

Newsletter March 2024



Dear Families,

Spring is gradually making itself known – lots of new beginnings are on the way. Have you seen any spring flowers in your garden yet? Sadly, this is my last newsletter as my new beginning is approaching rapidly! Although it will be a very sad time in some ways, I am reflecting on the years I have spent at this school with genuine fondness. Here are the lyrics from a song by The Kinks (and later, Kirsty MacColl) to sum up how I am feeling...

*Thank you for the days
Those endless days, those sacred days you gave me
I'm thinking of the days
I won't forget a single day, believe me
I bless the light
I bless the light that shines on you, believe me
And though you're gone
You're with me every single day, believe me.*

Staff and families, I will miss you all. Thank you for the days.
Mrs Penney

Young Writers- Elm Class

Mrs Barford recently entered the children into a writing competition, run by 'Young Writers'. The children were asked to write and draw about their family. We received an email last week to say that their work was so amazing that it will be published in a book! I am not surprised that their work was chosen, as they are exceptional little people who delight us and make us proud every day; they really deserve it. More details of how to view and order the book to come. We can't wait to see their published work.

SENCo

Congratulations to Mrs Kate Barford who has been appointed our new SENCo for Shalford Primary School. She will be starting this role after the Easter holidays. Mrs Barford is looking forward to taking on this extra responsibility in school and helping all our children to succeed and access their learning every day. Mrs Barford will of course still be a class-based teacher and continue teaching Elm Class. Mrs Wilson will cover for a few hours each week, while Mrs Barford is completing her SENCo tasks. We thank Mrs Vicky Childs for stepping in to help us when we did not have a permanent SENCo. She has done a great job and we are very grateful to have had her expertise and guidance.

Swimming

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

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!

Reading – don't let your child fall behind

Please keep reading with your children at home **every day**. We notice that 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. Don't give up.

A message from Mr Arding



Hello everyone, my name is Mr. Arding. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all in April! Currently I work in a big school in Greenwich called Wingfield Primary School. I've spent most of my life working with children and teenagers, and I have a real passion to support children to be happy and respected and achieve everything they want to in their life. When I'm not in school, I am a voracious reader (last year I read 113 books), I love going for very long walks and I love watching old movies. I'm also a keen portrait artist. I can't wait to join such a special school in the Summer Term!

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 do not 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 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.

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](http://MultiplicationTablesCheck-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

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

Monday	MultiSkills Club - Shalford Primary School- Multi-Skills- Whole School (1) (4 - 11.9yrs) at Shalford Primary School , Braintree Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids
Tuesday	Martial Arts Club - £5 per week <i>book on MCAS or contact Mrs Coombs</i>
Wednesday	CURRENTLY NO CLUB
Thursday	<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>
Friday	Shalford Primary School- After School Club - Whole School Football (1) (4 - 11yrs) at Shalford Primary School , Braintree Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids

Key Dates: Spring and Summer Term 2023

- 5th March – Famous Scientists Workshop Day (all classes). No money required.
- 7th March World Book Day – wear PJs to school and bring a favourite book
- 15th 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.
- 21st March Whole School Photo – smart uniform today please!
- 21st March – Shalford Football match against Bocking School (after school).
- 22nd March Braintree Sings! Vocal Festival (Chestnut Class only).
- 28th March last day
- 29th March -14th April - school closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April – pupils back to school – Mr Arding's first day
- 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

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

Contacts:

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