



Newsletter May 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. Many children have told me they were lucky enough to have a holiday or a day out. I hope you managed to do something enjoyable together during those two weeks. Now we are back in school mode! It was all go on the first day back with builders arriving onsite at 7.30am. I was impressed, as ever, with the children's ability to slip straight back into the 'learning zone' - routine is the key factor here!

I was really hoping for more sunshine by now but sadly haven't been able to get my sandals out yet! Nevertheless, we have had a positive start to the Summer term. The field is now in use on dry days meaning children have lots of space to be free, play and let off steam at breaktimes - it is a real luxury for a small school and we feel very lucky. We have so much coming up over the next term and some lovely long weekends to enjoy. I am sure we are all looking forward to a great summer term.

Take Care,

Mrs Penney

The Cabin

I mentioned builders coming in - you might have noticed the new wooden structure on the field, although it is quite tucked away. It is an octagonal 'outdoor classroom' which has a variety of uses and can provide a shady spot for lunchtimes. We are really pleased with how it has turned out.

Y6 Residential

The Year 6 pupils have arrived back from their residential trip. This year they went to Centre Parcs in Elveden as there were only 5 of them. They have had such a great time and took part in activities such as climbing, swimming, Archery, aerial zip wire, bird watching and more. I was lucky enough to spend the first few days with the pupils and had a wonderful time. They are all such lovely, kind students who helped cook dinner, carry each other's suitcases and be generally supportive to one another. We are all so proud of them - it is a really big step to be away from home for four days. Thank you so much to the staff who went along and made it so much fun and special thanks to Mr and Mrs Marshall for accompanying us as parents volunteers as well - it means a lot and the children loved having you there.

Thank you FOSPS!

The rain stopped very briefly on the last day of term, giving FOSPs just enough time to have a cake sale and sponsored bunny hop. FOSPs managed to raise over £500! This is an amazing amount of funds and will make a real difference to our pupils. FOSPs and I will update you later in the year about what the money will be used for. We really appreciate all your support and a HUGE thank you goes to Hayley, Michelle and the fabulous FOSPs helpers for organising a fun and productive event.

A message from FOSPS...

We would like to thank everyone who took part and raised sponsorship for our Sponsored Bunny Hop at the end of last term. You really are all superstars and raised a whopping £516! We had three outstanding fundraisers who deserve a mention for their contribution: Enzo, Leo-Alex and Sophie - but thank you everyone and we hope you enjoyed your treats!

We have a spring/summer challenge for any children who want to put their green fingers to the test. We are holding a sunflower growing competition to see who can produce the tallest sunflower by the last week of term. Seed packs and entry forms (with instructions) are available to buy from Friday after school for 50p per child. We'd love to see your progress so keep us posted on the Facebook page.

We are hoping to include a BBQ at Sports Day this year alongside the traditional picnic, cake sale and teas and coffees. So make sure the date is in your diary as a really nice way to end the school year. As usual - any volunteers for this day will be warmly welcomed!

Tennis

Stebbing Tennis Club will be coming in to coach each class during the summer term starting on 2nd May. They are doing this for free and hope to get as many children interested in Tennis as possible. I am sure all the children will really enjoy this opportunity.

Times Tables

There is an expectation that by the summer term of Year 4, every child should know their times tables off by heart up to 12 x 12. We can definitely see a clear correlation in KS2: the pupils who have quick recall of all times tables do well at most other maths tasks. You need times tables for lots of other maths, such as long multiplication, division, word problems, etc. not to mention in real life situations. It really is an essential skill, so please help your child to practise at home from Y2 onwards, so that they have a good chance of success. We use this free website in school [Multiplication Tables Check - 2023 - Timestables.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.com/multiplication-tables-check-2023) - have a go at home! The year 4s have a login and Miss Neave is giving her class daily practice time but anyone can have a go.

Twitter

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



Online Safety Advice - Devices

You may find you have lost count of how many smart devices are now in your home and you may find that you are not up to date with how to set them up and ensure they are used safely by children. Here is a simple guide to help you:

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Teacher Strikes

You may have seen in the news that there will be more planned industrial action across a number of industries, teaching included. Nationally, the NEU have called two further strike days on 27th April (now passed) and 2nd May. I do not predict school closure for our school on these two dates, but please bear in mind that teachers who are part of the NEU or those who are not members of a union are allowed to strike at the last minute or take part in a strike even if they did not take part in previous strike days. I will inform you at the earliest possible moment if a class is going to close.

