

SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2 TERM 2025



Message from the Head Teacher

We have had an exceptionally busy half term and are all thoroughly enjoying the glimpses of sunshine as we move towards the Summer Term!

Year three have greatly enjoyed their weekly swimming sessions and are growing in confidence in the water. Our Year 4s were a credit to the school on their PGL residential and thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor activities on offer. Our Year 1 children had a lovely day out at Woburn Safari Park. We had a successful Reading for Pleasure Week in school which included the children coming into a 'Reading Cafe' throughout the school where they chatted and looked at books together. Our 'Ready Steady Read' competition also raised £357.30 to go towards books for the school. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing children across the school in costume for our World Book Day celebrations and the children enjoyed choosing books at the book fair. The children have also produced some work, which will go in our foyer, based on the visiting theatre production of The Jungle Book. They also enjoyed a puppet show and year 4 had a workshop which supported them to create their own puppet shows based on the Easter Story. Our PSA have raised lots of money for the school this half term with the introduction of Wonka Bars and a very successful Family Games Night which raised £1101.28 for the school. Projects being worked on at the moment include the development of a sand pit for the children to enjoy at play times and the development of further exhibits for the museum. We have had a successful Parent Forum on the way in which we can work with parents to support children's learning through workshops and developing digital resources. This will inform future school improvement work in this area. As a school, we have been leading a number of local networks to develop teaching practices across the area. These include a Maths network, a Music network and a network of over 30 schools which supports teachers to use engaging strategies in the classroom.

Polly Ross



Reminders

- Please note from Summer Term our new office hours will be 08:30am - 15:30pm
- Summer 1 Forest School Classes: Sycamore, Cedar, Elm, Hawthorn
- Please remember to book your school lunches on Parentpay



Upcoming dates

- Tuesday 22nd April - Summer Term starts
- Wednesday 23rd April - Class photos
- Thursday 1st May - KS1 Cake Sale
- Friday 2nd May - Y4 Bikeability



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO

cherry class

In our adventures in Cherry Class this half term, we loved learning the story of the Little Red Hen and this story inspired us to bake bread together. We took part in 'Beep Beep Day' and practised crossing the road safely. We have also been exploring the seasonal changes outside and learning about what plants need to grow. We also took part in a fun ballet session.

Next half term, we will be exploring some more stories, such as 'The Enormous Turnip', and using our storytelling skills in lots of ways, such as by drawing characters, or telling our own stories through our play. We will be thinking about the area of Shefford and exploring some of our local landmarks. We will continue to develop our skills in alliteration, rhyme and hearing the sounds in words, as well as developing our game playing skills.



Reception



In our adventures in Reception this half term, we explored the stories of 'The Magic Porridge Pot' and 'The Little Red Hen' in Drawing Club, where we continued to develop our drawing, writing and story telling skills. We have been busy making and tasting porridge and pancakes with different toppings and we also learned about why it is important to recycle. In Phonics, we continued to learn more sounds, and how to read and write these within words, and in Maths, we have been developing our knowledge of numbers up to ten.

Next half term, we will be introduced to two new characters 'Noodle' and 'Titch', and their 'Inventures' - they are inventors that go on adventures! We will be exploring their stories through Drawing Club. We will also be learning about different scientific processes, such as melting and freezing. In Maths, we will be exploring how to build numbers beyond 10, and exploring the counting system and in Phonics, we will be revising all the graphemes that we have learned so far and developing our skills when reading and writing them in longer words.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO

Year 1

We've had a lovely Spring Term in year one. The children have enjoyed learning about animals and even had the opportunity to visit Woburn Safari Park to see them in their habitat. Along with this, we had an amazing theatre company come in to perform The Jungle Book. The children loved the show and they enjoyed learning information about the animals within the story. We have also enjoyed the food technology unit this term. The children made a healthy fruit salad and decorated a delicious pancake!

Thank you for all your support with reading and phonics this term. As you are aware, next term the children will have their phonics screening test so we really appreciate any extra support you can provide at home. We are focusing on sound buttoning and blending, which the children are becoming experts at! Please allow them to show you at home, when you get a chance. Please see the phonics page of the school website for more information. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.



Many thanks
The year 1 team.



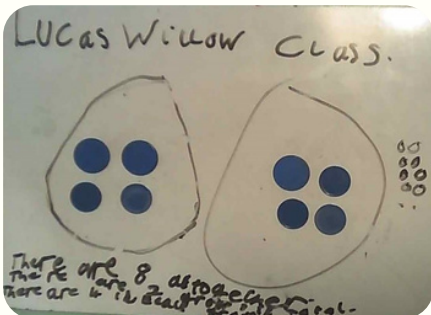
Year 2

We have had great fun in year 2 this half term! We have been learning all about the events of the Titanic and it's intended journey across the Atlantic Ocean. In maths we have been learning about the properties of 3D and 2D shape, statistics and fractions.

