprites – we have hidden a few books around town and linked this to a Facebook page where you can share your findings, and also share if you too decided to be a sprite and hide a book for someone else to find. We will be hiding some more soon. We hope you enjoy reading and re-hiding them.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Finch



September Values

The values for this month are **Unity** and **Belonging**.

- *Starting in our new classes with a sense of togetherness and belonging.*
- *Belonging and working together in our school, as a new class, in our house groups.*
- *Developing our community by building each other up and including everyone in our groups so that they feel a sense of belonging.*

Safety Drills

Our safety is important so we have been practising our drills within school so our children know what to do in the case of a fire or lock down procedure.

Uniform Policy

Please see our updated uniform policy attached to this Parentmail.

PE T-Shirts - If children currently have a red PE t-shirt that fits them, they will be able to continue to wear this. If they require a new one, they will need one in their house colour. All house colours with the school logo on will be available online soon however these are not compulsory and t-shirts from supermarkets etc. are also acceptable. We have the original red t-shirts (Fire) available to buy from the office in larger sizes. If you are unsure of your child's house, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Dinner Money

School dinners are **£2.10 per day**. Dinners should be paid for in advance by cash or cheque (payable to Alliance in Partnership) in a named envelope.

Weekly: £10.50

Half-Term: £69.30 (04/09/19—18/10/19)

Reading Bingo Challenge

Don't forget to bring in your completed yellow Reading Bingo cards, for a certificate, bookmark and house point.

Extreme Reading

To encourage reading within school, we have introduced Extreme Reading. See how many weird and wonderful places you can read with your child; take a photo and we will put it on a dedicated display board within school!



Internal Clubs

PE and Multi Skills Club

Booking forms for PE and Multi Skills Clubs were sent out on ParentMail this week for Years 1-4. These clubs will run from the week commencing 16/09/19—09/12/19.

The closing date for booking forms is **Monday 9th September at 4.00pm.** We will confirm via ParentMail whether your child has been offered a place or not.

Other internal clubs will commence after half term. Booking forms will be available soon.

External Clubs

Little Ninja's

Please see a Little Ninja's booking form attached to this ParentMail. This starts on 13/09/19—20/12/19.

Mid Beds Soccer

Please see a Mid Beds Soccer form attached to this ParentMail. This starts on 10/09/19—15/10/19.

Music News

There are many opportunities for children to enjoy music at Shefford Lower. Pupils are encouraged to perform in the weekly music assemblies, class assemblies, music concerts, coffee mornings, community visits and at end of term productions. These recitals are all greatly enjoyed.

Music clubs will shortly be restarting and will include:

Recorder groups (Years 2, 3 and 4)

Choir (Years 3 and 4)

Ukulele group (Year 4)

Further details will be sent during the next week.



Instrumental Lessons

There are spaces available for children in Years 2, 3 and 4 to commence violin, flute, clarinet, piano, guitar and trumpet lessons. Research into music has shown it to have many wide-reaching benefits including intellectual development, boosting self-confidence, self-expression, speech and developing maths skills. Lessons take place during normal lesson time, break or lunchtime. There is a cost for these lessons but the loan of an instrument for approximately 2 years is included in the price, subject to availability (except piano and guitar). Group lessons are offered subject to availability of another pupil of a similar ability. Please enquire at the school office for more details or check the Inspiring Music website <https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/lessons-schools/overview>

Below is the music lesson timetable; this may be subject to change:



Monday

Woodwind

Piano

Wednesday

Violin

Guitar

Thursday

Brass





PSA News

PSA Meeting—Wednesday 11th September 7.45pm

Anyone looking to join our friendly team of volunteers is welcome to attend our meeting which will be held at school. Please let the school office know if you would like to attend.

