



Newsletter February 2023

Dear Families,

I am excited to see bulbs coming up in my own garden and around school - soon we will have a bit of colour back in our lives! Snowdrops are also appearing around the village which is always a reminder that Spring is on its way. Hooray! There are lots of events happening in the remainder of the academic year for us to look forward to at school. I don't really celebrate Valentine's day, but let's all spread some love, understanding and kindness this February.

Take care,
Mrs Penney

Funds spent on books/book corners

Thank you so much to FOSPs who recently gave £30 to each teacher to spend on book corners. Mrs Hinton bought some copies of 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio (so that now we have a class set), plus The Boy at the back of the class by Onjali Rauf, Dread Wood by Jennifer Killick and Spaceboy by David Walliams. Mrs Locke went to The Works and bought a great range of books in a closing down sale - amazing value and something for everyone! Mr Rolls bought a copy of The Jolly Postman back in December plus I don't want to be a frog by Dev Petty, What do people do all day by Richard Scarry and Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty. Ms Neave bought Toto the Ninja Cat and The Great Snake Escape by Dermot O'leary, The Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S Lewis, Space Boy by David Walliams, and The Breakfast Club by Marcus Rashford.

Twitter



Please follow us on Twitter as each week I add photos of different things happening in school.
<https://twitter.com/shalfordprimary>

IMPORTANT: internet safety advice for Parents

Here is some advice for parents regarding online activity and online gaming. For your information, Fortnite and Roblox are for age 13+ and we do not recommend them for any pupils at our school. Fortnite is frequently mentioned amongst the teacher community as a safeguarding risk for primary pupils. It contains frequent violence and this often affects children's behaviour in a negative way. If you have Secondary aged children, here is a parent guide to Fortnite:

[Fortnite Battle Royale - What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

General online gaming guide:

[Online Safety and Gaming final \(for screen\) \(swgfl.org.uk\)](#)

VR (Virtual Reality) advice for parents: [We've published Christmas VR safety advice in response](#)

[to public concerns about child safety in the metaverse | NSPCC](#)

Teacher Strikes

Thank you for your understanding and patience around the Teacher Strike action. I am sorry if some of the wording of letters seems a little unclear and ambiguous but strike action is generally planned to cause disruption so that it gets noticed. The running of many other schools has been severely affected by these strikes, so we are lucky. I hope to be able to stay open on the other planned strike days, but I will not be able to commit to this until the time comes. Teachers do not have to announce they are striking or even tell their employer which union they are part of, if any, so it is always going to present difficulties. I will give you more information as soon as I have any.

Gardening

We are lucky to have such a large site here at Shalford and it definitely is one of the best things about our school. The children love the huge field, climbing equipment and growing things in the vegetable planters. We are looking for volunteers to help maintain and keep the site looking at its best. Or maybe you would prefer to help run a gardening club at lunchtime once a week? Please let us know if you could spare any time. Please ask grandparents to get in touch too if they are interested.

Half Marathon

I will be running the London Landmarks half marathon on 2nd April 2023 to raise money for Tommy's The Baby Charity, who fund vital research into miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth. Many thanks to those of you who have sponsored me already – I am so grateful. If you would like to sponsor me, here is the link: [Jennifer's page \(tommys.org\)](#). Click 'donate now' and it takes you to the Just Giving page. Please do tell me if you are

doing any sponsored events and I can put it in the next newsletter.

School Day Reminder

Drop off time is between 8.35am and 8.45am. If children miss the register at 8.45am, they will be marked as late. Pick up time is 3.15pm outside your child's classroom.

A message from FOSPS

As usual we will be celebrating the end of half term next Friday 10th February with some sweet treats available for the children to buy. We will also be selling temporary tattoos. We are trying to source some affordable Valentines themed treats, otherwise it will be the usual donuts which always go down well.

Please don't forget to use easyfundraising for your online purchases – it's free cash for the school when you do! If you are not already registered visit

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fosps2>

End of half term is a good time to have a uniform restock. We have a good selection of pre-loved uniform available if any of your children are growing out of theirs. You can save so much money, as well as helping the environment by buying from our stock. Items are £1 and all takings go towards our FOSPS fundraising for the school. If you need anything in particular, please email us at FOSPS1@yahoo.com

Upcoming events: 10th February – Tattoo and sweet treats sale after school and on 21st February – Pancake sale after school

If you can help out at either of these, please let us know – we will need you from about 2.15pm.

