

Newsletter

October 2024



Hello everyone!

I can't believe we have reached the end of the first half term already! Time has flown by and we have so much to celebrate at Shalford.

Undoubtedly, one highlight of the term was our annual Harvest Festival down at St. Andrew's led by Rev'd Alex. I was very moved to see the generosity of the Shalford community with your donations. For the children to see how we can actively support those who are vulnerable in our community is a wonderful lesson for them to learn.

The highlight of the term for me has been to see how much the children have progressed in their learning. They are working so hard and it is incredible to see how much progress they have made in such a short space of time. One of the essential tools we have implemented to support this progress has been our introduction of Low Stakes Quizzing at the start of lessons, where children get the chance to revise their prior learning in a safe but challenging environment. This practise helps build rapid recall of knowledge in the children and teachers and children alike are saying to me how useful they are finding it.

One of the areas I am conscious that I want to develop further at Shalford is our wrap-around care provision. I will be sending a survey to parents after half term to canvas your thoughts on this – but please come and speak to me if you have any initial feedback.

Have a lovely half term!

Mr. Arding

On Friday 15th of November, we will be supporting the annual BBC Children in Need appeal. Children will be welcome to come to school in a clean set of pyjamas and there will be an after-school cake sale (led by FoSPs) taking place to raise funds for this worthy cause.

Handwriting

A few parents have been asking me recently about handwriting.

Children need to leave Primary School being able to maintain legibility, fluency and speed in their handwriting. To achieve this, children need to be able to join their handwriting. Like all aspects of education, we incrementally support pupils to achieve this by actively teaching and modelling exemplary handwriting in our classrooms.

Next term, I will be holding a training session for staff designed to support them in teaching effective handwriting and clarifying expectations. After this, I will share resources with parents so that you can support your child at home.

One of the key elements of excellent handwriting is that we don't join every letter, as the formation of some letters means that joining them can be quite messy. I will clarify these letters with teachers. Similarly, handwriting needs not to be too small as this affects its legibility. Reinforcing these expectations with your child can have a big impact.

Parents' Workshops

Thankyou for all your support for our programme of Parents' Workshops this year – I hope you have found them valuable.

We have a few more sessions scheduled before Christmas – all sessions are from 9am – 10am in the school hall and teas and coffees are provided.

8th November – **Maths Mastery**

This session is designed to help support you with the strategies your child will be taught to solve maths questions and understand the mastery approach to maths which we are embedding across the school.
(suitable for all parents)

22nd November – **EYFS**

This session is designed to help support you with the learning your child will be exploring in the Early Years Environment.
(suitable for parents of chn in EYFS)

29th November – **Reading at Shalford**

This session is designed to clarify our approach to reading at Shalford and understand how you can best support your child at home. Mr. Arding will be available for any questions you may have.
(suitable for all parents)

In the Spring Term, we will be holding class assemblies for every class on alternate Friday mornings, where parents and carers will have the opportunity to come and share in the wonderful learning your child is taking part in at school.

Reception Parent Tours

If you, or anyone you know, are exploring your child starting school in September 2025, we will be holding parent tours on 26th November and 10th January. There will be two sessions each day at 9.30 and 10.30am.

Please speak to Mr. Arding or Mrs. Coombs if you would like any further information about these days.

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

Monday	Currently no club
Tuesday	Currently no club
Wednesday	Singing club: please speak to the school office for more details.
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) (4-11 yrs) at Shalford Primary School , Braintree Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids

Anti-Bullying Week

Will be held from 11th – 15th November. Every class will taking part in special learning crafted to ensure that all members of the school community know that bullying is not tolerated within our school.

Dates for your diary:

15th Nov – Children in Need day.
14th Dec – FoSPs breakfast w/ Santa.
16th + 17th Dec – EYFS + KS1 Nativity.
16th Dec – KS2 Concert at St. Andrews 6 – 7pm.
18th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day + Christmas Dinner.
19th – Christmas Craft afternoon from 2pm on.
20th Dec – FoSPs Christmas Movie Night + last Day of Term!
7th Jan – First day back after the Christmas Holidays.