Sheffield Circus—Saturday 28th September

We still have tickets available for the circus later this month. Sales for the 2.30pm show have been popular and space is now limited at this time. We do however have seats available at 1.00pm so please contact the school office ASAP for your tickets, which are £8.00 per person (over 2 years old). Tickets can also be purchased from Spitfire Travel, The MOT garage (near Morrisons), The Paper Shop, (Near Post Office) and Sheffield Building Supplies. Alongside the circus we are running several stalls which will be open from 12.00pm-5.00pm. Stalls include tombolas, candy floss and popcorn, ice-cream and burgers plus many more. Whilst the school is closed you will still be able to purchase these. All tickets are now £8.00.

Thank you to everyone who made Jars of Joy over the holidays; we've had some fantastic donations. We can still accept these over the next couple of weeks but they will need to be dropped in to the school office (not classrooms please).

Your School Lottery—Saturday 5th October

Our first lottery is now only 4 weeks away. We have over 30 tickets already signed up for and we are aiming for at least 50 as this will give the PSA an annual income of £1000 and a £20.00 weekly prize fund. Enrolling and buying your tickets this term will automatically enrol you in a further prize draw to win 1 of 3 £100 cash prizes PLUS a chance to win the national £25,000 weekly jackpot.

Family Photo Shoot—Sunday 13th October

Back by popular demand we have Figment Photography returning to the school to take family portrait photos in time for Christmas gifts. As slots are limited, please contact the school office to book your place and secure with a £10.00 sitting fee (non-refundable).



BACK-TO-SCHOOL **EXTRA** CASH PRIZES

Buy Your Lottery ticket this term for a chance
to **WIN** one of **THREE** **£100** prizes!

- Chance to win £25,000 jackpot
- 40p in every £1 goes to school funds
- Local cash prizes **EVERY** week
- Extra cash prizes this term

[Click here to support today](#)

Community News

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



SHEFFORD PRINCE AND PRINCESSES



**Invite you to join them at the
crowning of the 2019/20
Prince and Princesses.**

Are you age 5-13 years?
Do you live in Shefford or attend Shefford Lower School or Robert
Bloomfield Academy?
Do you want to be the Shefford Prince or Princess?
Pick up an application at your school to enter.

**The crowning ceremony will be held following
the judging of contestants which starts at 2pm
on Saturday 21st September.**

**The event will be held on the lawns
surrounding St. Michael and All Angels
Church Shefford.**

For further information, queries or application forms please contact
Sarah Potter 07929113728 or Glennis Pollard 07787318277



**Shefford
Festival 2019**



Shefford Prince and Princess 2019

Application form for the Prince and Princess event (Ages 5-13)
To be held in Shefford Town Centre on Saturday 21st September 2019

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Date of Birth...../...../.....Age.....

School.....

Interests/Hobbies.....

Parents Name.....

E-mail.....

Telephone Number.....

Mobile Number.....

***PLEASE NOTE: All Applicants must live in Shefford or attend one of the schools in SHEFFORD. Incomplete forms will not be entered.**
(Please ensure a correct contact number or e-mail is written on the form).

Completed forms need to be emailed to the email address below.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday 19th September 2019

Event to be held on Saturday 21st September in Shefford Town Centre
by St Michael and All Angels Church.

Please meet at the Prince and Princess Marquee by 2pm for judging.

Any further queries / questions please contact:
Sarah Potter 07929113728 itsallbizarre@hotmail.co.uk

Or Glynis Pollard 07787318277

This event is supported by Shefford Town Council

Aladdin

Following on from the huge success of Cinderella, BEST performing arts are inviting you to take part in this year's pantomime:

Aladdin

Please find all the information that you would require for the Aladdin auditions. Please fill in the form on page 2 and bring along to the auditions on Monday 16th September.

Date: Monday 16th September 2019 4-6pm

Location: SWA-Meet in reception

Show dates: 11th-13th December

The audition process will be fairly relaxed. Everybody who auditions will gain a place in the show. Those that would like to go for a part will be taught the relevant things on the day. A rehearsal schedule will be issued on the first rehearsal after the auditions. This rehearsal will be Monday 23rd September 4-6pm. Rehearsals will mostly be on a Monday afterschool, with Thursdays being added closer to the time. There will be a rehearsal the weekend before the show.

