

Newsletter

October 2025

Hi all,

I don't know about you, but the first term has whizzed by! I can't believe that nearly eight weeks ago I was welcoming everyone back after the summer holidays. It has been lovely to see everyone settle into school and I am very proud of the culture that has been established during the day at Shalford. As I walk through the school everyone is calm, settled and focussed on their learning. I'm sure you would have enjoyed seeing the impact of this as you shared and celebrated your child's learning at Parents' Evening. I know from experience that this culture is rare in many schools, so I'm sure you will join me in thanking all the school adults for their hard work, day-in, day-out to establish this.

It has been lovely to see Elm class thrive at Shalford; they have all become little celebrities in our school community and it is wonderful to see the confidence they have whilst at school.

Thankyou for everyone who has reached out to me over the last term. I have always said that schools can only be effective if they work in partnership with parents and I am always very grateful for your feedback and open to any communication that you wish to share with me. Sometimes, the impact of these conversations will not always be immediate – an example of this was my expansion of wraparound care last year – but rest assured, I am working every day to develop and enhance our school and our provision.

I wish you and your family a very happy half term! I hope you enjoy whatever you have planned and I look forward to seeing you back at school on 3rd November. As always, please come and speak to me if there's anything you would like to discuss.

Mr. Arding.

School Tours

We've had a lot of interest for our school tours this year. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in a child joining our Reception intake in September 2026, Mr. Arding will be offering tours on the following dates:

26th November 9.30am and 10.30am

9th January 9.30am and 10.30am

Please speak to the school office to book a place on one of these tours.

Vision

One of my school development priorities this year is further develop the work we do as a school to support the children's development of their character and grow them to be ambitious, resilient and demonstrate integrity. Part of this work involves rewriting our school values so that we are teaching the children the right characteristics that we want them to have.

But – there is no point me doing this alone! This process involves the input of the children, staff and parents themselves. We need our school values to be shared, not imposed.

On 7th November at 9am, I will be holding a workshop for parents to gather your thoughts and opinions on what our school values should be. Please come along to support the school in this important work. Your feedback will determine the future of the school.

Football

One of the nicest features of Shalford is that we allow children to play football whenever they wish to. Most schools are unable to have this provision, and children will be limited to playing football once a week at playtimes or lunchtimes.

For this provision to be effective though all children need to demonstrate resilience and kindness. Can parents please remind children as we enter the winter months to always demonstrate respect for themselves and others on the football pitches and that they always follow our school expectations.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Breakfast Club is available from 7.30 every morning. Parents can choose to send their children for the whole hour or from 8.00am. Please speak to the school office for more details.

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

Monday	Lego and Fun Club: run by school staff (small snack and drink included). £4.75 per session (book and pay on MCAS APP)
Tuesday	Lego and Fun Club: run by school staff (small snack and drink included). £4.75 per session (book and pay on MCAS APP)
Wednesday	Multi-sports club: Please speak to the school office for further 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) Choir: Please speak to the school office for further details.
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

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Below I've tried to include every date that has been confirmed for the rest of the year. A few more dates will be confirmed over the next few weeks. Please speak to me if you have any questions about any of these events.

4th November – Individual + Sibling Photos

5th November – Flu Vaccinations

5th – 26th November – Dentist visits

7th November 9.00am – Vision and values Workshop for Parents.

7th November – Book Fair after school

10th November – Odd Socks Day to start Anti-Bullying Week

10th November - Book Fair after school

26th November - 9.30 + 10.30 am – Reception Parents 2026 Tour

29th November – 5.30pm – Shalford Christmas Light Switch on (our choir will be performing.)

12th December – FoSPs craft event

15th December – 6pm – KS2 Christmas Concert at St. Andrew's

16th December - 9.30am – EYFS + KS1 Nativity

17th December – 2.00pm - EYFS + KS1 Nativity

18th December – Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day

19th December – Last day of term.

5th January – INSET day – school closed to children

6th January – Children return to school

30th January – Chestnut Class assembly 9.00am

13th February – Beech Class assembly 9.00am

13th March – Ash Class assembly 9.00am

27th March – Elm Class assembly 9.00am