

# 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*

1st December 2023

Vol.11

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. Today, we marked the start of the new liturgical season of Advent (a few days early)!

- Advent Service
- Curriculum Thread
- Class Briefings
- Parent Point
- Christmas Events
- PTA Update
- Key Dates

Our service started with a new hymn that the children have been practising in our worship through music sessions:

*The world was in darkness and nobody knew the way to the Father as you and I do.*

*They needed a light that would show them the way and the great light shone on Christmas Day!*

Children from each class brought up special items to our altar. We started by dressing the altar in its purple cloth for Advent. Representatives from each of the classes brought up materials to build our Advent Wreath. This also included readings to explain each element of symbolism in the wreath and the five candles. Bethan M led an invitational prayer and we then lit our first candle. The children are certainly very excited to mark the start of Advent and it was lovely to hear their enthusiastic responses in how Advent is being marked in homes.



# Curriculum Thread

Our curriculum thread this half term, our curriculum thread is:

## Our story so far

This thread links each class' topic and some specific events.

At the moment, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are preparing to retell a very special story through their Nativity performance. This underpins their key learning in RE and links to their topics:

**Reception - Tell us a Story** - What makes a story? *Telling and exploring a range of stories.*

**Year 1 - Shelford Stars** - What are our stories so far? What are the recent changes in history? *Stories of how things have changed recently.*

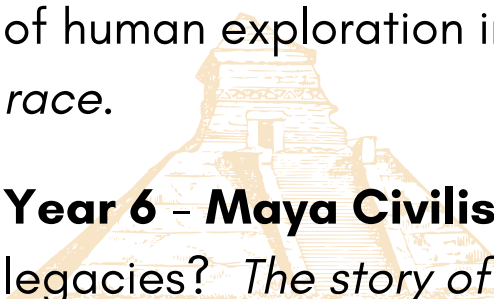
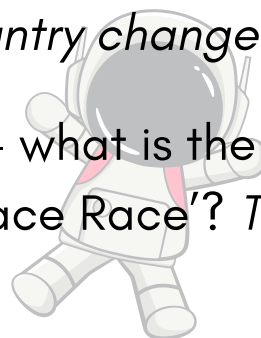
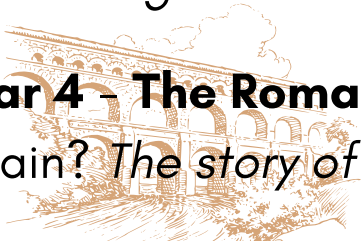
**Year 2 - Heroes and Heroines** - Which heroes and heroines led a significant sorry? *The stories of inspirational figures.*

**Year 3 - Inverness** - How does Cambridge Compare? *The story of a contrasting location and the Loch Ness Monster.*

**Year 4 - The Romans** - Who were they and how did they change Britain? *The story of how our country changed in history.*

**Year 5 - Space - Star Gazers** - what is the significance and story of human exploration in the "Space Race"? *The story of the space race.*

**Year 6 - Maya Civilisation** - What is the significance of their legacies? *The story of one civilisation and their legacies.*



# Curriculum Threads

---

A summary of our 6 curriculum threads is below. You can find out more about our curriculum here.

Autumn

Identity

Our story so far



Spring

Our environment,  
local and global

Community - Empathy



Summer

Growth and Changes

Curiosity



# Class Briefings

**It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome families for our class briefings. We have our final one next week for Year 6 families - Friday 8th December at 2pm onwards.**

**Our wonderful teachers worked really hard to prepare and present helpful information to parents about aspects of learning in their classes. This was then reinforced by children attending and undertaking a related activity.**

**We've been blown away by the children's introductions to celebration worship each week! A topic song from Year 1; A Makaton session from Year 2; a Loch Ness performance from Year 3; a performance of the Haka by Year 4; and an informative space session, song and dance from Year 5! Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work and preparation of these showcases! Thank you also to all the parents who were able to attend!**



# Staff Update

We will shortly be circulating an advert for new Teaching Assistant roles at the school. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our wonderful team, please keep an eye on our vacancies page!

Rainbow Preschool are looking for a **Preschool Practitioner**. They are also looking for volunteers.

## 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 what's on and support available from our Early Intervention Family Worker, Naomi Shepherd:



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

# WHAT'S ON

DECEMBER 2023

Welcome to our Child & Family Centres.

We aim to make sure families have access to the services, support and information they need in a welcoming place.

There is a small charge for some groups but please let us know if payment may be difficult.

Click **here** to access the South Cambridgeshire What's On schedule. This includes a variety of courses and events that are helpful and supportive for parents and families.

On the following page, you can find Naomi Shepherd's Newsletter.

## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter December 2023



### A Message from Me



I am Naomi Shepherd and I am part of the Education Inclusion Family Advisor team.