We linked our statistics work to our computing. We collected data on our class and produced block diagrams and pictograms. During Reading for Pleasure Week we enjoyed a reading café where the children 'taste tested' different genres of books and gave their reviews.

We were excited to see a real production of The Jungle Book. We were so enthused by this we produced very detailed and gripping setting descriptions which we are so excited will be turned into a book for the office foyer (also look out for this in their writing progress books!) In science we have been learning about different materials. We have put this knowledge into practice and have designed and made a 'safety egg suit' to protect an egg when dropped from a height.

Next term we will be learning all about the seaside. We will be looking at the features of seaside towns as well as ocean conservation. We will also be learning about famous nurses in history.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO

Year 3

Year 3 have been superstar swimmers this half term. We have been so impressed with the progress they have made in such a short time, as well as how well they have shown their values whilst being out of school. Year 3 have also been having singing lessons with Inspiring Music every Tuesday. The children have absolutely loved learning all the songs and it has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and enjoyment in this. We have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians and enjoyed locating Egypt on a map and finding out about it's geographical features. In English recently we have been looking at traditional tales. We used our drama skills to re-tell the story of Hansel and Gretel and had a great time discussing whether or not Cinderella should marry Prince Charming, before writing our own ending. We loved watching the performance of The Jungle Book and took inspiration from this to write descriptions of a jungle setting using expanded noun phrases. Year 3 have continued to impress us with their times tables and the extra practise they are doing at home is certainly paying off, thank you for your support with this.

Next term we are looking forward to learning about the Ancient Greeks and we will be finding out about all the different Gods they believed in, as well as how they lived in their daily life. We will be learning how to tell the time in Maths and any extra practice of this you can do would be greatly appreciated! We will be continuing to focus on times tables as well as fractions and shape. In July we will have our singing concert at Shuttleworth, performing all the songs we have learnt this term. Our lessons have now finished but we will be continuing to practise our lyrics in school each week. We are looking forward to designing and making Greek vases out of clay in Art, and learning about animals and their skeletons in Science. We can't believe that the Summer term has come around so quickly!



Year 4



Year 4 have had such a busy half-term. We had the best time at the PGL residential and the children that remained in school had a fabulous experience during their three off-timetable days. Our children were so lucky to have had their residential experience of outdoor education, and they were so well behaved. Our PGL staff, Kenny and George, were very impressed with the children and our staff were so proud of them. We have also enjoyed creating our new corridor displays for Reading for Pleasure Week. These displays were linked to the author Aaron Becker's trilogy Journey, Quest and Return. Year 4 created some fantastic art linked to the books as well as some superb setting descriptions of these imaginary worlds. We were very lucky to watch The Jungle Book performance as well as have an interactive workshop on how to plan, design, stage and run a performance. The children were very inspired and created their own puppet theatres, scripts and puppets for Holy Week in RE. We finished off our Forest School unit with some fire building with Mr Tilbury during the last week of term.

Next half-term, we will be focusing on Geography and diving into our Extreme Earth theme. We will also be focusing on a new project-based learning week linked to 'Our Global Communities' where we will be working with RBA and the language department to run a French Cafe, along with some fantastic Geography and History learning too. The summer term will get busy for year fours, with transition activities for middle school, Bikeability, leaver's activities and our leaver's assembly.

We wish everyone a relaxing Easter break. Thank you, the Year 4 team 😊



SCHOOL UPDATES

Community

We are very lucky as a school to have such a supportive community who work so hard to support our children. This term our children have had some amazing performances from the pupils at Samuel Whitbread, as well as a special assembly from Black Ice Cheerleading Academy. We want to say a great big thank you to our school volunteers who work hard to support the children with their reading, trips and visits. A special mention goes to the Women's Institute who have supported with this as well as promoting and teaching the children the importance of how to keep our rivers clean. On the topic of water, we have also been working hard as a school to reduce and save water. This has been recognised by Anglian Water who have given our school the 'Anglian Water Eco Advocates' award for carrying out water audits and promoting ways to reduce and save water within school. We are also very excitedly looking forward to next term where our Humanities family are planning lots of exciting opportunities for the children to carry out fieldwork within the local community. Our choir are also practising and rehearsing towards some shows for the residents of Oak Manor and Wixams Residential Home. We are always looking for exciting ways to reach out to our community and inspire the children with local connections so if there is anyone who would like to support our school further with any projects please contact our school office.

Thank
you!



