

Kindness

Resilience

THE SHELFORD STAR

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY 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

17th March 2021

Vol. 23

Dear Members of the Great and Little Shelford Community, Welcome to this week's newsletter. I hope that you and your families are well. As you can see, we have altered the layout of our newsletter this week. The reason for this is to make it easier to view on mobile devices.

NEWSLETTER IN 30 SECONDS

- Lenten Challenge
- Continued hope - community Padlet
- World Book Day Competitions
- Update from the Governing Board
- Celebration Worship
- PTA Quiz
- Announcements

Children have enjoyed a fantastic end to last week and start to this week. As we journey through Lent, we have been engaging in Bishop Stephen's Lenten challenge linked to hope for the future. Recently, pupils have created a fantastic paperchain prayers to share our thoughts on hope (right).





As we have said previously, with the lighter and brighter days, along with the wider community picture around covid, it feels like there is plenty of hope for the future.

In Collective Worship last week, pupils explored three thoughts:

- the best parts of the return to school;
- the bottled memory for something to enjoy in the future;
- something to keep about lockdown.

You can see the responses from Year 2 and Year 6 for the final question on the left.



Similar to the question we asked pupils about what they would keep about lockdown, we have set up a community Padlet to share the **silver linings** to lockdown and our experiences through the last 12 months. Please do add your thoughts to the Padlet [here](#). This is open to everyone who reads our newsletters!



World Book Day Competitions

We were delighted with all the **creative** entries to the World Book Day competitions. You can see a summary of the winners in the Celebration Worship summary below. You can also still view our three padlets:

- [Virtual Parade](#);
- [Book in a Jar](#);
- [Potato Character](#).



Science Week

Last week, we enjoyed marking British Science Week with a variety of science-themed activities. From swimming gingerbread in Reception to hunting for natural items with specific characteristics in Year 4 (*both right*).



Update from the Governing Board

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The school's Governing Board met remotely last week for the fourth of our six annual full Board meetings. We were encouraged to hear how successful the return to school has been and how much joy it brings when the school is full and functioning in the ways it is designed. We are so grateful to families and the community for their support of the pupils and staff through all the changes in the last few months. We agreed that hopefully closures are now behind us and we can look forward to a gradual reintroducing of elements of 'normality' over the next term.

A number of governors had attended training in the last half term. Some had zoomed into the Annual Governor Conference which was reported to be an excellent event with many timely and thought-provoking sessions. We also heard brief reports from a training session around increasing the effectiveness of 'Link Governor' roles. This is where each governor is linked to a subject area in school and liaises with the staff subject leader around the aims, curriculum and impact of the subject for learners. Governors do not necessarily have education backgrounds, so our role is not to check or oversee what the school are doing, but to ask questions to ensure that the decisions and choices made by the school are working in the best interests of all pupils and that effective progress is being made.

We continue to be self-evaluative as a normal part of our practice as a Board, and spent time considering questions around the clarity and effectiveness of the school's strategic priorities and vision. We also discussed the effectiveness of our engagement with the community, and acknowledged that the restrictions of the past year may have impacted this. We do aim to be as involved in the life of the school as we can, approachable and open about the work of governance. Hopefully when we are again able to have school fairs, parent briefings and in-person celebrations at school, we can be more visible again. In the meantime, please know the lines of communication are open and we are always contactable through the school office or chair@shelfordschool.org.uk

Anna Caroe

Chair of Governors

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

FRIDAY 12TH MARCH 2021

As pupils joined the Teams call, we shared our Lenten Reflection.

We opened the celebration worship with our signed gathering statement linked to our school vision: **Leader:** We live and work in harmony **Response:** With love for one another

Individual Achievements:

William L, Eli C and Gwendolen D - all for poems that will be published in a Young Writers' Anthology.

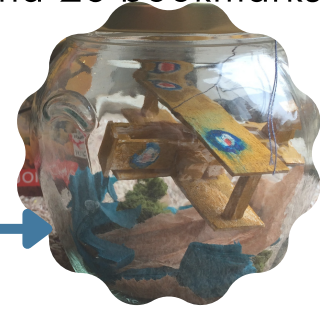
Georgia F - for taking the time to share her love of books with an author on World Book Day, writing Nicola Davies a letter. In her reply, Nicola wrote to Georgia about nature and also included two books and 26 bookmarks! We are challenging Georgia to read 26 books at once!

World Book Day Competition Winners:

Book Character: James C, Jack S, Nina M

Dress Up a Potato: Amelie A, Joseph Yr 4 Ava Yr 5

Book in a Jar: Daniel A-C, Ember B, Laurie Y6



Star Writer Awards:

Lukas W - for a wonderful newspaper report about the sighting of a UFO crashing in Little Shelford.

Celia Award: Elliot R:

He was really kind and helpful to a friend who was finding his writing tricky. He told his friend that he was doing really well and then read his writing out loud. Elliot reminded him of what he needed to write next and helped him to sound out words. It was lovely to hear him encouraging and supporting his friend like this.