Education Inclusion Family Advisors support parents with challenging or worrying behaviour such as: tantrums, meltdowns, worries, self-esteem, bedtime problems, sibling rivalry etc.

### Activity Idea

Here is a brilliant idea for a Christmas decoration that would look great on any Christmas tree!



#### Equipment needed –

- A pack of assorted stripy/coloured straws
- Decorations
- Glue

- 1 - Using scissors, cut a length of straw to create the bottom layer of the tree.
- 2 - Choose another colour and cut different lengths going up the tree, shortening them each time.
- 3 Use 2 straws to create the trunk or a lolly stick. Stick the different lengths of straws onto the trunk using glue starting from the bottom.
- 4 -At the top, stick a star to finish the effect!
- 5 -Use some string to create a loop to hang on the tree.

### Parenting Top Tip

Christmas can be a challenging time for families. Before dealing with the parenting difficulties that come along, don't forget to check in with how you are feeling yourself. If you are not feeling great, you will not be able to deliver your best in the way you respond to your children. Plan in time for self-care. This will not only benefit you but your whole family too.



### Some signposting

**Samaritans** – Throughout the festive period, there can be feelings of isolation, loneliness, or sadness. If you would like support with these feelings, please contact the Samaritans on this information. Click this link - [Contact Us | Samaritans](#)

**Foodbank** – Christmas can be a tough time financially for families. If you feel like you require a Foodbank voucher, contact the EIFA team (use contact information below) as well as Citizen's Advice, doctors, social workers, health visitors and other agencies to gain access to support.

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint ([www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer)

# 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 led a wonderful, interactive session with the school on Thursday. We really enjoyed welcoming the team back and enjoyed exploring the theme of hope at Christmas. If you and your family wish to explore this further, there are some follow-up materials [here](#).
- **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. **EYFS and KS1 Families, book [here](#)!**
- **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

|                     |         |   |                             |
|---------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| 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<br>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                     |
| 15/01/24            | PM      | Choir members to Young Voices rehearsal and concert                 | O2 Arena                    |
| 02/02/24            | 2:30pm  | Candlemas Service led by Year 2                                     | St. Mary's                  |
| 16/02/24            |         | End of Spring 1   |                             |

## 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 Rainbow Hamper Raffle\*\*\*

Tickets for the annual Shelford School Christmas Rainbow Hamper Raffle are on sale. Eight colourful hampers are up for grabs, each filled with an array of festive delights.

Tickets are £1 each and all proceeds go to the PTA to fund additional resources and experiences for the School and Preschool.

### **Tickets are on sale:**

- \* In person from Hannah Mohamad or Clare Mellor (cash only)
- \* By messaging Hannah Mohamad on Classlist or Whatsapp (pay by bank transfer)
- \* After school on certain days (cash and card payments)

### **To pay by bank transfer:**

Account name: Shelford School PTA

Account No: 01248038

Sort Code: 30-91-74

Please label your payment with 'raffle' and 'your surname' so that we can match your payment to your order.

The draw for the raffle will take place on 8 December after school. Thank you!



**Year 6 'Cake at the Gate'** will be taking place on Friday 8th December after school to raise money for Year 6 end of year celebrations. Do come and support this cause and enjoy a delicious treat at the same time!



# Celebration Warship

## Class Briefing

Year 5 opened with space facts and a wonderful space song!



### Kindness

The Cyril Award was awarded to **Mrs. Sheppard** for kindness appreciated by pupils and staff. They noticed her hard work and support, which always comes with a smile! The Celia Award was awarded to **Year 5** for helping Year 1 with a variety of activities one afternoon. Meanwhile, the following Headteacher's Awards were shared for kindness towards others: **Eloise La; Tilly H-W** and **Harry C**



### Creativity

This week, we shared three Headteacher's Awards linked to creativity: **Vicente RCF** - for creating a wonderful construction; **Charlotte N** - for a very impressive plan to support other children with their play journals; **Molly F** - for creative science work on sound this week; **Gabriel F and Max C** - each for a creative birthday cake in junk modelling; **Orla A** - for careful creation of a beautiful part hat.



### Resilience

Several children received Headteacher's Awards for their resilience and hard work: **Matthew N** - in maths; **Daya M** - independent focus in an investigation; **Elliot M** - for making clear and well articulated points in a class discussion. Meanwhile, several children achieved their Bronze Shelford Mile awards.



### Responsibility

This week, we recognised the responsibility shown throughout the school in different ways. Dinner Winner was awarded to **Year 6** for their responsibility shown at lunchtimes. **Mariam Z** received a Headteacher's Award - for always working so hard, demonstrating responsibility for learning;



### Housepoints for our Shelford Star Values

This week's winning house is *domus venerantium* - the house of respect:  
**The Swans**

