



Weekly Update

Friday 7th May



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

Dear Families & Friends,

It is very uplifting to know how well regarded our pupils are when they are out in public and also when walking to and from school. Of course, we have our families to thank for this, and it is especially pertinent with 'Thoughtfulness and Patience' are as this month's values to focus on.

We move closer to normality each week with national updates for Covid. This is very reassuring, and we hope to ease some of our restrictions as we near end of term. We are aiming to have open evenings for parents of children in Early Years, some of whom have not been inside our school yet. We hope to welcome you in soon. The Forest classes are up and running again and these have been a huge success. We have also started some clubs. Mr Wakefield is coordinating with teachers to provide increasing clubs in the next week or so.

Mindfit was this week's new club, and this has been a huge success so far for the children in those groups, and a great way to learn spellings and number facts. Undoubtedly, some skills over the lockdown that require daily practice have been the hardest hit, and spelling is one of these. If you would like ideas for games and activities at home, do please chat to us. We are only too happy to help. Reading will always be the number one way forward to help your child to learn, and we recommend the daily little and often approach. House points are awarded daily for children to achieve.

Parent focus groups enable me to ensure communication and hear parent views regarding crucial decisions for our school. The next focus group is 25th May. We have a morning slot at 10:45 and an evening slot at 5pm. Our office will send a parentmail for interest at the beginning of next week.

School attendance has been exceptional this year, with us almost reaching our 98% target. This is the optimum that research shows helps pupils to learn. Weak attendance in the lower years has been shown to have a residual impact when a child reaches their GCSE age. This week was one of our lowest weeks, as we had some illness bugs in classes, and are careful to ensure children are sent home for testing and to avoid cross contaminations.

Children have been active this week and the names of children most improved on the daily two minute challenges are up in our PE display. We know you have been encouraging this at home too. Please send photos in, and house points will of course be awarded. We also award house points (merits =2) for our Finer Diners. Do tell us if children are doing this at home as well.

Our wonderful PSA have met this week and voted on supporting the Museum & Art Gallery project being spearheaded by Mr Bowen. This will provide our children with superb artefacts and opportunities to learn within our walls and grounds. The PSA support a number of enrichments in our school, and this year this includes the y4 trip. Due to lockdowns, y4 have not benefited from the ordinary activities within school funded by the PSA before they move on. We are beginning our transition activities remotely for now, with some visits due later this term. Move up day is July 2nd.

Governors will be in school this Friday. The board of governors support the school through challenge, monitoring activities and assisting leadership decisions. With a vision for excellence, our governors are dedicated volunteers who come in to school, look at books, talk to curriculum leaders and speak with children. There are vacancies on our board at the moment. The Chair of Governors, Mrs Jo Elliott, takes expressions of interest through the school office.

Finally, we will be welcoming volunteers into school to read with children in the next academic year again. We hope you will all feel welcome to sign up to be with us. It not only helps our readers, but enhances our shared school family too.

Have a wonderful weekend.

From Mrs Finch

Values

The values from May 4th —May 28th are **Thoughtfulness & Patience**

“Be a rainbow in somebody else’s cloud” Maya Angelou.

Thinking of others and putting their thoughts before our own. Thinking of the needs of others & giving time and space to support them. Enduring hardships and difficulties to achieve your goals.

House Points and Attendance W/E 30.04.21

Well done to last week’s house winners.



House Points

Earth—906
Fire—796
Air—778
Water—760

House Attendance & Punctuality

Earth—96.50
Air—95.93
Water—95.29
Fire—93.25



Amazon Wish List

Just a reminder about our Wish List on Amazon! It contains carefully selected books and resources which we know will greatly benefit your children with their learning this year. If you wish to purchase a book for our school, please use the link below to find the full list:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2ZZUJD59NIDQ7/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist#

This list is updated by staff throughout the year and can be accessed by anyone. We’ve made it really easy to donate a book to the school:

You can choose to get the books delivered directly to the school office or if you wish you can add it to your personal shopping and simply bring it in.

Thank you so much for your help with this matter. Your donations will be gratefully received and the children will benefit massively.



