

SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL

School Lane, Shefford,
Bedfordshire.
SG17 5XA



19th January 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

We are over half way through January now, and the so called *Blue Monday* is behind us! We cannot emphasise enough just how much working together has supported us to support you better. Please keep in touch regarding your learning needs, and our continued interventions will reflect this.

We realise that the demands of home-schooling is challenging. Whilst we have delivered on core and foundation curriculum, we echo the sentiments of schools up and down the country, that your child's mental wellbeing is the highest priority.

We have loved seeing the children on their TEAMS calls, and also speaking to them over the phone to help them with their learning. We know that they benefit hugely from this interaction too. Please keep informing us, and we can adapt our contact with you to be as effective as possible.

We realise that not one size of learning fits all, whilst all children *do* need cuddles, *do* need time with their special adults and *do* need time to play. We welcome the DfE decision to defer the assessments at the end of Reception, and feel that our connection with families and trusted teacher assessments are more crucial than ever in helping families with increasingly personalised learning.

Next week, we have our 'Animal Assemblies', and aim to have a **fun theme** each week to support wellbeing. Pets have been making their way into our TEAMS calls anyway – like they do! We would like to harness the power of pets, and cuddly toys to increase wellbeing. Each teacher will notify you of your child's Pet Assembly time for next week through your usual communications. After this, we will have a weekly fun assembly to bring children together aligned to our current values focused on 'Wellbeing, hope and kindness' during this lockdown. **We would love to take in your ideas too!** So far we have thought about Super heroes, Burns Night, Chinese New Year, for example.

Our Facebook scheduled learning posts are themed for January about 'hibernation' and we have added something for most days and across different ages. As January moves to February we will schedule activities linked to 'celebrating':

Burns Night 25th January, Chinese New Year 12th February, Valentines 14th February, Shrove Tuesday 16th February, Mardi Gras 16th February, Birthdays Dr Seuss 2nd March, World Book Day.

We hope to give you lots of ways to access learning ideas and activities, supporting you to learn but also have heaps of fun too.

Thank you for wearing masks and observing the social distance with our one way systems. This is vital for keeping everyone safe and protecting the vulnerable. Please remember our carpark is used for additional clinics at the Children's Centre during this restricted time, so please do not drive in unless you have a disability badge or letter from myself to show at the barrier.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pamela Finch

M.Ed, NPQH, PG.Dip, PG.Cert, BAHons



Headteacher : Mrs P Finch
Telephone : 01462 629123
Facsimile : 01462 628844
email : schooloffice@shefford.cbeds.co.uk