School Day/Attendance Reminder

Thank you to those parents who are getting their children to school on time every day and to those who are making an effort to improve punctuality – we **have** noticed and appreciate you working hard on this so that children can benefit from a full school day and do not miss out on any essential part of it.

Drop off time is between 8.35am and 8.45am. **If children miss the register at 8.45am, they will be marked as unauthorised/late.** Pick up time is 3.15pm outside your child's classroom. The new attendance officer now comes to school regularly and grills me about the attendance of anyone who has dropped below 95%, so be prepared for a phone call or a meeting with her, if this applies to your child. Do speak to one of us if you having an issue getting your child to school on time

Very rarely can I authorise any term time holidays or days out during term time, so do expect a fine if you take your child out. We also do not advise lying about illness, as if the child comes in with a lovely glow and says they have been to Tenerife, it will still be put down as unauthorised and may result in a fine (plus it is very awkward and unfair on the child). These are not my rules, but the rules of Essex County Council and the Government, which we must abide by. All schools across Essex will be following the same expectations. For your information, fines do not come to us, but to the Local Authority. Only two fines per year will be issued, before further action or even prosecution is considered, by which point it is out of the school's hands. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Ultimately, the positive behind all this is that children in school 100% of the time = a better, fuller education.

Morning Snack Reminder

All children are only allowed to eat FRUIT/VEG/DRIED FRUIT only at breaktimes. No cereal bars or other snacks are allowed.

Uniform and PE Kit Reminders

Children can now wear the summer uniform if they wish - yellow gingham items. Black or grey shorts. Footwear

remains the same – no sandals please just ordinary school shoes. Many Thanks.

New uniform can be ordered here:

<https://sign-language-essex-ltd.myshopify.com/collections/shalford-primary-school>

For preloved stock please contact:

fosp.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. **All jewellery to be removed for PE.** If children are too young or unable to take out own earrings, they should not wear them on PE/swim days.

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:

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

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	Dance Club – book a place by contacting info@taylorisdancecompany.co.uk or 07900 661885
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 Shalford Primary School (Summer Term)- After School Club - Whole School Football (1) (Fri 21st Apr 2023 - Fri 14th Jul 2023) Colchester United Community Foundation Powered by ClassForKids (class4kids.co.uk)

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: Summer Term 2023

- 1st May Bank Holiday
- 4th May – Beech and Chestnut to Saffron Sounds Event – Please pay £7.50 on MCAS if you haven't already
- 5th May – Fish and Chips Lunch – children can wear red, white and blue all day and we will eat our lunch outside 'street part' style to celebrate the King's Coronation.
- 8th May EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY – all schools closed (Coronation)
- 9th -12th May KS2 SATS for Y6 (Y6 only can come in for a free breakfast each day from 8.15am in the hall)
- WB 29th May: Half Term Week (School Closed)
- 13th June Class Photos
- 15th June Poet Visit- details TBC - there may 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 – Bring £1 for FOSPS

More Dates...

Here are some brief details of more key dates coming up:

Autumn Term 2023-24

4th and 5th September 2023 are non-pupil days. First day back for pupils will be 6th September.

28th September Harvest celebration 1.30pm (venue TBC)

23-27th October 2023 School closed for half term

30th October 2023 Non Pupil Day

18th November 2023 Wear Spotty accessories or Children in Need merchandise (bring £1)

20th Dec 2023 last day (non uniform and Christmas Craft Day bring £1 for FOSPS)

21 Dec – 3rd Jan 2024 School Closed for Christmas break

4th January 2024 Children return to school

**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:

Executive Head: kharrison@compassps.uk

Head of school: jpenney@compassps.uk

SEnCo: vchids@compassps.uk

School office: sfcontact@compassps.uk

Teachers:

klocke@compassps.uk

nhinton@compassps.uk

arolls@compassps.uk

aneave@compassps.uk