

Kindness

Resilience

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

Responsibility

Creativity

24th November 2023

Vol.10

NEWSLETTER IN 60 SECONDS

Dear Members of the Great and Little Shelford Community,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you and your family well. This newsletter covers the past fortnight - with plenty of exciting updates in this bumper edition!

- Baby Alderson
- Kindness Week
- Staff Update
- Parent Point
- Christmas Events
- PTA Update
- Key Dates

Firstly, I'm delighted to let you know that Mr and Mrs Alderson welcomed their daughter, Maria Violet Alderson, into the world on 14th November. We're all thrilled to hear of her safe arrival and are wishing the family all the very best for these early days together.



Kindness Week

During the week commencing 13th November, we marked our annual Kindness Week. As you will know already, kindness is one of the Shelford Star Values and is rooted in our school's vision, through the inclusion of the New Commandment.

**Love one another,
as I have loved you**

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you.



During the week before, we were fortunate to have a presentation and workshops led by Open View Education as part of our anti-bullying and kindness weeks. The younger children watched a performance which focused on puppets Milly and Philip, while Years 5 and 6 had individual workshops. The theme of this year's anti-bullying week is 'Make a Noise About Bullying' and we made a noise in the hall joining in with a rap and learning how to be more assertive with our posture and eye contact. We are extremely grateful to the PTA for funding this event.

Next week we will continue to look at these themes, starting by wearing odd socks on Monday to celebrate what makes us all unique.

We marked the start of Kindness Week with our Odd Socks Day! Celebrating how each of us is different. Our fundraiser for Antibullying Alliance is still open through this Just Giving page

Staff Update

We've been pleased to welcome Mrs Fewel and Miss Karausta to their positions as teaching assistants with us at Shelford and are delighted to welcome them to the Shelford team.

Last week, we completed the recruitment process for our part time Reception Teacher role. I'm very pleased to announce that Mrs Charlotte Fletcher will join the Shelford Team in January. Mrs Fletcher is currently teaching at another school in South Cambridge and I'm sure you'll join me in warmly welcoming her to the Shelford family!

We will soon be welcoming a new member to our office team and I look forward to sharing details shortly.

Meanwhile, we are still looking for a caretaker and an Office Manager (including finance), so please share this information with anyone you feel may be interested.

Parent Point

This new section in our newsletter covers some key parent tips and facts to help signpost support and helpful information. This week, we focus on sleep and the importance of getting the right number of hours for the age of your child. You can see the recommended hours below. For more tips on supporting sleep routines and why sleep is so important, [click here](#) (and press view site without local content!)



4-7 year olds
10-11 hours



8-9 year olds
10 hours



10-11 year olds
9 hours 30 mins



12 and above
9 hours

Christmas Events

We are pleased to share our usual suite of Christmas events for this half term. Some of these dates have already appeared in the key date summary and appear on our website calendar. However, we now have confirmed dates for the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances.

A handy reminder of key Christmas event dates is on the following page and a summary of each can be found *below*.

- **GenR8 Christmas Session** - 30/11/23 - representatives from local Christian parishes lead an interactive and engaging session with children on the hopeful expectation during Advent and the joy of Christmas. This is an event for pupils in school time.
- **Christmas Fair** - 2/12/23 - this year, this will take place in Great Shelford, during the 'light switch-on'. There will be several items led by our PTA. Please do come along and enjoy this as a start to the festivities!
- **Advent Service** - 1/12/23 - pupils in school gather together at the beginning of Advent, to reflect on the preparation in joyful expectation of Christmas. Children from across the school work together to build our Advent wreath in the service.
- **Nativity Performances** - 11/12/23 and 12/12/23 - these performances are led by our Early Years and KS1 pupils, re-telling the story of Christmas. These performances take place in the school hall, each at 2:30pm.
- **Carols by Candlelight** - 14/12/23 - all KS2 pupils attend St. Mary's church at 6pm to lead the Carols by Candlelight Service.
- **Shelford Christmas Day** - 19/12/23 - pupils attend school in smart festive attire and take part in a variety of festive activities. This is also the day where we share our Christmas Service and pupils enjoy a Christmas meal!

30TH
NOVEMBER



2ND
DECEMBER



1ST
DECEMBER



11TH & 12TH
DECEMBER



14TH
DECEMBER



19TH
DECEMBER



Key Dates Summary

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| 27/11/23 | AM | Cross Country Tournament | Netherhall School |
| 29/11/23 | AM | Reception Vision Screening | School |
| 1/12/23 | 2:00pm | Year 5 Class Briefing* | School Hall |
| 6/12/23 | AM | Dodgeball Tournament | Coleridge Community College |
| 8/12/23 | 9:00am | SEND Coffee Morning | Think Tank |
| 8/12/23 | 2:00pm | Year 6 Class Briefing* | School Hall |
| TBC | PMs | Nativity Dress Rehearsal and Performances (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2) | School Hall |
| 14/12/23 | 6:00pm | Carols by Candlelight Led by all KS2 pupils | St. Mary's |
| 19/12/23 | All Day | Shelford Christmas Day | School |
| 19/12/23 | | Last day of term for pupils | School |
| 20/12/23 | All Day | Professional Development Day – School closed for pupils | |
| 20/12/23 – 03/01/23 | | Christmas Holidays | Somewhere festive |
| 04/01/24 | | Start of Spring 1 | School |
| 08/01/24 – 10/01/24 | | Year 5 Burwell Residential | Burwell |

Uniform Reminders

Please remember, PE uniform is the house t-shirt with a plain black or navy blue tracksuit. Other colours are not part of the school's PE uniform.

Earrings must be removed for PE sessions.

Black school shoes are expected on non PE days.

Year 2 Items

Year 2 are seeking some resources for their class and would welcome donations of kitchen role play items or baby role play items.

PTA Spotlight

Christmas Cards and accessories

Thank you for buying your children's Christmas Card designs and other accessories. It is estimated that the PTA will earn over £400 on this initiative which is great news!

Christmas Lights Switch On - Save the Date!

This year, our Christmas PTA activity will be supporting the Great Shelford Parish Council in their Lights Switch On which will take place on Saturday 2nd December (3-6pm) at the Memorial Hall. We will be running a hot dog stall as well as a few Christmas games. Class Reps will be in contact with year groups for volunteers to help run the stalls so please do donate half an hour of your time if you can. The PTA will benefit from the proceeds from these stalls.

Rainbow Hampers!

Don't forget to provide your Class Reps with food/drink/toiletries/other products for your particular 'colour' of Year Group's hampers. The PTA will be selling raffle tickets (physically and virtually) for £1 in the next few weeks so do encourage friends and family to support. We will let you know when these go on sale!

Shopping

When thinking about Christmas shopping, why don't you earn some extra money for the school?

Easyfundraising www.easyfundraising.org.uk

is an app you just download. Choose your charitable cause (Shelford School PTA). Click on the app each time you do online shopping then choose the retailer you want to spend with and do your shopping from there. Each retailer gives a different percentage to your chosen charity. It doesn't cost you anything extra, it is just a case of one more click. The money soon adds up and helps support the PTA.

My School Fund www.myschoolfund.org is another way to earn cash back for both yourself and Shelford School PTA. Sign up and link to Shelford School PTA. Register your debit/credit card. Spend money at participating retailers (e.g. Sainsburys, Argos). Of total spend, receive 1% to the school, 2% to you in the form of an e-gift card. This is a win-win situation!