

## Newsletter February 2024



Dear Families,

Here is your February Newsletter, packed with exciting things for the children to look forward to - do check the dates section. We will, of course, update you with more things, such as FOSPs events, as they arise.

This week I had the pleasure of taking the children swimming in Braintree. Our pupils showed positivity by the bucketload and a 'can do' approach! It was really enjoyable watching them and they were very polite and sensible at the pool too. It was wonderful to see our pupils representing the school so well.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

*Mrs Penney*

### Parents Evening: 6<sup>th</sup> February

Please make sure you have booked a slot for parents evening which is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. You can book by using MCAS or by contacting Mrs Coombs directly. If you cannot make that date, please arrange another time by emailing the teacher directly (email addresses are at the end of this newsletter).

### Lunchtime Clubs

In case your children haven't mentioned it, we run a variety of lunchtime clubs for half an hour each day. Any child is welcome to come along and there are lots of activities on offer. Currently we have choir, cross stitch, jewellery making and Makaton. These are free of charge and there is no commitment to come every week (apart from choir). The children seem to be enjoying these enrichment activities and it is also a great chance to chat and make friends. The older children often taken the younger ones under their wings!

### Swimming

Swimmers will need their kits every Wednesday until the Easter holidays.

### Reading – don't let your child fall behind

Please keep reading with your children at home **every day**. We notice those who do not read at home every day, fall behind, not only in reading, but in writing and all other subjects. They need to be able to quickly access written text in all subjects so please keep reading every night. Thank you to those who are reading every day at home – you are making a difference to your child's future 😊. If your child seems to dislike reading or struggles, please read a story to them, pointing to each word, encouraging them to join in with one or two words. If you keep trying, they will make progress, I promise.

### 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.

### 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.

### 150 Years of Shalford Primary School

According to records, our school opened its doors in 1874, so in 2024. We will be holding an open afternoon in the school hall 3-5pm on 19<sup>th</sup> June. ALL ARE WELCOME and refreshments will be available. By the time we get to 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> June. We know the pupils will really enjoy learning about the rich history and importance of their school.

### 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](http://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](http://Multiplication Tables Check - 2023 - 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.

### Morning Snack Reminder

All children are only allowed to eat FRUIT/VEG/DRIED FRUIT at breaktimes.

### 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](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.

### 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.

### After School Clubs

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

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

### Key Dates: Spring and Summer Term 2023

- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Parents evening 2.30-6pm
- **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February WONKA DANCE WORKSHOP (all parents are invited to arrive at 2.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> to watch the performance).**
- 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Feb School closed for half term
- 26<sup>th</sup> Pupils back to school
- 1<sup>st</sup> March Beech Trip to Sutton Hoo
- 1<sup>st</sup> March Singing workshop (in school) for Chestnut Class only
- 5<sup>th</sup> March – Famous Scientists Workshop Day (all classes)
- 7<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day – wear PJs to school and bring a favourite book
- **15<sup>th</sup> March: Red Nose Day – bring £1 to wear RED clothes for the day. Enter Shalford's Got Talent for £1. Any child can enter the talent show as a solo or group act.**
- **21<sup>st</sup> March Whole School Photo – smart uniform today please!**
- **21<sup>st</sup> March – Shalford Football match against Bocking School (after school).**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> March Braintree Sings! Vocal Festival (Chestnut Class only).**
- 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
- 19<sup>th</sup> June 150 Years of Shalford Event 3-5pm
- 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

**For your information, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 are non-pupil days. The first day back for pupils will be Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Full dates can be found here: [Shalford Primary School - Term Dates & The School Day \(compassps.uk\)](#)**

### Contacts:

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