



Shefford Lower School Newsletter

Thursday 8 February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a short term but we are fitting in a lot! The children settled really well into the Spring Term which is typically a term where we see huge leaps in progress.

Earlier this week, we had a visit from Alistair Strathern, our local MP, who met with myself and governors, delivered an assembly and spoke to the School Parliament.

Our children asked him some inspired questions! Last week, I had the pleasure of attending Young Voices at Wembley, during which, our choir gave an excellent performance at an event they will no doubt remember for life. This week we

have 'Healthy Me' week and the children have been enjoying yoga, mindfulness and other activities to support their well being. Some of our Year 4 children attended a wellbeing

conference at Samuel Whitbread Academy. They were tasked with presenting to our Senior Leadership Team activities they would like to bring in to Shefford Lower School — they have some great ideas which we will take forward for the Summer Term! Our Food Smart Squad have this week been visiting classes and talking to the children about healthy eating and have supported a daily fruit and veg display table in the dining hall. Earlier this term, we thoroughly enjoyed hosting work experience students from The Netherlands who spoke to the children and taught them some Dutch phrases and songs.

We look forward to seeing you all at parents evening next week where there will be a Curriculum Fayre available in the hall with a range of stands.



What have we been up to?

In **Nursery** we have introduced Star Stories, encouraging children to become familiar with specific books so that they can join in when we share them and build on their vocabulary and storytelling skills. The children have also been exploring their new message centre and sending messages to each other, sometimes hidden around the room and containing secret symbols! In **Reception** we have had a focus on storytelling. We have used drawing club to explore stories, new vocabulary and to practice our mark making and writing. We have been looking at the structure of a story - the characters, the setting, the problem and the solution and have been coming up with our own versions of stories and acting these out. In Maths we have been learning our number bonds to 10 and using part-whole models to support our understanding. We are continuing to consolidate children's phonic knowledge and to practice using this knowledge in our reading and writing and have also learnt some new sounds. **Across both year groups** we have been exploring our new woodwork area, acquiring and refining new skills and we all thoroughly enjoyed doing some bird watching as part of the RSPB's Big Birdwatch. We have also been thoroughly enjoying showing off our dance and performance skills in the stage area thanks to a new sound system, props and instruments bought with money kindly donated from our PSA.

Year 1 have had a brilliant start to 2024. We have had the chance to experiment our new learning style - more and explore! Each afternoon, the children have the opportunity to draw, create, construct or write and they are absolutely loving it! We have also started sending spellings home so that they are ready for a test the following week. Along with this, children have gone home with a Numbots login which is designed to support their number knowledge. Thank you for all your support with home learning and reading, the children really benefit from it. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

The **Year 2s** have been very excited studying the History theme of the Great Fire of London this half-term. Lots of pupils are telling us facts that they have already found out and wanted to share. We are also very grateful as Shefford Fire Brigade came to visit us on the 19th of January. This linked in well with our topic in both History and Science, as we are talking about everyday materials. Science continued to get even more exciting, during our visit to St. Albans Cathedral last week. This was to see the amazing stained glass windows, as well as try to create some of our own stained glass artwork and explore the cathedral on a materials trail. We were also wowed by the sheer size of the cathedral! This will be a short term but a lot of exciting learning happening too. Thank you so much for all your continued support with spellings and reading this half-term. Our learning logs will be due back in soon and we are looking forward to speaking to you at our parents' evenings. Thank you, the Year 2 Team.

Year 3 have settled back into the swing of things well. We have started to learn about the Ancient Egyptians which is very exciting. This week we had our first sing up session where we began learning a couple of the songs we will be performing at the end of year concert. We warmed up our voices first and picked up the actions super quick! Swimming starts in February so we are looking forward to that! In English we have been learning how to use inverted commas in direct speech and in Maths we have been measuring. We investigated how long items are in our classroom and measured them using metre sticks and rulers (we even measured how tall our teachers are!)

The **Year 4s** have been very excited this term so far and have been transported back to World War 2. The children have been learning about the different experiences back then and what it would be like for children living in World War 2. We have been very lucky to have been sent in some amazing personal artefacts and equipment from our families too, which have been great to study and share. The children have written in character as evacuees and are currently enjoying their shared class read 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo which is really inspiring their own fiction and non fiction writing. It is also 'electrifying' in our Science lessons as the children have explored the needs for electrical safety before learning about and creating their own circuits. They are now excited to continue experimenting with their circuit based projects and investigations. In Music, the children are in good voice with our Royal Opera House unit and have been listening to, appraising and taking part in the retelling of 'The Magic Flute'. We have also moved inside for our units of P.E this term and are looking at improving and learning new moves and routines within are units of Dance and Gymnastics. It has been brilliant once again to see the children so engaged in the learning and we keep receiving some incredible home learning as well as show and tells based on their learning too which has been lovely to see. Thanks for all of your continued support as families too.

What have we been up to?

Sports News

This term, we have attended the Year 3&4 Sportshall Athletics Competition at Henlow Academy. The children have enjoyed learning, developing and showcasing their sports skills. Our Shefford Lower School values were shown at this event and we were super proud of everyone who participated.

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news: we've officially joined **Street Tag!** Now, we want YOU to be part of our journey as we aim to reach the top of the leader board and bring rewards home for our school. Join in on the fun, and let's make our mark together! Street Tag is a free child and family-friendly mobile application that uses virtual tags to promote you to become more physically active and boost mental health. Just download the app and join our school!



Community Update

West Mid Beds Parenting Weekly Bulletin—Click on the links for more information:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCBCC/bulletins/3834842>

Parent Forum

Our next Parent Forum will be on **Friday 22nd March** and we will be looking at playtimes. We are currently working with an organisation called OPAL, Outdoor Play and Learning, to transform our playground and ensuring that every child has an amazing playtime every day. We would really appreciate as much parental and community input into this as possible so please do come along if you can.

In person in school will be at **9am** - access through the community entrance.

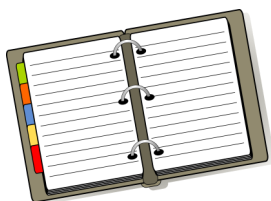
Online will be via Teams at **7pm**.



Diary Dates 2024

The diary dates for 2024 are attached to the Newsletter ParentMail.

We hope you find these useful.



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