

Newsletter

January 2026

Hi all,

We've a fantastic start to 2026 at Shalford with all the children returning to school enthusiastic about the year ahead. I have lots of fantastic information to share with you in this newsletter so I'm going to keep this introduction brief (for once...)!

Over the next month or so there will be lots of opportunities to share in your child's learning, both at their class assemblies and at parents' evening. The whole team here are keen to share and celebrate with you the hard work your child has been undertaking so I look forward to seeing you there!

I have received grateful thanks from the Royal British Legion for our donation of £50.77 following our Poppy Appeal last year. Thankyou for your generous support with this.

Mr. Arding.

Uniform Policy

The school has published its updated uniform policy on the school website. There are no substantial changes beyond we will now allow children to wear all-black, flat-soled footwear of any kind.

I have made this change to support parents with their cost of living, as school shoes can be pretty expensive and don't always withstand the rigors of the rural environment where our school is situated. Please support the school by ensuring your child follows the uniform policy when coming to school.

Outcomes

Last academic year I shared with parents and carers our exceptional Year Six results and promised I would be able to provide more context following the publication of the national league tables. This data is now available to me.

In Essex, we were in the top 15 schools in the borough for children reaching the expected standard. For children reaching the higher standard, we were the strongest school in Essex and one of the highest performing schools nationally. I have been informed that our outcomes have placed us in the top 4% of schools in the country. I am also very proud of the fact that children at Shalford from a disadvantaged background outperformed their peers.

I hope parents share with me in celebrating these exceptional outcomes. We were recently described as 'a small school with big ambitions' and that is evident in these outcomes. I am so proud of the children in the school; the hard work of the teachers and LSAs who day-in and day-out work relentlessly to support your children and the culture of ambition, calmness and precision that exists in the school that allows children to flourish.

But above all – thankyou to you. It is your support of the school and your child that allows them to flourish. I hope you all share with me in my ambition to see the school continue to develop over the next few years.

Anti-Bullying

In the next few days, the school's new Anti-Bullying charter will be shared with our school community. This is a fantastic piece of work that has been written by all the children in the school and I will be very grateful if you could all discuss it as a family to ensure everyone is aware of its content.

New School Values

As you know, over the past term we have been working as a school to develop our values to ensure our children grow up to be the best version of themselves. Parents and carers contributed to crafting these values through the workshop we held and I'm delighted to share with you our new school values:

Respect
Empathy
Honesty
Responsibility
Kindness
Resilience

Teachers are creating displays for our new values in their classrooms and we will be teaching children about these values each term. Thankyou for your valuable contributions to this important piece of work in the school.

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: Run by FPG Coaching. Details available from the school office.
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

Football training: Run by FPG Coaching. Details available from the school office.

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.

30th January – Chestnut Class assembly 9.00am

4th February – Police Officer visit to Elm and Ash Class

9th February – Beech Class Trip to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

10th February – Vet visit to Elm and Ash Class

13th February – Beech Class assembly 9.00am

13th February – last day of term

23rd February – children return to school

23rd February – Road Safety workshops for Elm and Chestnut Class

4th March – Parents' Evening from 3.30pm

5th March – Parents' Evening from 3.30pm

6th March – World Book Day (children to come dressed as their favourite character from a book + Book Swap session. More details to follow)

13th March – Ash Class assembly 9.00am

18th March – music performance event in school for the children

20th March – Comic Relief Day – Pyjama Day (£1 fundraising donation) + Shalford's Got Talent.

27th March – Elm Class assembly 9.00am

27th March – last day of term

13th April – children return to school

24th April – Online Safety Workshop for Parents with Mr. Arding 9am

Advance Notice:

22nd May – Sports Day 10am

29th June – 1st July – Y6 School Journey

10th July – Meet the teacher afternoon and reports sent home

14th July – KS2 Performance 1.30pm + 6pm

16th July – Y6 Leaver's Assembly 2pm