



Shefford Lower School Newsletter

Monday 25 March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a short half term but a very busy one with lots of activity across the school. Our pupil leadership teams have been increasing their impact and the eco council have been working with Anglian Water and Water Aid on auditing our water use. We continue to develop our relationship with Luton Town Football Club with opportunities for specialist coaching. Our musicians have been regularly performing in assembly including choir, ukuleles, drums and ocarinas. We have also enjoyed a rock concert from RBA as well as visits from RBA language ambassadors who spent time conversing with the children using modern foreign languages. We welcome back our year 4s from their residential who have behaved impeccably, have enjoyed the activities and have been courageous in trying new experiences.

We had a successful STEM week, led by our STEM subject team, who supported the children to complete a range of STEM based challenges. This team will also be leading a STEM careers day in the Summer Term. On this day, we would welcome guest speakers from STEM careers to come and talk to the children. Please do get in touch via the school office if this is something you can support.



Representatives from 26 schools came to us for a Royal Opera House event led by Shefford Lower School to explore the development of the museum and future collaborations. The curators have catalogued some new artefacts for our British History section and the museum growth will be supported by our PSA. The PSA will also be supporting the growth of our play offer to the children through developing a range of playground resources and activities.



Our local MP came back for a tour of the school and a chance to meet more children. Our parliament look forward to a tour of the Houses of Parliament in the Summer Term. In the lead up to Easter, we had a successful final assembly where we said well done to all of our PSA Easter Colouring competition winners and we congratulated our house point winners for this term.

Water House will have a celebratory afternoon to come back to after Easter. We wish all of the children and their families a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing them after the break with lots more to look forward to in the Summer Term!

What have we been up to?

In **Nursery** we have been making bird food and looking out for birds in our outside area. We have been thinking about all the things we can do to keep ourselves healthy including understanding that all our voices matter. We have learned about different celebrations such as Lunar New Year, Shrove Tuesday & Valentines Day and done lots of cooking & creative activities based around these. We've celebrated World Book Week, baked bread and explored scientific processes during Science Week. Alongside this we have also continued to learn and share poems and lots of Star Stories. In **Reception** we have also been birdwatching, learning about celebrations and considering all the ways in which we keep ourselves healthy. Alongside this we have been learning about the structure of stories and what parts are necessary to make a good story. We have shared lots of stories and had a go at creating our own. We have been exploring similarities and differences between different environments and have been scientists, engineers, illustrators and architects during our STEM & careers week. We have continued to learn new sounds in phonics and to practise reading and writing all the sounds and high frequency words we have learnt so far. In maths we have learning about 3D shapes, measuring and comparing heights, weights & length, positional language, number bonds and solving real life problems. We have also made soup, pancakes, beetroot houmous and bread!

Year 1 It has been another fantastic term in year 1. We are still loving 'More and Explore' in the afternoons. It is providing the children with high quality learning opportunities that involves; writing, creating, constructing and drawing. In these lessons, the children have loved learning about significant people from the past such as Mary Seacole and David Attenborough. Along with this, we had a brilliant trip to Woburn Safari park. On this trip the children had a 'mini safari' experience which allowed them to observe different wildlife animals. The children have also been working really hard with assessments. Thank you so much for all your support with phonics, reading and Numbots. It is really helping with the children's progress. If you need any support with this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

The **Year 2s** have been very busy learning all about the Titanic this half-term. We have linked this to our Geography unit and learned how to navigate through an atlas to find all the places the Titanic visited before it set off on its journey to the Atlantic. We have really enjoyed our DT unit, where we have been trying different flavours of sandwiches linked to the Titanic's afternoon tea and are going to be designing our own sandwiches to create before Easter Break. We have been working on Numbots in some of our recent math lessons and would love it if you could encourage your children to work on this at home to become fluent with their number bonds, as this will support times tables and use of TT Rockstar in year 3. STEM week has had year 2 'eggcited' for our 'eggperiment' were we used our DT, science and maths skills to support us with the challenge of creating an egg protector. We have really enjoyed this challenge linked to the book 'After the fall' by Dan Santant, as well as learning to improve our growth mindset when set with a challenge like Rosie, in the book Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty. We hope you all have a great Easter Break, and we look forward to starting the summer term focusing on the Seaside theme and thinking about preparing for year 2 SATS in May. More information will come out about this closer to the assessments. The Year 2 team

The **Year 3s** have been busy this half term learning about how the Ancient Egyptians used shaduf's to transport water and support farming, as well as the importance of the River Nile. We have been recapping key concepts in Maths such as multiplying through the grid method, dividing on a number line and column addition/subtraction. We have also been thinking about how good won over evil in RE when looking at the story of Ram and Sita overcoming the demon Ravan. We are looking forward to some exciting Easter activities before we break up and a well-earned rest as well. Your teachers are so proud of you and your fantastic learning this term! Keep up the great work! Team Year 3