Opal

Our playtimes are filled with fun and creativity, from making mud pies and dancing to favourite songs to building dens. We've seen so many benefits for our children through play, and we're excited to continue expanding our resources! Over the Easter break, we'll be adding a large sandpit—an inclusive space for all children to enjoy. We're always on the lookout for play resources, so if you have anything to donate, please contact familysupport@shefford.cbeds.co.uk.

Additionally, we'll soon be looking for a Parent Play Champion to support our OPAL programme and help enhance play opportunities at our school. Stay tuned for more details!



Family Support

Did you know your child may qualify for Pupil Premium? This additional funding helps support your child's education and can provide benefits such as free school meals, uniform vouchers, reduced prices on school trips and other funded opportunities within school.

If you haven't checked your eligibility yet, we encourage you to do so! If you need any help with the application or have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We're here to help!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium-registration-form>

Our Family Support Team is hosting a shoe sale to help families find affordable footwear. Stay tuned for dates and details.

Looking for fun things to do over the break? Please find a list of local activities to enjoy with your family this Easter on Page 7!



SCHOOL UPDATES



Sports News

This term, we are incredibly proud of the students who participated in the County Finals at Redbourne. Their hard work, dedication, and team spirit truly shone through, and they represented our school with great pride and sportsmanship. We are thrilled to announce that we came 6th in the whole of Bedfordshire—an outstanding achievement!

We would also like to say a big thank you to all the children who have brought in their sports awards and certificates. We have really enjoyed celebrating your achievements in assembly. Keep up the amazing work!

Looking ahead, we are excited for more sporting events in the Summer Term, especially our much-anticipated Sports Day. We can't wait to see everyone getting involved and showcasing their talents!



School News

This week we say goodbye to Mrs Hunt and Mrs Hudson from the office. They have worked at the school for 24 and 16 years respectively. We thank them for all they have done for Shefford Lower School over the years and wish them well in the future.



Sign the Parent Pact

By signing this Pact, you're joining a fast-growing community of families across the UK who are choosing to wait to give their child a smartphone.



<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Wishing all our families a very

HAPPY EASTER

From everyone at Shefford Lower School

We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 22nd April.



Shefford and Stotfold Children's centre

Easter Holiday Activities



Week one

SEND Stay & Play in your own way Monday 7th April 10-11.00 @ Shefford Children's Centre

Stay and play in your own way. A session for families with children who have an additional need or disability.

Pop in and join other local families for a cuppa and safe place to explore and play with your child. Siblings welcome.

Messy Play for under 12 's Tuesday 8th April 10-11.00 @ Arlesey Youth Centre

Spring theme messy play. Your child can choose what to play with, mix it about

and create play experiences in their own way. 0-12 years Donations £1 per family welcome



Tinies Buggy Walk Tuesday 8th April 1.30-3.00 @ Shefford Children's Centre

A warm and friendly team to welcome parents/carers with bumps and baby's new-born to 6mths.

Meet other local families, Enjoy a local walk - buggy and sling friendly followed by a cuppa.

Spring Trail Wednesday 9th April 2-3pm meet at Shefford Lower School Carpark

Outdoor fun and Spring trail around Campton plantation. Trail sheets to follow. A great way to meet other local families. Free activity for children 0-12 years old.



Nature Fun for Stotfold Residents Thursday 10th April 10-12pm

Greenacres Community Centre Stotfold – Supported by Stotfold Town Council

Drop In Friday 11th April 9-11am @ Shefford Children's Centre

Support and information covering all aspects about your baby or child. Feeding, sleep, behaviour and more. Self-weighing scales available. Stay for a cuppa & meet other local families, activities for your baby/child to play.

Infant feeding support & Social Friday 11th April 11-12.30 @ Shefford Children's Centre

A friendly, café style drop in for breastfeeding or mixed feeding parents. Come along for a cuppa and meet other parents & babies. 1:1 support available in a private space. Siblings welcome.

Week two

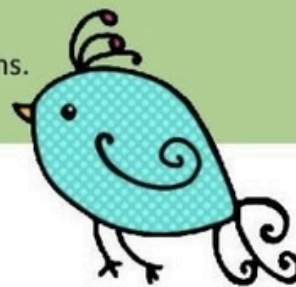
Tinies Baby Group Tuesday 15th April 1.30-3.00 @ Shefford Children's Centre

A warm and friendly team to welcome parents/carers with bumps and baby's new-born to 6mths.

Meet other local families.

Spring Trail Wednesday 16th April 2-3pm meet at Arlesey Youth Centre

Outdoor fun and Spring trail around Arlesey Park. Trail sheets to follow. A great way to meet other local families. Free activity for children 0-12 years old.



Membership form



Feedback form



Request for services



Donation bucket at all sessions -Food & craft items also welcome



Shefford and Stotfold Children's Centre 0300 300 8112

Shefford Children's Centre SG17 5XA

Arlesey Youth Centre SG15 6SN

