

Newsletter June 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term week, whatever you were doing. At the very least I hope you enjoyed not having to do school runs and wash the uniform! I hope you got a little bit of sunshine too - fingers crossed for a bit more this week. As usual we have lots to look forward to in this jam-packed final half term of the 2022-23 academic year.

Mrs Penney

Sun Protection

We are glad the sun has finally made an appearance! On sunny days, please apply sunscreen before school and supply a sun hat. Staff cannot apply sunscreen to children, so it is easiest if it is done before school.

SATs

The Year 6 pupils have now completed their SATs and we are incredibly proud of them. They conducted themselves calmly and maturely, even when a few of the tests were particularly challenging. You may have seen in the national news headlines that many teachers and parents were outraged at how challenging the reading paper was! We agree, but hopefully the average pass mark will reflect this and the children who have an 'age related' level of reading will pass. Whatever the result, we are impressed with our pupils and the staff who teach and support Year 6 have done an incredible job in preparing them for their first set of 'proper' exams. We have really tried to reiterate to the children that they are not just a number or a piece of data - this preparation has helped them to be ready for Secondary education and to feel confident in Maths and English. Well done to all involved. The papers are sent off to be externally marked and we will know the results in July.

Year 2 pupils also have to complete SATs papers before the end of May, but these are much more low key and are *not* conducted in an exam-style environment. From the child's point of view, they are just completing another piece of work. The Year 2 SATs are not externally marked either; they are used to inform teacher judgement and the results are considered along with all the work that children complete in lessons to get an overall judgement. Most importantly, the information is used by teachers to highlight any gaps in learning that need to be plugged.

Both Y2 and Y6 will have an extra sheet of paper with their annual school report (coming to parents in July) which will say whether an age-related expectation has been met.

Communication at drop off time

Parents are not allowed on site in the mornings - this is a safeguarding matter. If you need to communicate with the class teacher you have several options: leave a message with Mrs Coombs at the office; send an email directly to the teacher; write a note in the reading diary and ask your child to show us; write a handwritten letter and put in an envelope marked with the teacher's

name. Each teacher is on the gate once per week, so quick messages can also be passed this way. If you need a face-to-face meeting with a teacher, I encourage you to book an appointment via email or have a word at the end of the day if it is brief.

Tennis

Stebbing Tennis Club have been coming in to coach each class during the summer term. They are doing this for free and hope to get as many children interested in Tennis as possible.

Music Event

On the 7th July, you will hopefully be able to watch a streamed concert of each school in our Trust performing a song or two. The theme this year is 'Celebrate'. More details of how to access the concert will be given soon. All songs are pre-recorded so families should be able to watch at home if they wish. We will be recording Shalford's contribution soon and I can assure you that it is only streamed to Compass families and not shared anywhere else. We trust that you will not attempt to record the event or share it on Social Media. If you do not want your child to take part in this recording, you will need to let us know via email to sfcontact@compassps.uk by 7th June 2023.

Times Tables

Please encourage your child to know their times tables off by heart. It is an essential life skill. Keep going over the summer holidays too.

[Multiplication Tables Check - 2023 - Timestables.co.uk](https://www.timestables.co.uk)

Online Safety Advice - Devices

You may find you have lost count of how many smart devices are now in your home and 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](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Staffing Update

As some of you may know already, Mr Rolls has been hoping to relocate to Wales to start the next chapter of his life. He has now put the wheels in motion and sadly won't be with us when we return in September 2023. Although we are sad to lose a wonderful member of the team, we are happy (and maybe a little bit jealous!) that he is making this move and wish him lots of luck.

After sorting through a lot of application forms and a tough round of interviews, we have appointed a very experienced teacher - Mrs Kate Barford - to join the team from September. I know you will all give her a warm welcome.

You will receive a letter in July, stating your child's class teacher for 2023-24.

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 are having an issue getting your child to school on time.

I cannot authorise term time holidays or fun days out during term time, so do expect a fine if you take your child out. All schools across Essex follow the same expectations. For your information, revenue from fines does 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. The positive message here is that children in school 100% of the time = a better, fuller education.

Transition to Secondary – Please read if you have a child in Y5 or Y6

Y6 families will hopefully know what the dates for transition are by now, but if you don't, please contact the Secondary school directly. They are not great at communicating with small village schools! If your child is missing school to attend a transition event, please email Mrs Coombs so that she can put the correct code in the register.

Y5 parents - it may seem too soon to think about it, but it is time to start thinking about which Secondary School is best for your child and hopefully attend some open days. Look on the individual school websites for open days or give them a ring. The nearest schools are Tabor and Hedingham but we find that children from Shalford go to a range of other schools too. Open days will be in September and the deadline to apply for a Secondary place is yet to be announced, but is usually in October each year. It can be overwhelming if it is your first child and it feels like the schedule is tight to make a quick decision.

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@taylorsdancecompany.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

- 13th June Class Photos
- 15th June Poet Visit- please pay £3.30 on MCAS. Come and watch the performance at 2.30pm in the school hall.
- 4th July – Y6 to visit White Notley Primary School
- 7th July Sports day 10am -12 (then family picnics/**FOSPS BBQ** 12-1pm) Bring some change for the bbq stall if you can – more details TBC
- 7th July Compass streamed music event (available to watch after the school day -0 more times and info TBC).
- 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: vchilds@compassps.uk

School office: sfcontact@compassps.uk

Teachers:

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