



Newsletter March 2023

Dear Families,

Since September, the children have been learning about perseverance, hope, responsibility and courage as part of our core values work in assemblies. I think they are beginning to understand that every day is not always a fantastic day and it is ok to have 'off days'. Humans are not built to be 100% happy all the time are they? As well as enjoying all the good bits of life, we hope they are learning how to deal with negativity, practice being resilient and take action (or ask for help) when something doesn't feel right. We have also begun singing the song 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley, which is a great one for lifting the spirits when feeling gloomy. All our pupils are generally such happy little souls which is great, so hopefully they will learn how to pick themselves up and give themselves a metaphorical dusting down, when things don't work out.


Take good care of yourselves.

Mrs Penney

A Helping Hand

Mrs Phillips has come to work in Ash Class for a few weeks, alongside Mrs Locke. She usually works at John Ray Junior School but wanted some experience working with KS1. Please say hello if you see her around.

Twitter

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

SEND Roadshow

Parent/Carer SEND Roadshows are an opportunity for families to drop-in (no booking is required) to speak to professionals from a range of organisations. We also have local charities/organisations represented including Essex Family Forum and Families in Focus.

Please see the dates below:

Mid – Tuesday 14 March – The Hamptons, Great Baddow – 9.30-3pm

NE – Tuesday 28 March – Colchester Stadium – 9.30-3pm

Online Safety Advice

Parents and carers please read the guidelines in this link. It will help you to understand how to keep children safe from the possibility of particular types of online abuse. The [TALK checklist](#) helps you to make sure children are kept safe. This is aimed at children who are Y5 and upwards, but I think the message is an important one. You probably would not talk to young children directly about some types of abuse, as we do not want to give children nightmares. Nevertheless, it is still important that you help them understand how to keep safe online, no matter what age. 'Stranger Danger' in general is a good way to start the conversation.

TALK to your child about online abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.

LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.

KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Teacher Strikes

Thank you for your understanding and patience around the ongoing Teacher Strike action. 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. The next strike day is planned for 1st March 2023 and on this occasion, we plan to stay open. We will contact you ASAP if there are any changes.

Half Marathon

LAST bit of canvassing from me – I promise! 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.

Morning Snack Reminder

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are all offered a free piece of **fruit/veg** every day for their morning break. This is free, provided by school and funded by a government initiative. If children have brought their own snack, that is fine, as long as it is fruit, veg or dried fruit. Any snacks that have sugar added to them are not allowed. Yoghurts, cereal bars, etc are not allowed. KS2 do not get a free snack, but the same rules apply for snacks brought from home - fruit/veg only. Please speak to a member of staff if your child has a medical condition meaning that they need to eat something other than fruit/veg at breaktimes. At lunch times, children can eat whatever is included in their lunchbox or school dinner, which should be a balanced meal, including healthy, wholesome foods which are filling enough to see them through the afternoon.

A message from FOSPS

At the end of term we will be holding a Sponsored Bunny Hop for a bit of Easter fun for the children. Over the next few days you will receive a letter and a sponsor form, but for now save the date. We will need some helpers on the day to help encourage the children, man the refreshments stall, give out drinks to the children and to give out prizes. So if you can help please let us know.

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.

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	Currently no club
Tuesday	Multisport club: Special offer to continue until Easter holidays: Only £3 per session. Shalford Primary School Multi Sports Club cmxsc Ltd
Wednesday	Nature Club – book on MCAS app £4 per week
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.

Key Dates: Spring Term 2023

- Swimming continues every Friday for Y3 and Y4 (plus some Y5s) until Easter holidays.

- 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. Apologies about date confusion in my letter last week. This info is correct.**
- 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! Sign-up sheet available week beginning 13th March.
- 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. 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
- 4th and 5th September 2023 are non-pupil days. First day back for pupils will be 6th September.**

*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.

Contacts:

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