



Sheffield Lower School Autumn 1 2024 Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

The children have had a fantastic start to the year in what is one of our busiest half terms! Our new staggered start into Reception and Nursery has gone really well and the children have all settled well into their new classes and year groups. It has been a pleasure to welcome new children to the school, including the children who have joined our new Additional Resource Provision, The Orchard. Our year 4 children made some fantastic speeches with exciting manifestos for the pupil leadership roles and we now have an active team of house captains, parliament members, museum curators, play leaders, prefects and lunchtime helpers. These leaders attended our annual Summit where they had some fantastic ideas for school improvement. Our parliament are also attending a local Summit with other schools in Sheffield as part of their community work. The children enjoyed their Harvest celebration where they learned songs and supported the Preen Charity. Our school dog, Rosco, has also been settling into his timetable and the children were taught how to behave around dogs through our Blue Cross assembly, we do remind parents that dogs should not be brought onto the school site. We have held our usual fire drill this half term with a record evacuation time for this point in the year! We would like to remind parents of the dangers of parking on yellow lines and cross hatching and of the parking restrictions on School Lane. As we move towards the colder weather, we now offer an outdoor fleece which can be used as a coat, as an additional layer (in very cold weather) and as a layer for outdoor learning. This is available to purchase on Price and Buckland website. This week we look forward to seeing you all at parents' evening to discuss how the children have settled. Our year 3 children enjoyed their visit to Celtic Harmony and we also have an Opal Stay and Play event to finish off the half term on Friday. We wish all of our families a happy half term week.



Sports News

We are excited to announce that our after-school clubs have returned! A big thank you to everyone who has attended our clubs so far. The clubs have proven to be extremely popular, so be sure to sign up for the next term to avoid missing out. It's been wonderful to see so many children engaging in different activities and exploring new interests!

In addition to our in-school activities, we've been celebrating the children's sporting achievements at home. If your child has received certificates or medals for their sporting accomplishments outside of school, we would love to celebrate them in our assemblies. Please send in photos so we can showcase their successes—well done to all those who have shared their achievements this term! This term we have started to attend our annual sports festival. Multiple students took part in a Tri-Golf Festival and the KS1 Multi-Skills Festival, competing against other schools. They represented us with enthusiasm and sportsmanship, and we couldn't be more proud. A huge well done to all the children who participated and made our school proud!

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19th August 2024 Penalty Notice fines
increase to £160 for each parent, for each child.



You can be fined if your child has
a total of 5 days of unauthorised
absences in 10 school weeks, for
things like:

- being late after the register
has closed
- truancy
- taking a holiday without
permission from the school
- or if a headteacher isn't satisfied
for the reason for missing school

Over a rolling 3-year period the
sanctions are:

- 1st offence – £160 reduced
to £80 if paid within 21 days
- 2nd offence – £160
- 3rd offence – Court hearing
and up to £2,500 fine, or
up to 3 months in prison
and a criminal record

For more information go to:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school





What have we been up to?



The children in **Early Years** have all been settling well into Peach, Pear, Plum and Cherry classes. We have been focusing on building relationships, understanding the rules and routines and exploring our environment. In **Nursery**, we have had lots of fun getting to know one another. We have shared stories and songs to help us understand our class rules and routines. We learned a poem called 'Chop, Chop, Choppity, Chop' and practised our chopping skills to make vegetable soup. We also learned a poem about Autumn leaves, and have been noticing the seasonal changes outside. In **Reception**, we were introduced to some 'Star Story' books that we read throughout the week until we knew them really well and could retell them ourselves. We have been thinking about how powerful it can be to write our names and learned the meanings of our names. We have been making repeated patterns in the environment, and we are starting to bring reading books home to share, so that we can practise what we have learned in phonics. Thanks, the Early Years team. 😊

Year 1 have started the term brilliantly! The children have entered year 1 eager and keen to learn. We have started our new phonics scheme - Monster Phonics. The children have loved getting to know the monsters and now, they are starting to recognise the sound that each monster is responsible for. Also, the children have been sent home a Monster Phonic reading book, that focuses on the sound they are learning that week. Learning logs will be sent home with a list of suggested activities that need to be completed - we appreciate your support with this. The children receive a weekly music lesson with Mrs Lawson. In music, they have been learning to play the claves, which they are thoroughly enjoying! The children have been doing a lot of hands on activities whilst practising new year 1 routines. They love to use the resources in all areas of learning and enjoy keeping the area clean and tidy! If you have any questions, please speak to your class teacher! Thank you, the Year 1 team. 😊

