

Newsletter January 2024



Dear Families,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you enjoyed the break and are feeling refreshed and excited about all that 2024 will bring us.

"There are better things ahead than any we leave behind". (CS Lewis)

Mrs Penney

Swimming

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

PE Kits

Please remember that all children need their PE kit in school every day, which should include a pair of trainers or plimsolls for outdoor use. If the PE goes home to be washed, please ensure it comes back the next day.

Balances

Remember to 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.

New Devices

I am sure the children got some lovely gifts over the Christmas period, including a lot of new devices. This month I have included a parent guide to setting up new devices so that they are safe for children. You will find it on the last page of this newsletter. If you are worried about any online activity or behaviour, please speak to a member of staff.

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

150 Years of Shalford Primary School

According to records, our school opened its doors in 1874, so in 2024 we will be marking 150 years of our wonderful little school. We hope that local people can help us to gather information and celebrate this occasion.

We will be holding an open afternoon in the school hall 3-5pm on 19th June. ALL ARE WELCOME and refreshments will be available. By the time we get to 19th June, we are hoping to have gathered as much history about the school as possible. Can you help us?

We are particularly interested in seeing any old photographs, newspaper articles, names of staff, anecdotes, school reports or anything else of interest you might have at home. We are going to make displays in the hall under 3 broad categories:

-The early days/Victorian Era

-World War 1 and World War 2 Era (1914-1945 approx)

-Post war Era to 2024

You can drop into school with your items (we will happily photocopy them if you do not want to leave originals with us) any time before 19th June. We know the pupils will really enjoy learning about the rich history and importance of their school.

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.

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).

MCAS APP



Please use the MCAS (My Child at School) app to pay for school dinners, clubs and to book parents evening appointments. www.mychildatschool.com

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 Reminders

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

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.**

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. Sibling discount available.

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. 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.

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

Monday	NEW MultiSkills Club - Shalford Primary School - Multi-Skills- Whole School (1) (4 - 11.9yrs) at Shalford Primary School , Baintree Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids
Tuesday	Marital Arts Club - £5 per week book on MCAS or contact Mrs Coombs
Wednesday	CURRENTLY NO CLUB
Thursday	Lego and Fun Club: run by school staff (small snack and drink included). £4.75 per session (book and pay on MCAS APP)
Friday	Shalford Primary School- After School Club - Whole School Football (1) (4 - 11yrs) at Shalford Primary School , Baintree Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids

Key Dates: Spring and Summer Term 2023

- 8th Jan tours for prospective families 2pm and 2.30pm
- 10th January – swimming starts for Beech (and some Chestnut) Class
- 15th Jan Y6 parents only meeting about residential PGL trip 3.15pm
- 6th Feb Parents evening 2.30-6pm
- 1st March Beech Trip to Sutton Hoo
- 19th-23rd Feb School closed for half term
- 26th Pupils back to school
- 5th March – whole school Science day
- 7th March World Book Day – wear PJs to school and bring a favourite book
- 28th March last day
- 29th March -14th April - school closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April – pupils back to school
- 24th -26th April Y6 2 night residential trip
- 6th May Bank Holiday
- 10th May 9-9.30 coffee morning – all welcome
- 13th -16th May KS2 SATs exams for Y6
- 21st May FAB Science experience morning (at a small cost to parents- more details nearer the time)
- 27th -31st May school closed for half term
- 3rd June back to school
- 19th June 150 Years of Shalford Event 3-5pm
- 5th July Sports Day 10am start. Family Picnic 12-1pm
- 10th July KS2 Production 1.30 and 6pm
- 11th July informal parents evening (no appointments) 3.15-4pm
- 12th July Annual reports come home
- 16th July Meet the new teacher morning plus new Reception pupils to visit
- 19th July Non Uniform day (bring £1 for FOSPS) and last day for pupils
- 22nd and 23rd July Non Pupil Days
- 24th July Summer holidays begin (first day back in Sept 2024 TBC)

Contacts:

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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to "Screen Time". From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select "Add Child" and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under "Broadcasting", you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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