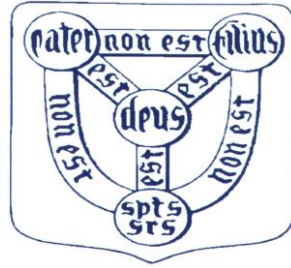


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

School Newsletter

Autumn Term One 2021 - Issue 1

10th September 2021

Value for the start of the new school year: Respect and Reverence

Be kind and honest and you will live a long life;
others will respect and treat you fairly.

Proverbs 21:21

Dear Shellingford School Family,

It is lovely to see everyone again after the summer break and we would particularly like to welcome all our new families who have joined us. The children have settled in so well and it has been a pleasure to watch them return to school with big smiles.



These fortnightly newsletters will be emailed to you and will keep you up to date with relevant information, as will our school website: www.shellingford.oxon.sch.uk. This first newsletter is inevitably long, and we ask that you take the time to carefully read the following information and attached documents:

Daily routines and expectations

As schools are not required to continue with staggered drop-offs/collections we expect all children to arrive between 8.45 - 8.55am in the morning and be collected at the end of the school day at 3.15pm. Staff will open the school gates at 8.45am and at 3.15pm for families to enter the school premises.

It is really important that the children arrive at school by 8.55am. Late arriving pupils disrupts lessons, and it can be both embarrassing and unsettling for the child and the rest of the class. If for any reason your child/ren arrive late to school, then **please bring them to the School Office.**

I am really pleased to observe that the start and end of the day is working well. It is great to see the children coming into school independently and I would like to thank you for your help in making the start of the new academic year run smoothly. We kindly ask for everyone to continue to respect each other's space to help keep the school community safe.

Curriculum Newsletters and support at home

Every term each Class Teacher will issue a Curriculum Newsletter (see attachments). This will give you an overview of the work covered in class, along with a list of activities you can do at home to support your child/rens learning. **Our learning this term is entitled 'Think It, Plan It, Build It!'** and as you may have guessed is based on Design and Information Technology (computing). We are always looking for additional resources or expertise to enhance curriculum topics; please let us know if you can offer anything to help as we would be most grateful.

We have decided to welcome back **Creative Builders** for another exciting Lego workshop event on **Monday 18th October** for the whole school. Please look out for the letter giving parents more information next week along with payment details.

Homework will continue on a regular basis for all classes and will be sent home on a Friday. This term all children will be asked to practise key skills to support their learning in school. We ask children to be in the habit of reading each evening at home and to record this in your child's Reading Record. This is one of the most important things you can do to support your child's learning. We will start sending homework out the beginning of Week 5 (27th September) although you may find the children will be receiving some work in the meantime.

Friends of Shellingford School (FoSS)

The FoSS Committee is a team of parents and staff who work together to coordinate a variety of events that everyone can enjoy, with the aim of raising funds that will enrich our children's learning experience.

Our first **FoSS meeting** is on **Thursday 6th October**, and we will be discussing our events planner for the coming year. **The meeting will be held 'virtually via Teams at 6.30pm** and a link will be posted on the FoSS Facebook page and emailed to parents via the School Office email. Anyone is welcome to join the meeting. Please look out for more information in the next few weeks.

We ask all parents to become involved in supporting FoSS, in any way, however small. For more information, please contact our Chair of FoSS, Mrs Gabrielle Mann (parent of Henry in Year 4 and Catherine in Year 3), via friendsofshellingfordschoolpta@gmail.com

Parking

For new parents in particular, please help us to keep good relationships with residents in the village and a safe road outside school. We ask that all vehicles drive slowly through the village and park considerately. **Please do not obstruct residents' driveways; there are a number of farms which need wide access for farmyard machinery.** Please reverse into spaces on the parking area opposite the nursery so you have full view of pedestrians when driving away. Do not park or drop-off on the road leading towards the main school gates. This area is not only private land but must be kept clear at all times for emergency access. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Diary Dates for the Autumn Term

I have attached some key dates which you will need for the autumn term; specific details of events will follow as the term progresses.

We are delighted that our **Church Services** can now resume every term at St Faith's church and that parents are allowed to join us again. Our parent **Celebration Assemblies** will now take place termly on a Friday at the new time of **2.30 – 3.00pm** in the Community Hall and we are also very much looking forward to seeing you at these assemblies.

We are still very mindful of protecting the pupils, staff and parents from COVID-19 knowing that schools have been strongly advised to continue to be cautious.

All school church/community events will be carefully risk assessed before each event. We will be asking parents to wear a face covering in the Community Hall and use hand-sanitiser on entry at occasions such as Celebration Assemblies or at whole school performances. Our first school event for parents is our **Harvest Service on Friday 1st October**. Our first **Celebration Assembly** will take place **on Friday 15th October**.

Our **Parent-Teacher Interviews** are on **Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th October from 3.30 – 6.30pm** and we will let you know how this will be organised nearer the time.

Attendance and Holiday Requests

There are 190 school days in a school year and therefore 175 non-school days in a year to enjoy family time, take holidays, make visits or take other appointments!

Please remember that school attendance regulations mean that Headteachers' are no longer able to authorise family holidays in school term times even in the current circumstances; I have attached the letter sent out to parents previously for your attention.

Kick Ball Rounders

Earlier this week Mrs Setchell organised our first whole school PE event '**Kick Ball Rounders**' which is an inclusive version of Rounders. The ball is rolled, then kicked by a member of the 'Batting' Team before they attempt to run around the cones as in a conventional game of Rounders. All the 'Fielders' are involved in running to the struck ball, with the first to arrive holding it aloft and the rest of the Team assembling behind. A completed Team line requires the runner to stop their circuit. The children competed in their teams (Maple, Ash, Oak and Pine):

- Tuesday's game with Classes 1 & 4 combined was won by Maple.
- Wednesday's game with Classes 2 & 3 was a draw between Oak and Ash.

It is always such a lovely event to hold at the start of the year to reinforce our PE values and to get children from different classes working together. We were especially impressed by the leadership of our older pupils.





Please remember that we ask all parents to ensure that:

- Children wear clean school uniform every day.
 - Any Packed Lunches brought in from home must be in a named lunchbox or disposable bag. Please note that sweets, chocolate are not allowed, and crisps and biscuits are discouraged. **We also have pupils in the school who have a potentially life-threatening allergy to nuts and peanuts.** For this reason, please do not bring food items into school which contain nuts and peanuts, e.g., cereal bars.
 - Playtime fruit and vegetable snacks brought in from home must be in a separate named container or disposable bag. (All schools also receive fruit and vegetables via the 'School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme' for children in EYFS and Key Stage One which is administered by the Department of Health. This also provides the children with a daily 'playtime' snack for children in Reception, Years 1 and 2.)
 - A Water Bottle (named) is brought into school daily.
 - A pair of wellies (named) are brought into school and left in school.
 - Book bags are brought into school daily.
 - PE bags (drawstring bags only) are brought into school on a Monday (these will be sent home weekly on a Friday for kit to be washed).
- Please remember that rucksacks are not permitted in school as we do not have adequate cloakroom space for the children to safely hang-up their bags and coats on their pegs.**

Finally, we ask if any of your contact details have [changed \(address, telephone numbers or email addresses\)](#) to please [urgently let the School Office know](#) to ensure we have the correct information in case we need to contact you in an emergency.

I appreciate this letter contains a lot of information, particularly for our new families. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Ashdown via the School Office if you have any concerns or are unclear about anything.

With Best Wishes,

Judith R Terrell

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