Year 2 have had a super start to the beginning of the year. They have come back into school, after the summer settled and ready to start their year 2 journey. We have started our first theme about the UK and beyond. We have been reading some fantastic texts to go alongside this theme and the children have really enjoyed reading Katie's Adventures in London and Scotland as well as the Legend of how the Giants Causeway was formed. Some children have brought in postcards or images of their holidays to talk about and share with the class. If your child would like to do this, please do send them in with an image or postcard. In our maths we have been delving into place value, addition and subtraction. We have started doing spellings, thank you for your support with this. Also Learning Logs have gone out. Please feel free to complete any of the activities in the way that works best for your child. We look forward to sharing these with our classes during our learning log galleries. Any questions about reading, spellings or home learning do please speak to your class teacher. Thanks, the Year 2 Team. 😊

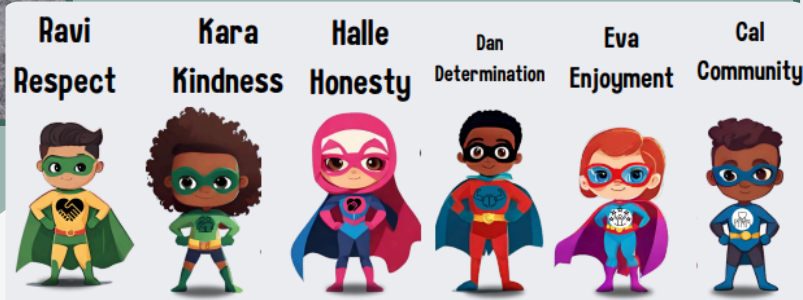
Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year and we thoroughly enjoyed our amazing, immersive trip to Celtic Harmony. The children should now be able to tell you all about Pre-historic life. They have really enjoyed learning about how people lived in the Stone Age, especially how they hunted and gathered food. In Science, the children have been working practically to investigate the different properties of rocks and will be moving on to learn about soils after half term. Times tables have been a big focus for us and we have been splitting into groups to really focus on these across the year group. We are already starting to see the impact of this and hope you have noticed this too. In Art, the children have been thinking about how Cave Art was made and loved creating their own version using charcoals and pastels. Thank you for your support so far this year. If you have any questions, please speak to your class teachers. Thank you, the Year 3 Team. 😊

The staff in **year 4** are super proud of how well our year 4s have settled into the routines and expectations of being the oldest year group in the school! They have enjoyed the opportunities for additional pupil leadership roles in year 4 too. We are so proud of the children that have been voted for to become our new House Team. This is a role that we are developing with the team to give them more responsibilities this year. As well, the majority of our year 4s have chosen to be play leaders and lunch helpers. They are showing great leadership skills and really supporting our younger children as role models of our new values. This half-term we have been learning a lot about the invasion of the Romans into Britain. We tried really hard to use our persuasive writing skills to convince Mr Wakefield to open up the Roman armour case in our museum. In Science, we have been focusing on the states of matter and this linked really well to our talk from Anglian Water where we were able to really understand the water cycle. Thank you for all the welly boots that are starting to come in. We will all have class wellie stands soon for children to leave their wellies for outside play, especially as the weather continues to give us lots of puddles and fun for the mud kitchen. Thank you for all your support with our home learning. We appreciate any support you can give your child with times table practice up to 12 times table, as this will help us prepare for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) assessment in June. If you have any questions do speak to the class teacher. We will have a meeting in the early part of the spring term to share with you information about our upcoming Kingswood residential trip. Thank you, the Year 4 team. 😊

New School Values

This year we have introduced 6 new school values; these are: Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Determination, Enjoyment and Community. These values have been selected as core values for Shefford Lower School, based on the needs and opinions of our school community and stakeholders. Thank you to all of you who supported this research last year.

