

THE SHELFORD STAR

WEEKLY SCHOOL UPDATE

We live and work in harmony with love for one another, so we can achieve our potential within a community of life-long learners

2nd February 2024

Vol. 18

Dear Members of the Great and Little Shelford Community,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you and your family well. Today, we marked Candlemas at our Candlemas Service. Our Year 2s led the service with a brilliant combination of narration, tableaux and readings.

The children helped us look back to a time before Jesus was born and hear about those that were awaiting him.

At Candlemas, the presentation of Jesus at the temple by Mary and Joseph is marked. Year 2's tableaux showed that Anna and Simeon were waiting for a long time to meet Jesus and at last He arrived in the temple.

As part of the service, representatives from each class brought a candle to be lit and blessed by Rev. Julie. Thank you to the Year 2 team and the St. Mary's team for the service.

NEWSLETTER IN 60 SECONDS

- Candlemas Service
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Congratulatory Letter

We were delighted to receive a congratulatory letter from Minister for Schools, Damian Hinds, regarding the current Year 2's performance in the phonics screening check last academic year. This is one way that the staff team's incredible work has been captured and recognised. Of course, a huge well done goes to the Reception and Year 1 teams that worked with this group of children, along with the families who supported at home to. Of course, the real stars are the children - so a big well done to them! Finally, a special mention and thank you to Miss Beck, our Early Reading and Phonics Leader!



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

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tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mr Christopher Grey
Great and Little Shelford CofE (Aided) Primary School
Cambridgeshire
Church Street
Cambridge
CB22 5EL

08 January 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dear Mr Grey,'.

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 100 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at Great and Little Shelford CofE (Aided) Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 1 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Damian Hinds'.

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

Parent Point

Balancing and Scheduling in Quality Time

Finding those moments to spend what's often called 'quality time' can be difficult amongst busy family lives. However, the impact of just 10-15 minutes a day can make a huge difference.

As children grow, their relationships with us as parents shift slightly. At the core, is the trusting, loving, caregiving core on which the parent-child relationship is founded. However, despite this changing and evolving relationship, spending time together always remains important. It just may be how that time is spent that changes.

An interesting school of thought is to 'be exceptional' for 10 minutes a day. Some people live by a premise that they focus on being an exceptional version of whatever they aim to be at that moment. For example, an exceptional parent returning from work. Of course, it isn't about giving a child what they want in that instance - it is about giving them what they need... time together, actively listening to them and sharing positive experiences. Each family finds its own way to spend what they believe is quality time. But it's really about those shared lived experiences together. That sense of connection is crucial in building a healthy parent-child relationship. ***You can read a helpful research summary [here](#).***

As always, please do reach out if you or your family require any support. We are always happy to listen, help, support and signpost. Meanwhile you can read our **Early Help Offer**.

Key Dates Summary

	13/02/24; 14/02/24 and 15/02/24	3:45pm – 6:30pm	Y1 – Y6 Parents' Consultations	School Hall
	16/02/24		End of Spring 1	
	w/c 19/02/24		February Half Term	Somewhere restful
	26/02/24		Start of Spring 2	School
	11/03/24 – 13/03/24		Y6 Grafham Water Residential	Grafham Water
	w/c 25/03/24		Shelford Holy Week	St. Mary's / All Saints' / GSFC / School
	25/03/24 & 26/03/24		Kapla Bricks Workshop	School Hall
	28/03/24	1:30pm	Easter Service	All Saints'
	28/03/24		Maundy Thursday – end of term	
	29/03/24 – 12/03/24		Easter Holidays	Somewhere peaceful
	TBC 10/05/24	11:00am	Ascension Service	St. Mary's
	TBC 10/05/24	12:00pm	Ascension Picnic	School Field

Curriculum Thread



Our Community - local and global

Our termly curriculum threads tie each class' topics together. A summary of these can be found below:

Reception - It's freezing here!

Year 1 - Wonderful Weather!

Year 2 - Chinese New Year

Year 3 - Mighty Mountains

Year 4 - Europe Now and Ancient Egypt

Year 5 - Life on the Nile


Year 6 - Anglo Saxons - where did they settle and how do we know?

To find out more about our curriculum, you can read the topic thread definitions [here](#).

Curriculum Thread in action - Year 3 and 4

On Tuesday, we welcomed Sports Leaders from Sawston Village College to lead the Year 3 and 4 Indoor Athletics event. It was great to welcome members of our local community to lead this for our pupils, including a familiar face, with our former Head Girl, Jessie, amongst the team!

Meanwhile, Year 3 pupils are busy applying their mighty mountains topic in their English writing curriculum. This helps to embed some technical vocabulary and knowledge into their narrative work. Looking ahead, they are expecting a special visitor this coming week to help them explore their mountain topic in more detail!



Pre-book a max of 8 per team - Let
Ellie Rugg-Gunn know via Classlist
(£10 per person - team captain to
transfer money to PTA)



Quiz Night

Saturday 9th March
8pm until late
at Shelford School

What's happening

QUIZ MASTER ANDREW
CORNEY AND TEAM HAVE
PREPARED A **FABULOUS**
EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT!
AN EVENING NOT TO BE
MISSED!



Bring cash/card - Bar with drinks and snacks available.
All profits to Shelford School PTA Charity No. 1110813