The **Year 4s** have been working hard learning all about life in World War 2. The children have explored art and photography from the war and had a go at creating their own versions with watercolours. In Science, we have been learning all about 'Electricity' and 'Sound'. The children have had fun creating their own circuits and investigating how they can change as well as going on sound hunts and finding out more about how sound travels through the human ear. In P.E, the children have developed their skills and techniques in gymnastics and also learnt different passes and the rules of netball. In Maths, we have been finding fractions and recognising fractions of numbers as well as becoming more confident with decimal numbers. Our music this term has come from the Royal Opera House and the children have been studying, appraising and performing alongside real actors and singers using an online platform. We are currently finishing our 'Make Do and Mend' design technology unit where will finish our own teddy bears. We have seen some amazing work from the children in R.E this term where they have used the Easter Story to create their own newspaper reports and have used art and drama to discuss 'Who was responsible for Jesus' Death'. This term seems to have flown by and we are now all very excited for the residential to Kingswood.

What have we been up to?

Sports News

We have had a great turn out for our clubs this half term! Thank you to everyone who has signed up! We have also attended a few sports festivals where the children did the school proud. They were incredibly respectful, determined and passionate. It was lovely to see them use all their Sport Game Values.

We also had a very special opportunity in school from the Premier League. They brought in the trophy for all the children to see and hear about in an assembly. The children were very impressed and couldn't wait to hear all about it! We wonder who will win the trophy this year?!



Community Update

A huge thank you to all the parents who have taken the time out to contribute to our Parent Forums on Values & Play-times. Feedback has been provided for both of these but if you have any further thoughts or suggestions please let us know. The summer term Parent Forums will be focused on our home school books and how we report to parents.

As a school we have met with Samuel Whitbread and Robert Bloomfield schools to discuss how we can work together to develop better equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the schools and community. Further information will follow about this in the summer term. We will also be meeting as an equality, diversity and inclusion group with staff and parents on Thursday 9th May. If you would like to be part of this group please let Mrs Freeman know via the school office.

The school parliament have come up with some wording to go on the plaques on the bench, which they fundraised the money for, in Pamoli Square. Please look out for this going out shortly and enjoy the children's words of wisdom!

The school will be working with the Community Payback Team who will be assisting us with the upkeep of the school grounds and other DIY tasks. This is a free service for the school and allows work to be carried out, not only for the benefit of our school, but also the local community. Work will only be carried out during the school holidays or weekends, when there are no children in school.

Our children have also created some Easter artwork for Neville Funeral Services so please look out for this in their windows as you pass by.



Diary Dates 2024

Please can we remind you about appointments. Please let office know and show evidence of the appointment via email or pop into the school office. Thank you!



School lunch menu will be changing after the Easter holidays!



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

Shefford Lower School Diary Dates 2024

SPRING TERM 2

26 - 28 March	Year 4 Kingswood Residential
28 March	PSA AGM (subject to change to 20 March)
29 March	Good Friday – Bank Holiday
1 April	Easter Monday – Bank Holiday
2 – 12 April	Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 1

15 April	Inset Day
16 April	Summer Term starts
19 April	Year 3 Cake Sale
24 April	Class Photos
6 – 10 May	Year 2 SATS
8 May	Year 4 Transfer Festival
10 May	Year 4 Bikeability
14 May	PSA Meeting (All Welcome) (subject to change)
15 May	Year 3 Assembly Showcase
16 May	Parent Forum
17 May	Year 4 Cake Sale
24 May	World Countries Day

SUMMER TERM 2

27 – 31 May	Half Term
5 June	Year 2 Assembly Showcase
12 June	Year 4 Faith Tour
14 June	PSA Mufti Day/Donations for Summer Fair (subject to change)
19 June	Cherry Open Evening
26 June	Reception Open Evening
27 June	Parent Forum
28 June	PSA Summer Fair (subject to change)

Shefford Lower School Diary Dates 2024

SUMMER TERM 2

3 July	Year 1 Assembly Showcase
5 July	Move Up Day – TBC
9 July	EYFS Sports Afternoon
10 July	KS1 Sports Afternoon
10 July	PSA Meeting (All Welcome) (subject to change)
11 July	KS2 Sports Afternoon
16 July	Year 4 Leavers Disco (subject to change)
17 July	Year 4 Picnic Lunch
17 July	Leaver's Assembly 2.00pm
19 July	End of Term Assembly/Year 4 Awards Ceremony
19 July	End of term
22 July	Inset Day