Further into next term we will be holding a Bingo Night and a Sponsored Bunny Hop, as well as the opportunity to purchase a special King Charles III Coronation Teddy Bear.

Uniform and PE Kit Reminders

New uniform can be ordered here:

<https://sign-language-essex-ltd.myshopify.com/collections/shalford-primary-school> For preloved stock please contact:

fosps.uniform@gmail.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.

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.

MCAS APP



Please use the MCAS (My Child at School) app to pay for school dinners, Breakfast Club, Thursday Lego and Fun Club, school trips/experiences. You also need it to book parent evening appointments and One Plan meetings. Mrs Kelly Coombs, who runs the school office, will

be able to help you set this up and give you advice.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

To attend Breakfast Club, just turn up at the black door in the carpark and ring the doorbell. There is a sibling discount which will show up on your MCAS account.

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 - we expect that children have eaten before they arrive. 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.

All our after-school clubs run 3.15-4.15pm and must be booked in advance. All Clubs are available to all ages. See details for each club below:

Monday	Gymnastics: run by Premier Shalford Primary School – Premier Education (premier-education.com) use code PG15 for a 15% discount
Tuesday	Multisport club: Special offer to continue until Easter holidays: Only £3 per session. Shalford Primary School Multi Sports Club cmxsc Ltd
Wednesday	Dodgeball: run by Premier use code PQ15 for a 15% discount Shalford Primary School – Premier Education (premier-education.com)
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	Football Club run by Colchester United https://colchester-united-fitc.class4kids.co.uk/info/523

Where a club is run by an external provider, you will need to book directly with them. Links are above next to each club.

Parking

Please park considerately and take note of the signs and yellow markings. Do not park on the grass in Jackmans. Many Thanks.

Key Dates: Spring Term 2023

- Swimming continues every Friday for Y3 and Y4 (plus some Y5s) until Easter holidays.
- 10th February – FOSPS Tattoo and sweet treats sale after school**
- WB 13th Feb: Half term week (school closed)
- 21st February – FOSPS Pancake sale after school**

- 28th Feb: 2.30-6.30pm Parents Evening
- 1st and 2nd March: World Book Day event: Diane from Rascals Theatre School will be in school working with all children on a fabulous Mini Musical of 'Matilda'. No costumes required. No costs - fully funded by school. Parents/carers are invited to come and watch the performance at the end of the day on 2nd March at 2.45pm.
- 17th March: 'Shalford's got Talent' for Red Nose Day (£1 non uniform, plus £1 per entry to the talent show). All ages and acts welcome! Please encourage your child to enter - a little song, dance or anything really!
- 30th March – Final meeting about the details of the residential trip (for Y6 parents only). 3pm in the hall.

More Dates...

Here are some brief details of key dates later in the school year.

- WB 3rd and WB 10th April Easter Holidays – School Closed.
- 24th-27th April Y6 on residential Trip
- 8th May **EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY** – all schools closed
- 9th -12th May KS2 SATS for Y6
- WB 29th May: Half Term Week (School Closed)
- 13th June Class Photos
- 15th June Poet Visit- details TBC - there will be a small charge per head for this (as it is an alternative to an expensive coach trip somewhere - coach costs are through the roof at the moment!). More details to come.
- 7th July Sports day 10am -12 (then family picnics 12-1pm)
- 11th July KS2 Production 1.30pm and 6pm
- 13th July last Parents evening (informal – no appointments needed) 3.15-4pm
- 17th July 'Taster morning' for new Reception pupils (who are starting in September 2023) 9.30-12.30 including lunch
- 17th July 'meet the new teacher' morning (children spend time in the class where they will be in September 2023)
- 18th July Year 6 leavers assembly 2.15pm
- 19th July Last day for pupils - non uniform

**Please note - More details, dates and FOSPS events will be added throughout the year, so check the 'dates' section each month when the new newsletter comes out. **

Water Bottles Reminder

All children need a water bottle in school each day and will be encouraged to drink fluids throughout the day. We all know how important this is to our health and wellbeing.

Contacts:

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