



## Newsletter April 2023



Dear Families,

We are coming to the end of another action packed term - so much has been achieved. One thing we are particularly proud of is the positive mindset of our pupils. One of my favourite inspirational quotes is:

*A person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.* ' (Oprah Winfrey).

When we see children struggling with academic subjects, sometimes what we need to help them with *first*, is confidence, self-esteem, self-belief and positivity. The glass is most definitely half 'full' at Shalford! Once a child believes in themselves, they usually start to make progress and we have certainly seen lots of progress this term. The wonderful teachers and support staff are doing a great job – a career in teaching is about so much more than just teaching. Thank you for coming with us on this journey to success. I hope you all have a fabulous Easter break; we are very much looking forward to another amazing term with our incredible pupils.

*Mrs Penney*

### Goodbye

This half term Mrs Phillips came to work in Ash Class to gain some experience working with KS1. It is her last week with us this week and I know the children have loved being with her. We hope Mrs Phillips enjoyed her time with Ash Class as much as we have.

### Red Nose Day – well done everyone!

Through our non-uniform day and Shalford's Got Talent 2023, we raised £74 for Comic Relief. Thank you everyone who donated.

The finalists were Bella (Song), Fee (Irish Dancing), Fee/Rosie (Duet), Michael and Harley (Dance). The confidence and skills were amazing to watch and I found it really hard to judge, so my colleague Mrs Crookes of Cann Hall Primary School (and her dog Baxter) helped me. Overall Bella was the chosen winner - we loved her passion and the important message she was trying to communicate. Well done to all who took part.

### Times tables

You may or may not know that every child in Year 4 across the country sits a 'times tables check' which is an online official test and the data (i.e., who has passed and who hasn't) is reported to the government. The expectation is that by the summer term of Year 4, every child should know their times tables off by heart up to 12 x 12. Many of our children are on track but the test format only allows you 6 seconds to answer each question, so there is no time for calculating – they just need to know it! A few years ago, when this test was introduced felt it was a bit unfair and unnecessary but actually, now I can 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. It really is an essential skill, so please help your child to practice 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.timestables.co.uk) - have a go at home! The year 4s have a login and Miss Neave is giving them regular practise 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

Remember to check your child's search history, downloads and apps regularly as they will no doubt, be on their devices more over the Easter break. Do speak to a member of staff if you need any advice or are worried about your child's online activity.

### Teacher Strikes

Thank you for your understanding and patience during the very unpredictable teacher strike days. We hope that the government talks with unions will lead to an agreement that means there will be no more strikes. I will inform you of any further dates as soon as I know. I am happy that we managed to stay open and educate all our children - this certainly was not the case for many other schools across the nation.

### Thank you so much

This weekend I will kickstart my Easter break by running a half marathon 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 - with your help I have raised around £500 - this can make a real difference to people's lives. It is not too late to sponsor me on or after the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, here is the link: [Jennifer's page \(tommys.org\)](https://www.tommys.org). Thanks guys – I really appreciate your support.

### School Day/Attendance Reminder

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 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. On this note, 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 nit 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% = a better, fuller education.

### 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, if 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 get them through the afternoon. I will take this opportunity to add, that despite what some parents have said lately, no member of staff has EVER taken a child's snack and/or thrown it in a bin - I was disappointed to hear that people would believe such malicious and slanderous gossip!

### Bunny Hop

Don't forget to stay after school on Friday for the sponsored bunny hop - you have had an email and sponsor form already. There will also be refreshments for sale so bring some loose change if you can. We appreciate your support and a huge thank you to FOSPs for working hard to organise these fundraisers.



### 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:

[fosp.uniform@gmail.com](mailto: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. F 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:

<b>Monday</b>	Currently no club
<b>Tuesday</b>	Multisport club: Special offer to continue until Easter holidays: <b>Only £3 per session.</b> <a href="#">Shalford Primary School Multi Sports Club   cmxsc ltd</a>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dance Club – book a place by contacting <a href="mailto:info@taylorisdancecompany.co.uk">info@taylorisdancecompany.co.uk</a> or 07900 661885
<b>Thursday</b>	Lego and Fun Club: run by school staff (small snack and drink included). £4.75 per session (book and pay on MCAS APP)
<b>Friday</b>	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 ( <a href="http://class4kids.co.uk">class4kids.co.uk</a> )

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

- 21<sup>st</sup> April The Big Illustration Workshop (free event run by Braintree Museum) in school
- 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April Y6 on residential Trip
- 8<sup>th</sup> May EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY – all schools closed
- 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> May KS2 SATS for Y6 (Y6 only can come in for a free breakfast each day from 8.15am in the hall)
- WB 29<sup>th</sup> May: Half Term Week (School Closed)
- 13<sup>th</sup> June Class Photos
- 15<sup>th</sup> June Poet Visit- details TBC - there may be a small charge per head for this. More details to come.

- 7<sup>th</sup> July Sports day 10am -12 (then family picnics 12-1pm)
- 11<sup>th</sup> July KS2 Production 1.30pm and 6pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> July last Parents evening (informal – no appointments needed) 3.15-4pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 'Taster morning' for new Reception pupils (who are starting in September 2023) 9.30-12.30 including lunch
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 'meet the new teacher' morning (children spend time in the class where they will be in September 2023)
- 18<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 leavers assembly 2.15pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

28<sup>th</sup> September Harvest celebration 1.30pm (venue TBC)

23-27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 School closed for half term

30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Non Pupil Day

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

20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 last day (non uniform and Christmas Craft day bring £1 for FOSPS)

21 Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024 School Closed for Christmas break

4<sup>th</sup> 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

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