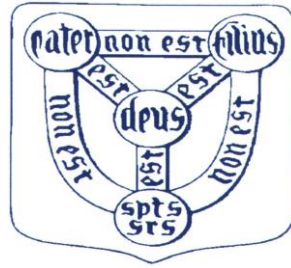


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

School Newsletter

Spring Term Three 2021 - Issue 2

5th February 2021

Value for the next two weeks: Perseverance

Don't be discouraged. It is often the last key in the bunch that opens the lock.

Author unknown

Dear Shellingford School Family,

Schools have been informed that we will definitely have two more weeks of remote learning after half-term. The DfE have also said that schools will be given two weeks' notice of any decision to return to face-to-face education, which hopefully will help schools put in place any necessary plans.

I know that many children at home are struggling from not being able to meet their friends and engage in normal social activities. We hope the live lessons are helping them to at least see their classmates on screen – it has been lovely hearing and seeing the children interacting with one another in this way.

It has been national Mental Health Week with the theme of 'Express Yourself.' One of the recent national webinars on education and remote learning highly recommended the following Apps to support mental health and might be worth looking at:

- Dreamy Kid
- Headspace
- Mindful Powers
- Chill Panda
- Sleep Town

Please do what you can with the home learning and do not worry about what you cannot do. We are all trying to do our very best. We recognise that not all parents are able to get everything done, especially with younger children. Well-being is so important and happy children learn. I know many families are appreciating the live lessons as this is helping maintain a daily routine.

Our Critical Worker and Vulnerable children's bubbles in school are full and I am afraid that we cannot offer places to children who are finding the home learning difficult. This is a huge challenge for everyone, and I know many families will be finding it tough at times. I am very grateful to all Critical Workers who are compromising to find care where they can so that their children need only attend school for a couple of days a week. This has allowed us to maximise places in school and to offer places to other families. If you can reduce the number of days you require, please let us know as we might be then able to help another family who is in need of a school place.

I think we must work together towards small goals. I appreciate it is difficult at the moment and we are all longing for everyone to be able to return to school.

Please remember we are here to help if you are struggling. Please do not worry if you need to ask for support. We are here to listen and do contact us if your family are finding it particularly challenge. I hope you have found our Parent-Teacher Interviews have given you the opportunity to talk to us. I can also be contacted in confidence. Please also look out for each other. If you are worried about someone in our school community, talk to them and encourage them to ask for help or let us know and we will offer support.

We are also focusing on online safety as part of Safer Internet Day next week. The children are on screens a lot more than usual so please be vigilant. Look out for pop-ups, it is easy to click on a link or respond to something without realising it. Remember to watch who your child/ren might be communicating with online. Our [e-safety page](#) on our school's website gives some useful information and resources for parents.

Reading is one of the most important activities for all children and relaxing with a book is a lovely activity to do with the children at the end of the day. Classes are having a story time or reading for pleasure time to help encourage the children to read as much as possible. No matter how old your child is, still encourage them to read aloud to you (or remotely to friends and relatives!) Here is a list of recommended websites which might help inspire and engage the children with books:

- Oxford Owl: www.oxfordowl.co.uk - plenty of free books to read for all ages
- Audible Stories: <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> - lots of audio books
- BBC Bringing Books Alive: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01rkywl> - watch clips of excerpts and short films



Alongside our English and Maths lessons, we are trying to provide a range of other subjects to those at home. This is difficult especially with some of the more practical subjects. Please continue to pursue your own enrichment activities as a family. All our staff are working in school and having to plan and deliver learning for the children at school as well as for the children at home. This is a big undertaking and involves a huge time commitment. We do not have the staffing capacity at present to enable one member of staff to solely teach those at home and another to solely teach those at school. We are endeavouring to give the children feedback on their work regularly. Pupil assessments across the whole school were due to take place this term but once again this has had to be postponed as it is just not possible to assess the children remotely. Once all the children return to school again, we will then be able to carry out some thorough assessments of all the children's learning.

We have been so impressed with the learning taking place at home and at school. Here are some photographs of the children's work from across the classes for you to enjoy:



Lastly, parents were informed last week that we have started asymptomatic testing of staff. This involves staff testing twice a week at home in the morning. If a member of staff tests positive, we will need to identify contacts and close a bubble/s. We will contact parents as soon as we can before school but please be prepared with a plan in the event this happens.

We finish for half-term term next Friday 12th February and Spring Term 4 begins on Monday 22nd February. I hope you have a good half-term and manage to do something different! If there is any further information or national updates next week, I will of course keep you informed.

With very best wishes from all the Staff,

Judith R Terrell

Church Street, Shellingford, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7QA
 Tel: 01367 710301 email: office.3853@shellingford.oxon.sch.uk
www.shellingford.oxon.sch.uk