

Newsletter

September 2025

Hi all,

I'm sending out the September Newsletter a little earlier than usual so that parents have all useful information and dates/timings as soon as possible. Normal service will return next month!

I hope you all had a lovely summer – even if it feels like it was a long time ago. We have had a wonderful start to the year. The children are calm and settled and I have been astonished by some of the quality of learning in the classrooms.

I would like to especially welcome the parents and families of our children in Elm Class; welcome to Shalford! We are really delighted for you to join our special community here and please be confident that your children are settling in so well.

I'm also very pleased to welcome Miss. Carpenter – our new teaching member of staff in Beech Class. Beech Class have had a fantastic few weeks and I hope parents and carers have had the opportunity to introduce themselves and welcome her to our school.

We have an exciting year ahead and I am very confident that Shalford will continue to go from strength-to-strength and build on our excellent outcomes last year.

As always, please come and speak to me if there's anything you would like to discuss.

Mr. Arding.

School Tours

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in a child joining our Reception intake in September 2026, Mr. Arding will be offering school tours on the following dates:

17th October at 9.30am and 10.30am

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.

Sickness and Absence

As we start the new school year, it's important to remember that we all want children to be in school as much as possible. One day's absence not only means a child misses out on that day's learning, but also that they will struggle in school for the next few days as our lessons are very tightly sequenced. More importantly, we do notice that children feel down or upset when they miss out on the social games, stories and jokes that children share at break and lunchtime.

One of our strengths at Shalford is that because we are a small community we are able to keep a very close eye on children. If your child is feeling a bit poorly or under-the-weather, be confident that you can send them into school and we will look after them. We can always give you a quick call if your child starts to feel worse.

On Friday 24th October at 9am, myself and Ms. Greenway (our school attendance officer) will be holding a briefing for parents on attendance. This will be a great opportunity for you to explore this topic and ask any questions you may have about absence from school (including term-time holidays!)

A few reminders

Just a couple of reminders regarding our practices at Shalford as we start the new year. I appreciate all your support with these as they allow us to support your children effectively and keep the school running smoothly.

As you drop off your children in the morning, please refrain from speaking to your child's class teacher as they will be using our Early Morning Learning time to support children in making strong progress. If you have any message for your child's teacher, please speak to Mr. Arding or the school office. All teachers are available for a quick chat at the end of the day.

Please ensure all children have their names in their clothes. I am determined this year to avoid the mountain of jumpers and cardigans that seem to accumulate in the school and having named items will go a long way in supporting me with this.

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) (4-11yrs) at Shalford Primary School. Braintree Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids
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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.

29th September 3.30pm – Secondary School Transition Meeting for Y6 parents.
10th October 1.45pm – Harvest Festival at St. Andrew's
17th October 9.30 + 10.30 am – Reception Parents 2026 Tour
22nd + 23rd October 3.30pm – 6.00pm – Parent's Evening (more information to follow soon).
24th October 9.00am – Attendance Briefing for Parents.
24th October – FoSPs Fancy Dress Day + Pumpkin Carving competition.
7th November 9.00am – Values Workshop for Parents.
10th November – Odd Socks Day to start Anti-Bullying Week
26th November - 9.30 + 10.30 am – Reception Parents 2026 Tour
15th December (time tbc) – KS2 Christmas Concert at St. Andrew's
16th December - 9.30am – EYFS + KS1 Nativity
17th December – Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day
18th December – 2.00pm - EYFS + KS1 Nativity