Heateacher's Awards:

- **Lana R** - for kind and helpful choices to others this week.
- **Joe C** - for enthusiasm and interest in science, particularly the swimming gingerbread men experiment.
- **Ella B** - for a super attitude - a Concentrating Crocodile and a Persevering Parrot!
- **Amelie A** - for being an Exploring Elephant and approaching everything with such enthusiasm.
- **Felix M** - for an excellent return to school with wonderful concentration and great manners.
- **Henry H** - for a wonderful piece of artwork inspired by Wassily Kandinsky.
- **Max M** and **Matias B** - both for their own excellent recreations of a Stone Age cave painting using oil pastels and charcoal.
- **Christopher G-L, Jacob M** and **Harvey M** - all for wonderful kindness and selflessness in sacrificing their own Buzz Time to help clean the room.
- **Noah B** and **Hugo M** - both for their excellent work ethic and valuable contributions to class discussions.

Housepoints: this week's winning house is domus inspiratorum - the house of inspiration - the Eagles!



Grand PTA Quiz

The PTA normally holds a grand quiz in the Easter term to raise funds for the school. So while we won't be able to do that this year we are able to announce the **GRAND PTA VIRTUAL QUIZ**, which will take place on **Saturday 10 April** at **8.30pm via Zoom** and be entirely COVID-safe.

Through the wonders of Zoom and Zoom breakout rooms we are able to run a quiz for twelve teams of eight (so you don't even need to be in the same house as your team-mates). The all singing and dancing quiz will be hosted by new PTA Quizmaster Andrew Corney and PTA rep Daniel Ayres. Answers will be submitted via an online form.

There will be all the normal PTA Quiz fun – prizes, games and other treats and titbits to help raise money throughout the evening. This includes the option to buy 5 hints for £5 to increase your chances of winning... And to help your evening sparkle your ticket price will include a drink (beer, G&T or soft drink) and snack for each team member.

So... now's the time to get your team of eight together. Tickets cost £10 per team member, including refreshments.

If you would like to join us please send Hannah Mohamad a message on Classlist with the details below and transfer money to Account name: [Shelford School PTA](#), Sort code: [30-91-74](#) and Account number: [01248038](#) with 'Quiz' as the reference.

Details needed

- team name
- team members
- one address for refreshments delivery (you will need to arrange onward delivery)
- whether you'd like a £5 hint pack in advance

Thank you

Hannah, PTA Chair

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPPORTUNITIES, REMINDERS AND EVENTS

COMMUNICATION

We are pleased to keep communication routes the same:

urgent or important message - office@shelford.cambs.sch.uk, 01223 843107
non-urgent, class-based message - class email address

LIVING EGGS

Thanks to the PTA for their kind funding of the annual Living Eggs project in Reception. Following the hatching of the eggs and the care the Reception children offer the chicks, young chicks may be available to families.

Requests from Reception families will be prioritised first. From personal experience, this is a wonderful opportunity and my chickens (hatched here last year and pictured below) have become big members of the family.

NB - please bear in mind the current restrictions placed on bird owners with respect to avian flu.



END OF DAY COLLECTION - BEHAVIOUR

Please leave the site promptly, refraining from talking to others during the current restrictions. Please also be very mindful of the fragile graves and walls in the churchyard, which staff have witnessed pupils climbing.

SCHOOL PRAYER MEETING

A group of us will be meeting virtually to pray for our school on Wednesday, March 18th at 8:00 pm. Do please join us if you can.

Meeting ID: 832 6055 7755

Passcode: 380418

PTA READATHON

Don't forget about the wonderful PTA Readathon! You can find the sponsor form [here](#).

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPPORTUNITIES, REMINDERS AND EVENTS RETIREMENT OF FORMER HEADTEACHER

Retirement of Alison West (formerly Quinlan)

Alison was the headteacher of Shelford School from 1988 until January 2005 when, following a year's secondment as a Primary School Advisor with the Local Authority, she was appointed to the role permanently.

Following a short but tactful break, Alison took on the oversight of Shelford School. Her upcoming retirement this summer therefore brings to an end not only a 33 year relationship with Shelford School but almost 45 years working for the Local Authority in Cambridgeshire.

The present school governors hereby invite former pupils, their parents and former staff or governors of Shelford School during those years to join them in marking Alison's retirement.

For any teacher the knowledge that you have made a positive difference to your pupils and colleagues makes all the hard work worthwhile. When Alison stepped down as head in 2005 she remarked that her fondest memories would be of the many conversations over the years with individual children - the playtime chats and those occasions when they took their work to her to be praised.

We invite you, therefore, to add a message of thanks to Alison on this [electronic card](#). The governors also intend to send Alison a gift. Should you wish to contribute towards it you may do so via this [link](#).

For more information or help with this please contact chair@shelfordschool.org.uk

PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS

Don't forget to book your Parents' Consultations [here](#).

CRICKET OPPORTUNITY

Please see this [flyer](#) from Great Shelford Cricket Club.

BIKEABILITY INSTRUCTORS

Please see this [advert](#) for Bikeability instructors.