Sheffield Sporting Successes W/C 3rd May

We celebrate children's sporting successes from home as well as those in school. As clubs begin to start up again, 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 with us this week

Water House

Jack—Rugby

Fire House

Harrison—Swimming

Air House

Harriosn—Swimming

Earth House

Shenai—Gymnastics

Lilly—Roller Skating

This week the children have been having a go at a skipping challenge. These are the children who made the most improvement over the week

Holly— Bethan & Holly

Sycamore—Reuben &
Millie

Chestnut—Beau & Eden

Oak—Joshua & Isabella
Willow—Bethan & Freddie
Maple—Amelie & Dougie

Cedar— Evie & Felix
Hawthorn—Emilia &
Theo Sy
Elm—Rose & Scott

Ash—Isla & Evelyn
Beech—Sophie
Hazel—Ewan &

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 26/04/20



Reception

Peach — Charlie W

Pear — Leon H

Plum — David L

Year 1

Chestnut — Lana

Holly — Jack S

Sycamore — Ben L and Millie M



Year 2

Maple — Corben F

Oak — Isla S

Willow — Albie D



Year 3

Cedar — Tyler W

Elm — Honey W

Hawthorn — Theo K



Year 4

Ash — Scott E

Beech — Bailey S

Hazel — Jorja S



Finer Diners

Congratulations to the children below who have been recognised as a Finer Diner last week for displaying good manners and values at lunchtime:



Reception

Leon H, Sam N, Robyn P, Nancy P,
Logan M, Annalise H, Zoe M, Emelia
Z-N, Theo H Alice J and Ethan R

EXCUSE ME

Year 1

Lacey J, Kiera H, Michelle O-M,
Ben L, Ava C, Bradley O, Lana C,
Sarah D-W, Jessica R, Ayaz G, Eva L
and Lyra B

THANK YOU

Year 2

Emily B, Noah R, Oliver F, Mylah M,
Kayleigh F, Albie D, Summer C, Mar-
ley B, Lola D, Rosie M, Charlie M
and Joshua B

Year 4

Albie H and Reuben L

Year 3

Beth G, Niamh R, Masen W,
Kiera H, Willow S, Blake W,
Charlotte R, Evie H, William
H-M, Isla R and Mille B

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



PSA News

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 17th June @ 7.30pm** via Zoom

Would you like to join the PSA?

One of the main benefits that people gain from being involved in the PSA is the feeling of contribution to their child's school life and also the social aspect of meeting other parents.

During our meetings we discuss ideas for future fundraising and community events for the benefit of the children at Shefford Lower School.

Does this sound like something you want to be a part of?

Please contact us through the school office or via our Facebook page to find out more about the PSA.

How to support the PSA

Help us raise **FREE** funds for

Shefford Lower School PSA

every time you **shop online**

Just search for us on 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

	<p>£1 per ticket</p> <p>That's right, unlike many other lotteries, our lottery tickets are only £1 per week.</p> 	<p>Help us do more</p> <p>For every ticket you play, 76% goes to our school and prizes.</p> 	<p>£25,000 grand prize</p> <p>Match all 6 numbers and you win the JACKPOT!</p> 
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A big thank you to everyone for your continued support of our PSA



Have your say...

on proposed changes to schools in your area



Around 43,000 new homes are expected to be built in Central Bedfordshire by 2035 – and that means more SEND school places will be needed.

Local schools have been working together, with Central Bedfordshire Council, on a long-term plan to make sure we have:

- The right schools
- In the right places
- Delivering the best education

The proposed plan includes an increase of places at 4 Special Schools, an increase of Additional Resource Provision places within mainstream schools and including multi-use and nurture spaces in mainstream schools, where there is space to do so.

Find out more and have your say at
www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/SEND

The consultation is open until
8 July 2021.

**Additional Resource Provision
in mainstream schools**

Schools for the Future

...the right schools, in the right places, delivering the best education

Community News

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



HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

Creativity, Confidence, Control, & Courage

JUNE 1st, 2nd, & 3rd

Including indoor & outdoor activities

We're now offering a payment plan to help you spread the cost.

Get in touch to find out more!