Any questions please email: hmeadows@bestacademies.org.uk

Aladdin

Please complete and bring to auditions on Monday 16th September

Name..... Year Group

School

Email address (please note this is how important messages are given out so please put one that you check regularly)

.....
.....

Emergency contact name: Relationship to student

Emergency contact number

Does your child have any medical conditions which we should be aware of?

.....

Does your child take medication daily Yes/No If yes, please list details below

.....

Does your child have any allergies?

.....

Signed _____

Date _____

Diary Dates

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

Autumn Term 2019	
<i>9th September</i>	<i>Cherry Class Return</i>
<i>11th September</i>	<i>PSA Meeting 7.45pm</i>
<i>20th September</i>	<i>Jeans for Genes Day</i>
<i>23rd-27th September</i>	<i>Bike to School Week</i>
<i>24th September</i>	<i>SEND Coffee Morning 9.15am—10.30am</i>
<i>28th September</i>	<i>PSA Shefford Circus</i>
<i>4th October</i>	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
<i>7th October</i>	<i>Year 4 Alban and the Roman Trail Trip—St Albans Cathedral</i>
<i>11th October</i>	<i>Healthy Me Day</i>
<i>13th October</i>	<i>PSA Family Photo Shoot—Figment Photography</i>
<i>16th October</i>	<i>Parent Consultation Evening</i>
<i>16th October</i>	<i>Individual and Family Photos</i>
<i>17th October</i>	<i>Year 4 Cake Sale</i>
<i>18th October</i>	<i>Parent Consultation Evening</i>
<i>21st October</i>	<i>Half Term</i>
<i>28th October</i>	<i>Inset Day</i>
<i>29th October</i>	<i>Children Return to School</i>
<i>1st November</i>	<i>Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip</i>
<i>8th November</i>	<i>Diwali Day</i>
<i>11th—15th November</i>	<i>Anti-Bullying Week</i>
<i>15th November</i>	<i>Children in Need</i>
<i>21st November</i>	<i>Year 2 Titanic Day</i>
<i>22nd November</i>	<i>Year 2 Cake Sale</i>
<i>26th November</i>	<i>Oak Manor Music Visit</i>

Autumn Term 2019

<i>2nd December</i>	<i>EYFS Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm</i>
<i>3rd December</i>	<i>Music Concert</i>
<i>3rd December</i>	<i>EYFS Concert 9.30am</i>
<i>6th December</i>	<i>EYFS Concert 2.30pm</i>
<i>9th December</i>	<i>KS1 Dress Rehearsal AM, KS2 Dress Rehearsal PM</i>
<i>11th December</i>	<i>KS1 Concert 9,30am, KS2 Concert 2.30pm</i>
<i>12th December</i>	<i>KS2 Concert 9.30am, KS1 Concert 2.30pm</i>
<i>17th December</i>	<i>Christmas Dinner</i>
<i>18th December</i>	<i>EYFS Parties with Santa AM</i>
<i>18th December</i>	<i>KS1 Parties with Santa PM</i>
<i>18th December</i>	<i>KS2 Parties with Santa PM</i>
<i>20th December</i>	<i>Christmas Carols</i> <i>End of Term</i>

Absence

Please see the graph below on the impact absence can have on later achievement.

Just a reminder the school office will need proof of all medical appointments for these absences to be marked as 'Medical' otherwise these will be marked as 'Unauthorised'.

2018 Key Stage 2 by Attendance Analysis

2018 Provisional Key Stage 2 by Autumn 17/Spring 18 attendance					
Pupils attendance record:	% Reaching Expected Standard				
	Reading, Writing and Mathematics	Reading	Writing	Maths	
100% Attendance Record	75	82	87	85	
95% to 100% Attendance Record	64	76	81	76	
90% to 95% Attendance Record	57	70	75	69	
85% to 90% Attendance Record	43	64	60	56	
Less than 85% Attendance Record	34	50	44	40	
Central Bedfordshire Total	62	74	78	73	

