



**Newsletter July 2023**

Dear Families,

This is my final newsletter for the 2022-23 academic year - and what a year it has been! So many successes and proud moments. We are still looking forward to squeezing in some important events into the last few weeks, so do check the dates section for everything coming up. We are looking forward to a fun sports day and, one of my favourite events, the KS2 production, which I know the children have been working extremely hard on. We aim to make sure all pupils have had a chance to perform in some way each year, as it builds confidence and helps them to understand the value of teamwork and working hard to achieve a goal. I really hope you enjoy any events that you attend.

Enjoy the summer break when it comes and I hope you all get to dip your toes in the sea at least once before we see you again in September!

Take care.

*Mrs Penney*

**Sun Protection**

On sunny days, please apply sunscreen before school and supply a sun hat. Staff cannot apply sunscreen to children, so it is easiest if it is done before school. Children with no sun hat will be asked to take a break in the shade during lunch break on hot days.



**Multiplication Tables Check/Phonics Screening Check**

'Exam Season' is pretty much over now as the Year 4s have completed their Multiplication Tables Check and the Y1 pupils have completed their Phonics Screening Check. You will receive a slip of paper in with your child's report this year if they have taken part in a statutory test/check.

**Poet Justin Coe**

I was on a training day in London on the day Justin Coe visited, but when I returned to school, there was a great buzz of excitement. The children and staff said what an excellent experience they had. I hope your children have been injected with some enthusiasm about the beauty of words, books and poetry.

Thank you so much to the generous donation from FOSPs, meaning that this was mostly a funded event. If you still need to pay your contribution of £3.30, please do so today on MCAS. Ask Mrs Coombs if you need any help making payments on MCAS.

**Balances**

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE:** Please clear any outstanding dinner (or other) balances by 30<sup>th</sup> June and top up with enough money to last the rest of the term if you can. We cannot have any outstanding balances over the summer holiday period. From September we will have a different arrangement, whereby you will not be able to order a dinner unless your account is in credit. If your account is below £0, we will call you and ask you to top up or bring in a packed lunch. This is the way the vast majority of primary and secondary schools work. Thank you for your understanding.

**\*\*Y2 parents please read\*\***

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals but you will not automatically get free school meals once the child moves into Year 3. You

must apply for free school meals if you think you are eligible. Please speak to Kelly this week, if you feel that your income means you may be entitled to free school meals.

**Sports Day**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding our annual Sports Day. There is a competitive element but it is probably quite relaxed compared to some schools! Children should know which colour team they are in by now. All you have to do is drop off your child (who will be wearing at least one item that shows their team colour) at the normal time (by 8.45) and then return to school at 10am with a rug and some drinks/snacks/picnic.

Children will need to be wearing trainers on the day.

There are four events for each class to compete in and the scores are then totalled to see which colour team won overall. There will be a Sports person of the day announced too.

FOSPs are organising a BBQ, so you may or may not want to bring your own picnic lunch. Lunch will be between 12 and 1pm and we will assume that no child needs a school lunch on that day, unless you email Mrs Coombs to say otherwise. At 1pm, we will announce the winning team and you can then take your child home. If they need to stay in school because you have to go back to work or if they are attending football club, then that is of course fine. If you cannot attend Sports day yourself, it is fine to send a different family member to cheer people on!

**John Camp OBE**

Our CEO John Camp has been awarded an OBE for his services to education, as part of the King's Birthday Honours list ([see enclosed article](#)). I know that he may seem like an anonymous figure to most of you, but behind the scenes, he is constantly driving school improvement and has been a fantastic mentor to me and many of the heads in our Trust. He truly is a wise and inspirational man, who ALWAYS puts the education of children at the heart of his work. So proud and pleased that we have him at the head of our organisation.

### Industrial Action/Strike

There are more teacher strikes planned, but the good news is that, once again, I do not think your children will be affected. I must warn you that a striking teacher has the right to do so, and he/she does not have to inform me before the actual day. We will inform you ASAP of class closures if there are any. Planned dates of strikes are (at time of writing) 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.

### \*Summer Safeguarding\* Please Read

The long summer break is just around the corner, and I have no doubt that this is the time when many children are given access to a tablet or device daily. Children's faces light up at this news, as they know they will be allowed to play their favourite game. I just want to draw your attention to the NSPCC website which provides some really sound advice about keeping children safe online. Please do take time to read this:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-online/)

Even the 'techiest' of us are, each year, surprised at the new ways in which online abuse or unsafe behaviour can slip through the net. As teachers and parents, it is our responsibility to ensure we:

- have safe filtering
- have age-appropriate screentime limits
- control which websites, apps and games children have access to (making sure children are the correct age to use them)
- don't allow children to talk to others online and teach them not to make online 'friends' that may not be who they say they are
- don't allow primary school aged children to use any Social Media sites such as Instagram and Tiktok etc.
- supervise all use of the internet (especially Youtube!) and regularly check search history
- talk your child through any worries you have when you notice they have shown signs of unsafe online behaviour
- discourage any overly violent games or games that have the sole aim of 'killing' – this is really unhealthy and affects how children play and socially interact at school. Some free gaming sites don't have age -restrictions so you have to make the decision yourself.

Please note that the above points are heavily related to Safeguarding, so we will give you a ring to discuss things, if we feel that children have said something that implies unsafe online behaviour or online behaviour which is not appropriate to their age.

Thank you if you are already taking an active approach. If it is something you have not considered before and you would like more advice, please contact me via email. Thank you for helping us to keep all children safe online.

### Communication at drop off time

Parents are not allowed on site in the mornings - this is a safeguarding matter. If you need to communicate with the class teacher, please do so via an alternative method or pass a message through Mrs Coombs.

### Music Event

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July, you will hopefully be able to watch a streamed concert of each school in our Trust performing a song or two. The theme this year is 'Celebrate'. More details of how to access the concert will be given soon. All songs are pre-recorded so families should be able to watch at home if they wish. I can assure you that it is only streamed to Compass families and not shared anywhere else. We trust that you will not attempt to record the event or share it on Social Media. The link will be sent to you soon so look out for it in your emails.

### \*Times Tables\*

Please encourage your child to know their times tables off by heart. It is an essential life skill. Keep going over the summer holidays too. In particular Y2, Y3 and Y4 pupils should be working towards knowing them off by heart before the summer term of Y4. Children can use this fun website to practise - It's free.

[Multiplication Tables Check - 2023 - Timestables.co.uk](https://www.timestables.co.uk)

### School Day/Attendance Reminder

Thank you to those parents who are getting their children to school on time every day and to those who are making an effort to improve punctuality – we **have** noticed and appreciate you working hard on this so that children can benefit from a full school day and do not miss out on any essential part of it.

Drop off time is between 8.35am and 8.45am. **If children miss the register at 8.45am, they will be marked as unauthorised/late.** Pick up time is 3.15pm outside your child's classroom.

I cannot authorise term time holidays or fun days out during term time, so do expect a fine if you take your child out. All schools across Essex follow the same expectations.

### Y5 parents – Secondary Schools

It may seem too soon to think about it, but it is time to start thinking about which Secondary School is best for your child and hopefully attend some open days. Look on the individual school websites for open days or give them a ring. The nearest schools are Tabor and Hedingham but we find that children from Shalford go to a range of other schools too. Open days will be in September and the deadline to apply for a Secondary place is yet to be announced but is usually in October each year. It can be overwhelming if it is your first child and it feels like the schedule is tight to make a quick decision.

### An update from the wonderful FOSPS Team

*We are almost at the end of our first year as a committee and we would like to say a massive thank you to all of you for your support.*

*We have had some really fun events this year from Let's Go Batty, the Pantomime, Father Christmas visit with his Elves, and the Sponsored Bunny Hop - not to mention all of the donut sales, cake sales, Pancake Day, and ice lolly sales throughout the year.*

We've also been able to raise money through the school tea-towel, the King's Coronation bears and pre-loved uniform, competitions and raffles.

Easy Fundraising has so far paid us £168 - literally for simply adding the link to your online shopping, and that's only up to March so we're hoping to get a further boost when the next cheque comes through in August.

We really do appreciate your involvement, and we look forward to a successful Sports Day BBQ and cake sale. There will be a raffle on the day and tickets will be sent home with the children for you to buy - but this is not a necessity.

We have raised a total of £2976 since September, which is amazing. To date we have funded over £1700 worth of projects and activities which includes:

- A new book corner for every class
- Letters from Santa and Christmas gifts delivered by Father Christmas and his naughty elves.
- The Christmas Pantomime
- A donation towards a poet visit to the school
- Ice pop giveaway
- Leavers' hoodies and treat day
- New joiner water bottles for 2023/24.

We have one more surprise for all the children at the end of term (an email will follow nearer the time), so our last day non-uniform is to be beach themed (please no swimwear or flip flops though). Please bring £1 to school or pay online to the usual FOSPS bank account.

Next Year's AGM is scheduled for 14th September. If you would like to get involved with the running of FOSPS or have a say in our plans for the upcoming school year, or even put yourself forward to become a committee member, then come along. Details will be confirmed at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Have a great summer.

*Michelle, Hayley & Charlotte.*

#### Morning Snack Reminder

All children are only allowed to eat FRUIT/VEG/DRIED FRUIT only at breaktimes. No cereal bars or other snacks are allowed.

#### Uniform/PE Kit

New uniform can be ordered here:

<https://sign-language-essex-ltd.myshopify.com/collections/shalford-primary-school>

For preloved stock please contact:

[fosp1@yahoo.com](mailto:fosp1@yahoo.com)

**Please name all individual items of PE Kit and uniform.**

**Jewellery:** very small, plain stud earrings are permitted but larger studs and hoops/dangly earrings are not permitted. **All jewellery to be removed for PE.** If children are too young or unable to take out own earrings, they should not wear them on PE/swim days.

**Hair:** hair must be tied back for the whole school day. We will ask children to tie their hair back when they come in with it loose.

No trainers or sandals for school please - plain black shoes only.

No nail varnish please.

#### MCAS APP



Please use the MCAS (My Child at School) app to pay for school dinners, Breakfast Club, Thursday Lego and Fun Club, school trips/experiences. You also need it to book parent evening appointments and One Plan meetings.

#### Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

To attend Breakfast Club, just turn up at the black door in the carpark and ring the doorbell. There is a sibling discount which will show up on your MCAS account.

Option 1: Breakfast Club starts at 8am and includes Toast/cereal/drinks for £3.50 per day. Option 2: 'Early Bird' Club starts at 8.15am and does not include food or drink - we expect that children have eaten before they arrive. The cost for Early Bird Club is only £1.25 per day. If a child needs to arrive before 8.15am, the price will be £3.50, regardless of whether they eat or not.

All our after-school clubs run 3.15-4.15pm and must be booked in advance. All Clubs are available to all ages. See details for each club below:

**PLACES STILL AVAILABLE IN ALL CLUBS - YOU DO NOT NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF A HALF TERM TO BOOK ON**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Currently no club   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Multisport club/Dodgeball: Special offer to continue: <b>Only £3 per session.</b> <a href="#">Shalford Primary School Multi Sports Club   cmxsc ltd</a>   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Dance Club – book a place by contacting <a href="mailto:info@taylorisdancecompany.co.uk">info@taylorisdancecompany.co.uk</a> or 07900 661885  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Lego and Fun Club: run by school staff (small snack and drink included). £4.75 per session (book and pay on MCAS APP)   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Football Club run by Colchester United <a href="#">Shalford Primary School (Summer Term)- After School Club - Whole School Football (1) (Fri 21st Apr 2023 - Fri 14th Jul 2023)   Colchester United Community Foundation   Powered by ClassForKids (class4kids.co.uk)</a> |

Where a club is run by an external provider, you will need to book directly with them. Links are above next to each club.

#### Key Dates: Summer Term 2023

- 4<sup>th</sup> July – Y6 to visit White Notley Primary School
- 7<sup>th</sup> July Sports day 10am -12 (then family picnics/FOSPS BBQ 12-1pm) Bring some change for the BBQ stall if you can – more details TBC
- 7<sup>th</sup> July Compass streamed music event (available to watch after the school day – link to be sent soon).
- 11<sup>th</sup> July KS2 Production 1.30pm and 6pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> July last Parents evening (informal – no appointments needed) 3.15-4pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> July- Mrs Barford our new teacher and the new Reception children will be visiting in the morning.
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - Taster morning for new Reception pupils 9.30-12.30 including lunch

- 17<sup>th</sup> July 'meet the new teacher' morning (children spend time in the class where they will be in September 2023)
- 18<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 leavers assembly 2.15pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> July Last day for pupils – beach themed non uniform (no flip flops or swimwear)– Bring £1 for FOSPS and stay behind after school if you can as there will be a free FOSPS event.

#### **More Dates...**

Here are some brief details of more key dates:

- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 are non-pupil days. First day back for pupils will be 6<sup>th</sup> September.
- 28<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Celebration 1.30pm (venue TBC)
- 23-27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 School closed for half term
- 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Non Pupil Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Wear Spotty accessories or Children in Need merchandise (bring £1)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 last day (non uniform and Christmas Craft Day bring £1 for FOSPS)
- 21 Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024 School Closed for Christmas break
- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Children return to school

*\*Please note - More details, dates and FOSPS events will be added throughout the year, so check the 'dates' section each month when the new newsletter comes out. \**

#### **Water Bottles Reminder**

All children need a water bottle in school each day and will be encouraged to drink fluids throughout the day.

#### **Contacts:**

Executive Head: [kharrison@compassps.uk](mailto:kharrison@compassps.uk)

Head of school: [jpenney@compassps.uk](mailto:jpenney@compassps.uk)

SENCo: [vcchilds@compassps.uk](mailto:vcchilds@compassps.uk)

School office: [sfcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:sfcontact@compassps.uk)

Teachers:

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