Join us for our half-term camp!

1 day: £20
2 day: £40
3 day: £50

- Held at **Pendleton Centre, Stotfold.**
- Camp drop off **10am**, pick up **3pm.**
- Available for players between the **ages of 5-15.**
- Delivered by UEFA B & FA licensed coaches.
Limited spaces available!

Book Today:

Head to our **website:** www.midbedsfutsal.co.uk Send us an **email:** midbedsfutsal@gmail.co.uk

Our Holiday Camps near you...

Venue: Henlow Academy
Dates: Tues 1st - Fri 4th June 2021
Times: 08.00 - 16.00
Price: £80 - 4 day block booking (£20 per day)
Ages: Juniors (5-8 years) & Seniors (9-12 years)

Additional Info:
We will be continuing to work with a 'bubble' system to keep your child & our staff safe, following current guidance.

Taking every precaution

Our Activity Professionals have been undergoing additional training in order to provide the best care to the children under their supervision, specifically the Transcend Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention, Mitigation and Management.

They will need

- A packed lunch
- Plenty of water
- Suitable clothing for the weather
- Loads of energy!

Premier Education Promise: In the event these courses are cancelled, we will issue a full refund within 7 days.

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Trustpilot 4.8/5
Based on over 5,000 reviews

Premier Education



Drop in @ Shefford Children's Centre

School Lane, Shefford SG17 5XA

Every Wednesday 9am to 11am

We provide a friendly service to families with children 0-12years

Pop in and see us for free support or advice

One to One family support

Parenting advice on behaviours, sleep and toileting

How to know if your child is growing and developing well

Information on childcare and funded places

Self-weigh scales available

Each week we also have FREE fresh bakery products

Please ensure social distancing is in place and you wear a face covering when entering the building

Find us on Facebook

Shefford and Stotfold Children's Centre
0300 300 8112

great



Drop in @ Stotfold Children's Centre

Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold SG5 4DL

Every Friday 9am to 12noon

We provide a friendly service to families with children 0-12years

Pop in and see us for free support or advice

One to One family support

Parenting advice on behaviours, sleep and toileting

How to know if your child is growing and developing well

Information on childcare and funded places

Self-weigh scales available

Each week we also have FREE fresh bakery products

Please ensure social distancing is in place and you wear a face covering when entering the building

Find us on Facebook

Shefford and Stotfold Children's Centre
0300 300 8112

great



VACANCY – June 2021

CLEANER

8.75 hours per week

From 3.30pm until 5.15pm daily at an hourly rate of £9.00

Term time only plus extra hours during the first 2 weeks of the summer holiday – total of 22.25 hours

Shefford Lower School is a thriving, friendly, values based school with over 500 children on roll. Our school offers a very well-resourced and vibrant learning environment for both children and staff to develop and achieve their potential.

We are looking for a cleaner to join our team. Experience is desirable, although training will be given to clean classrooms, toilets, corridors, cloakrooms and outside. What is required is a willingness to work hard with a keen eye for detail.

Visit our website for an application form and further details:
www.sheffordlowerschool.co.uk

Completed application forms to be sent to: The School Office, Shefford Lower School, School Lane, Shefford SG17 5XA or schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk

Closing Date: Wednesday 19th May at 3.30pm

Interviews: Monday 24th May 2021

All staff are required to follow our policies and procedures working in line with the ethical framework and values of the school.

Shefford Lower School is committed to safeguarding children and all appointments are subject to enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

Shefford Lower School

Diary Dates

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

Summer Term 2021

12th and 13th May	Year 1 Hearing Screening
12th—14th May	Year 4 Leavers Activities
13th May	Year 4 Frontier Day Trip
14th May	Year 4 Frontier Day Trip
17th—21st May	Walk to School Week
31st May—4th June	Half Term
7th June	Children return
2nd July	Transition (Move Up) Day
22nd July	Last day of Term

Role of a school governor

To contribute to the work of the governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

- ⇒ ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- ⇒ holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- ⇒ overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

Expression of interest

To express your interest in becoming a member of the board of governors, please email the chair, Mrs Jo Elliott, via the school office at schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk