



# Shefford Lower School Newsletter



Monday 6 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter. We have a lot of events to look forward to this half term in the lead up to Christmas. The list of events is below. We were really pleased with the support parents gave last half term to the Shoe Box Appeal, the PSA Events and engagement with our Parent Forums. We really enjoyed holding our 'World Summit 2023' with our pupil leaders to discuss their roles and how the School can be more sustainable in the future and we are looking forward to growing these roles throughout the year. We will be working closely this year with a company called OPAL to maximise our play curriculum in the playground.

## Shefford Lower School Diary Dates

7 November	Shuttleworth Visit Year 1 (Holly & Sycamore classes)
8 November	Reception—Year 4 Flu Vaccinations
9 November	Shuttleworth Visit Year 1 (Chestnut class)
10 November	Remembrance Day Event
17 November	Diwali Day
17 November	Children in Need Mufti Day
17 November	Great Toy Giveaway
23 November	Parent Forum on Homework
29 November	Pantomime Performance – Peter Pan
1 December	Boccia & Kurling Festival Years 3 & 4
8 December	PSA Present Day / Santa
12 December	EYFS Nativity
13 December	EYFS Nativity
14 December	Year 1 Nativity
15 December	Winter Fete
18 December	Year 2 Nativity
19 December	Year 3 Nativity
20 December	Year 4 Nativity
20 December	Christmas Lunch
22 December	Christmas Jumper Day
22 December	Carols on the playground

# What have we been up to?

In **Nursery** we have been continuing to encourage children with their independence skills, e.g. putting on and doing up coats and have been thinking about and exploring seasonal changes, including learning a new poem, 'Falling leaves'. We have also been exploring books linked to Black History Month. In **Reception** we have been investigating repeating patterns and patterns in the environment. The children have been creating patterns with natural objects as well as resources found in the classroom. We have learned about Harvest and sung Dingle Dangle Scarecrow. We have been celebrating and honouring the history, traditions, arts and culture of Black people during Black History Month and all thoroughly enjoyed making and consuming banana pudding! We have been continuing to learn about numbers and the different ways they can be represented and have built up knowledge of an impressive number of letter sounds.

**Year 1** have had a brilliant first term and are ready for Autumn 2. Some classes have started Forest school which is exciting. Just a gentle reminder that Sycamore class will be going to Chicksands Woods on Thursday mornings, so will need a change of clothes for this. We are really excited for our Shuttleworth trip. This gives the children a brilliant insight into forms of transport, which is what we have been learning about. It is going to be a busy term with the lead up to Christmas, so the children will be learning various Christmas songs ready for their performance in December. Thank you for supporting your children with reading at home. We have had lots of positive responses regarding the Monster phonics books and the children love that they link with their phonic sessions. The Year 1 Team.

**Year 2** have enjoyed their first half-term and have returned from half term ready to focus on our new local history unit for Shefford. If you have any family history linked to Shefford that you would like to share with us, we would really appreciate it. We have a very busy 8-week half-term in the run up to Christmas. With lots of fun activities planned as we begin to start our Christmas performance rehearsals. We are also requesting odd socks and gloves as we are creating puppets for our DT unit this term too. Any donations of clean socks and gloves would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your amazing donations for our year 2 cake sale before half-term. We made an amazing £139 that has gone towards our shoe box appeal. Please have a go at logging onto Numbots (the password and login details are in the Home-School book) we will begin to show children how to use this in school. Thank you so much for all your support, the Year 2 Team.

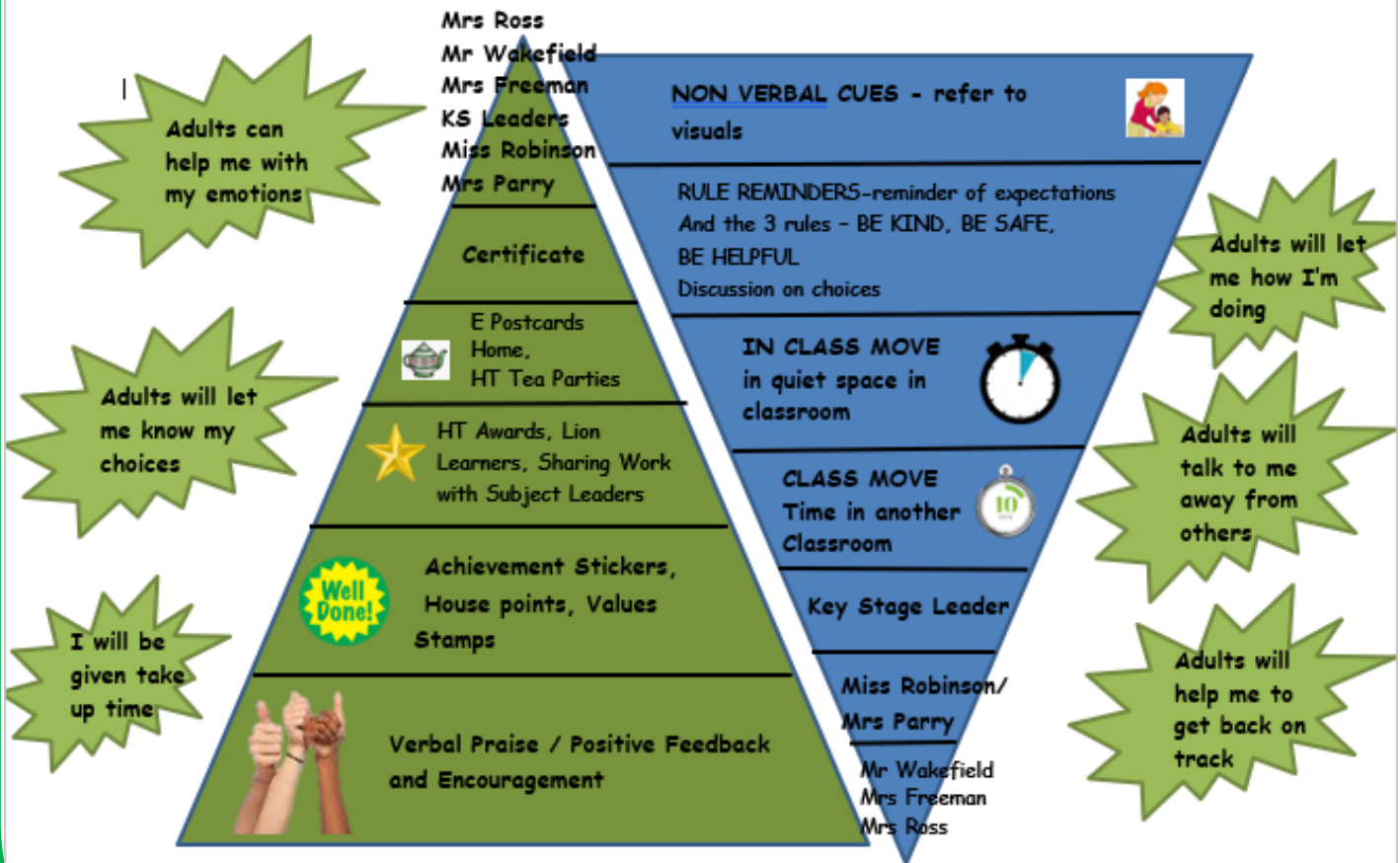
**Year 3** have had another busy month - October has been filled with exciting learning about Mary Anning and her jaw-dropping discovery of the first ichthyosaur fossil, as well as creating our own stone age tool in D&T. They have understood the significance of Skara Brae and how it would feel to live in a cave in Pre-Historic times! The children have been learning how to use column method to add and subtract and it's been great to hear they have been testing parents and carers at home with this too! It is a tricky concept to understand but we have been so proud of how quickly they have developed their knowledge of it. In English, the children have been studying conjunctions and their role in sentence structure, as well as incorporating these into their own stories. It's been wonderful to catch up with all of you at parent's evenings and share the successes your children have achieved this half term and talk about how well they have settled. We hope the areas of development we have provided are useful and will help us to work together to support the children with their next steps. Thank you for all your Harvest donations and sweet treats for the PSA on Mufti day. We look forward to another jam-packed half term and all of the excitement and sparkle of Christmas!

**Year 4** have really enjoyed their Forest School learning so far this term. They have had fun creating, investigating and learning new skills in a natural setting and have also had good opportunities to extend their classroom learning within the woods too. In Science, the Year 4s have been investigating changes in state and have enjoyed combining Art and Science to create their own Watercolour Water Cycle diagrams. The children have been writing for different purposes in English and have enjoyed writing in character as a Roman slave as well as persuading the Roman Emperor to let them join the Roman army in a persuasive letter. Our Geography learning has taken the children around the continents observing the expansion of the Roman Empire and seeing the other countries involved in the Roman invasion. They have further built on their knowledge of place value, including learning how to read and write Roman Numerals and have continued to add and subtract using written methods. The Year 4s have also enjoyed researching Roman mosaics and then designing and creating their own.

# What have we been up to?

## Behaviour Rewards and Consequences

In response to information from our Parent Forum we have attached our Behaviour rewards and consequences visual for your information.



# What have we been up to?

## Family Support

If you need any family support please contact our Family Support Worker—Julia Parry. Julia has a wealth of experience and will always find time to speak to children and parents and offer help where needed. To contact Mrs Parry please e-mail or phone the school office or speak to your child's teacher.

Please see useful family support links below.

### **CHUMS workshops**

CHUMS workshops are designed as a starting point for families with children who have low level difficulties.

To refer to the workshops, please complete our online registration form: [https://chums.uk.com/fwt\\_workshops/](https://chums.uk.com/fwt_workshops/)

Please visit our website for further workshop dates and times: [www.chums.uk.com/fwt\\_workshops](http://www.chums.uk.com/fwt_workshops)

## Community Update

Our school parliament is currently working alongside Shefford Town Council to provide some benches in Pamoli Square. They will be putting on an event shortly to raise money towards a bench so please look out for information about this. Our Eco-Council will also soon be raising the community green flag with members of the town council—confirmed date to follow. On Friday 10th November we will be part of a collaborative Remembrance Day Event organised by Samuel Whitbread across the schools in Shefford and this will be livestreamed so that all children in school can be part of it. There has been meetings between Leaders from Shefford Lower and Robert Bloomfield Academy to consider creating increased opportunities for the children through collaboration.

Every year group has produced a collaborative piece of art work for remembrance day which will be displayed in the windows at Neville Funeral in town. There are some stunning pieces of art so please look out for them as you walk past.

**Parent Forum:** Our next forum is on Thursday 23rd November and will be focused on 'homework'. Please look out for further information shortly and join us if you are able to.

## Sports News

We have had a fantastic turn out for our clubs this half term! Thank you to everyone who has signed up! We also had our very first sport festival in October. Multiple children took part in KS1 Multi-Skills Festival against other schools. They had a fantastic time and were a credit to our school. Well done for everyone who participated. Our next sporting event is coming up on the 1st December.

Drop off times—08:45—09:00am

Collection times—3:20pm (3:15pm for Reception)

The school office will be open from 8:30am to 3:45pm for any queries

Please call 01462 629123 or email

[schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk).