



## Newsletter December 2023

Dear Families,

December has come around so quickly and we have lots to look forward to. A very special nativity play, a delicious Christmas dinner and a Carol service are just a few of the things the pupils are getting excited about! We hope to see you at some of these events. In the meantime, the children have been continuing to work hard and show us an amazing amount of perseverance and positive, hard-working attitudes. They amaze us every day – having a growth mindset can change everything! As we experience the last few weeks of 2023, what are you thankful for and what have you achieved this year? Plenty, I have no doubt!

*Mrs Penney*

### Children in Need- Thank You

Thank you so much for donating to Children in Need in November - we managed to raise £76 for this amazing cause.

### New Staff Member

Mrs Melissa Basham joined the staff team as our new school cook this week. I know the children will make her feel very welcome. Mrs Coombs will be handing over to Mrs Basham, so you may see more of Mrs Coombs in the office once again! A huge thanks goes to Mrs L'Anson who has come from another department in the Trust to help in the office over the past few months, and we are really thankful for all her assistance.

### Christmas Cards

Children can now bring in Christmas cards if they wish and post them in the Christmas postbox which will be kept in the front office. These will be sorted and delivered a few times per week. PLEASE put name and CLASS on as that really helps.

### St Andrews Christmas Eve service

At 5pm on Christmas Eve, you may want to pop down to St Andrew's Church in Shalford and join in with some well-known carols. It is usually a lovely atmosphere and jam-packed! Reverend Janet Nicholls has asked us to mention it as they would love to have more children attending the service.

### Essex SEND Roadshows

If your child has (or may have) any additional needs, you might consider attending on of these free 'roadshows' in the new year. Times have not been announced yet, but the venues and dates are below. I will update with times as soon as I know.

- Monday 4 March – South Essex - The Holiday Inn - Basildon
- Thursday 7 March – Mid Essex – The Hamptons – Chelmsford
- Wednesday 13 March – NE Essex – Colchester Football Stadium

- Tuesday 19 March – West Essex – The Harlow Hotel

### Reading – a home/ school collaboration

Please keep reading with your children at home every day. This really helps them practice the skills they have learned and become fluent readers - an essential life skill. They are really at a disadvantage if they do not read at home and won't keep up with their peers. I hope children receive some books as gifts this year and they enjoy reading them over the break.

### Governors

Could you be a school governor? We would like at least one more parent governor from Shalford to join our team of Governors. You will need to commit to four meetings per year, complete monitoring visits to school per year and be able to provide reports and feedback after each visit. Training is given to all our new governors. Please contact Mrs Karen Harrison if you are interested in becoming a governor ([kharrison@compassps.uk](mailto:kharrison@compassps.uk)).

### 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 (SEND) meetings. If you struggle with the app, you can also use the browser version of MCAS:

[www.mychildatschool.com](http://www.mychildatschool.com)

### Balances

Keep your balances topped up/in credit. We cannot offer any dinners to children who have nothing in the balance of their MCAS account. Those with certified Free School Meals and children in Elm and Ash Class automatically receive free meals but everyone else needs to top up funds in advance.

### Keeping Children Safe Online - Essentials

As staff and parents, it is our joint 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
- teach children 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
- discourage violent games

#### Water Bottles Reminder

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

#### \*Times Tables\*

Please encourage your child to know their times tables off by heart. It is an essential life skill. 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 and Attendance Reminders

It is the law that parents bring their children to school every day and ensure that they are on time and prepared for their day.

Do expect letters and phone calls from the attendance officer, a fine and possibly even legal action if you take your child out during term time.

THANK YOU so much if you are dropping your child off on time for school each day. 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.

Ask Mrs Coombs for a form if your child needs essential time off.

#### Morning Snack Reminder

All children are only allowed to eat FRUIT/VEG/DRIED FRUIT at breaktimes. No cereal bars or other snacks are allowed. Elm and Ash Class (Year R, 1, 2) are provided with a free piece of fruit/veg each day.

#### Uniform/PE Kit Reminders

New uniform can be ordered here:

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

For preloved stock please contact:

[fosps1@yahoo.com](mailto:fosps1@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.**

#### Swimming Information

Year 3 and 4 (and a few from Year 5) will need to have swimming kits ready for their first swimming lesson on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Swimming will be every Wednesday until the Easter holidays.

#### Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

To attend Early Bird/Breakfast Club, just turn up at the black door in the car park 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 must be booked in advance. All Clubs are available to all ages. See details for each club below:

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

<b>Monday</b>	<i>Currently No Club</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Martial Arts Club - £5 per week book on MCAS or contact Mrs Coombs
<b>Wednesday</b>	NEW netball Club £2 per week – Pay on MCAS finishes at 4pm (NO CLUB ON 22 <sup>nd</sup> NOV due to staff training)
<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="https://colchester-united-cf.classforkids.io/info/924">https://colchester-united-cf.classforkids.io/info/924</a>

#### Key Dates: Autumn Term 2023

- **14<sup>th</sup> December Elm and Ash Class Nativity 10.30am**
- **15<sup>th</sup> December Elm and Ash Class Nativity 1.30pm (children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 and any siblings can go home afterwards at around 2.30pm)**
- **18<sup>th</sup> Dec 6pm Beech and Chestnut Carols-venue at St Andrew's Church Salford. Piano students will also perform festive pieces. Bring some coins for refreshments afterwards.**
- **19<sup>th</sup> December Xmas Dinner day and Xmas Jumper day (bring £1 for Save the Children Charity)- all children.**
- **20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 last day (non-uniform and Christmas Craft Day). FOSPS movie night and fingers crossed for a special visit!**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024 School Closed for Christmas break**

### More Dates...

Here are some brief details of key future dates:

- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Children return to school
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jan last tours for prospective families 2pm and 2.30pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> January – swimming starts for Beech ( and some Chestnut) Class
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jan Y6 parents only meeting about residential PGL trip 3.15pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Parents evening 2.30-6pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> March Beech Trip to Sutton Hoo
- 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Feb School closed for half term
- 26<sup>th</sup> Pupils back to school
- 5<sup>th</sup> March – whole school Science day
- 7<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day – wear PJs to school and bring a favourite book
- 28<sup>th</sup> March last day
- 29<sup>th</sup> March -14<sup>th</sup> April - school closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – pupils back to school
- 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> April Y6 2 night residential trip
- 6<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 9-9.30 coffee morning – all welcome
- 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May KS2 SATs exams for Y6
- 21<sup>st</sup> May FAB Science experience morning (at a small cost to parents- more details nearer the time)
- 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May school closed for half term
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June back to school
- 5<sup>th</sup> July Sports Day 10am start. Family Picnic 12-1pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> July KS2 Production 1.30 and 6pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> July informal parents evening (no appointments) 3.15-4pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> July Annual reports come home
- 16<sup>th</sup> July Meet the new teacher morning plus new Reception pupils to visit
- 19<sup>th</sup> July Non Uniform day (bring £1 for FOSPS) and last day for pupils
- 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July Non Pupil Days
- 24<sup>th</sup> July Summer holidays begin (first day back in Sept 2024 TBC)

*\*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. \**

### Contacts:

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