Each of the values is represented by a superhero character and children have been learning about the values through lessons and assemblies. Children earn 'values stamps' when they demonstrate one, or some, of the values, and work towards earning different leaf awards. In Nursery, we earn these stamps as a whole class, and for the rest of the school, each child has a set of leaves in their home school books, so you can see their progress. We would also love to hear about how the children are showing their values out of school, and there is a space to let us know about this in the home school books too, such as when Abigail in Year 4 demonstrated her values of community, kindness and determination when she gave up her time to help when her dance studio became flooded. What amazing values, Abigail! We will be further embedding these values through a Community Heroes project week in November.



Family Support

At Shefford Lower School we believe that our role is not only to support the children but to also support the families through our Family Support Team, comprised of Mrs Parry and Miss Cooper.

We can signpost our families and children through listening and appreciating issues, offering suggestions and advice on behaviour management, boundaries, routines, school attendance, e-safety and healthy eating. Your concerns are important to us and we are very keen to engage with and support our families. Please feel free to contact us if you need assistance or have any worries.

Ways of contacting us –

- Through the school office
- Class teacher
- Emailing us directly on familysupport@shefford.cbeds.co.uk



We're here to help!

HOUSE HAMPER RAFFLE

In exchange for a non-uniform day on the 15th Nov the PSA are inviting the KS2 children to bring in a NEW item in their House colour

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★ These donations will make up hampers for a Christmas Raffle

Donation Ideas

Water House



Mermaid Gin, Roses Chocolates, Fosters Beer, Party Rings, Haribo, Oreos, Milky Bars, Chocolate Hobnobs, Doritos, Tetley Tea, Bounty, Cheese and Onion Crisps, Blue Car Air Freshener, Blue Football, Crispy M&M's

Earth House



Gordon's Gin, Heineken beer, Mint Chocolates, Aro, Matchmakers, After Eights, Appletizer, Apple Juice, Fruit Pastilles, Sour Cream Pringles, Green Toilettries, Green Candle, Green Toy.

Fire House



Red Wine, Malteser, Budwiser Beer, McVities Digestives, Ready Salted Crisps, Family Circle Biscuits, Kit Kats, Skittles, Pimms, Celebrations, Bourville Chocolate, Pombeers, Munchies, Red toilettries, Red Candle.

Air House



White wine, milky bars, marshmallows, white chocolate, hand creams, candles, shower cream, any items white, silver or gold



Community Update



Eco-Council: Our representatives went to the Millennium Green this month where they joined the Mayor, staff from the Town Council and the Shefford Greenspace Conservation Group to raise Shefford's community green flag. They also sowed some wildflower seeds in Easton Meadow. Make sure you look out for them in the spring next year!

Parent Forums: Thank you to all the parents who attended our forum in September and to all those parents who have completed the subsequent survey around our family support offer. Our next Parent Forum is on **Tuesday 19th November** and we will be looking at clubs – those that are on offer, your thoughts on others that you feel your children may benefit from and any offers of specialisms that parents may be able to support us with.

Shefford Remembrance Service: We will be attending this on **Sunday 10th November**. If you and your child/children would like to join us to represent the school, please look out for further information that will be shared shortly.

Community Heroes: After half term we will be launching a project across school on real life community heroes. If you know anyone within the local community that you feel is a real-life hero, please do get in touch and let us know as we would love the opportunity to share what they do within school with the children to promote our values. We will also be asking children to do some work around their own personal real-life community heroes so this may be something you would like to start having conversations about at home.

OPAL Update

We are continuing to develop our play curriculum to enhance opportunities for children at breaktimes and lunchtime. Our new storage shed is working well, and we are continuing to develop play areas and resources. We would really welcome any donations of the following items that you are able to spare or source:

Waistcoats, hats, cable reels – any size, pushchairs, walking frames, wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks and small spades for digging.

We are planning to create a **sandpit area** on our field over the next few months – if anyone feels they would be able to support us in making this happen please do get in touch with Mrs Freeman via the school office.

Wellies: Children are only able to play on the field if they have wellies in school. We are fortunate that wellie storage stands are being made for us and we are gradually getting more of these in school (we will soon have one per class). Please make sure that your child has some named wellies they can use in school every day.

Stay & Play: On **Friday 25th October** we will be having an OPAL Stay & Play session for all children and parents/carers. You will be able to collect your children at **3pm** and then enjoy playing alongside them with the equipment they get to use every day.

