

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*

19th December 2023

Vol. 13

NEWSLETTER IN 60 SECONDS

Dear Members of the Great and Little Shelford Community,

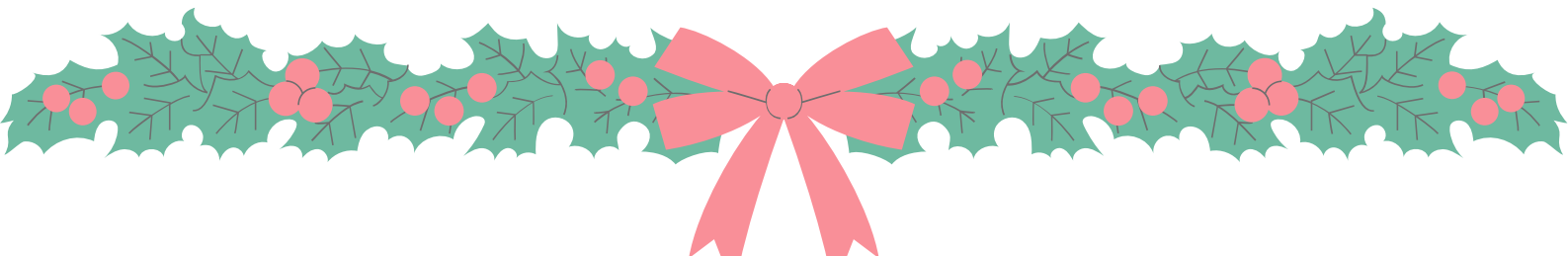
I hope this week's newsletter finds you and your family well at the end of the Autumn Term.

- Christmas Events
- Staff Updates
- Governors' Note
- Parent Point
- PTA Update
- Key Dates
- Celebration Worship

Since our last newsletter, we have been delighted to take part in a variety of Christmas events.

Firstly, the Early Years and KS1 Nativity took place on 11th and 12th December. We were amazed by their wonderful singing, acting and clear lines. Thank you to everyone involved in making it such a success.

On Thursday 14th December, KS2 led their annual Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church. The service commenced with the traditional solo verse of Once in Royal David's City, sung by Ember. The KS2 classes worked together with a combination of readings, carols and modern retellings of the Nativity. The service also included wonderful performances by the choir and orchestra. We want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making the service so special.



Shelford Christmas Day

Today, we have marked our Shelford Christmas Day.

The day commenced with a Christmas Service. All the children were involved in retelling the events of the Christmas Story. Each class took part in sharing a special performance about one part.

Year 4 opened with 'Emmanuel'. This speaks of the expectation of the arrival of Jesus.

Year 6 continued with their performance of Silent Night, reflecting on the peace of the first Christmas.

We remembered, that Jesus was born in a stable and lay in a manger. Year 3 shared this part of the story through performing Calypso Carol.

Looking at how the news was shared far and wide, we learnt about the news reaching the Shepherds through Year 5's performance 'Over Hills'. Following this, we explored the tale of the wise men learning about the birth, following the Star of Bethlehem. Bea, Bethan, Florence and Olivia performed their small group rendition of Hallelujah.

Finally, EYFS and KSI helped us to celebrate the birth of Jesus through their rousing performance of 'Ring out the Bells!'

The service closed and gifts were given to each class to be opened back in the classrooms. Following this, we said farewell to the staff leaving us: Mr. Kerin, Mrs. Ashton and Mrs. Ward. We later held a special gathering to say farewell to Mrs. Unwin.



Staff Farewell

Our Leavers' Poem

To all the staff who leave us soon, we thank you dearly,
For all you've done for Shelford School has helped us clearly!
we gather here to share
A thank you for your hard work, commitment and care.

First to someone who's come back recently,
To **Mr Kerin**, whom we've love to see.
Thank you for your hard work and fun,
We're sorry that you have to run.

Secondly we say, "See you soon!"
To someone sitting in this room,
Mrs Ashton - Art and PSHE extraordinaire,
Full of positivity, calmness and care.
We're grateful for your dedication,
And every clear explanation.
After years of being a class teacher,
We know you'll still feature,
As one of the amazing staff,
Aboard the Shelford raft!

Staff Farewell

Thirdly, a person who's had a contact

For 30 years - that's a fact!

Mrs Ward - as a parent and the TA
With Shelford you began your foray!

Later as our amazing Office Manager,
Coordinator, budget cruncher and messenger,
The toughest finance - you would slay
As super hero with month end in your tray.

Premises - looking after the building,
Health and safety - notwithstanding
A poorly owl and a dead fox,
Lost property - including socks!
Mending a fence, changing lights,
Helping everything to be alright!

All in all, what an amazing person,
Thank you and of this we're certain,
An amazing retirement awaits:
As later today you skip out the gates!

Lastly, it is time to say a "See you soon!"
To someone sitting in this room.

To **Mrs Unwin**, Reception Teacher,
We've been so lucky that you're a feature,
Of our great team of staff,

With a warm smile and a cheery laugh.
Nurturing children and families in Reception,
With a keen and careful eye for perfection.
An admirable skill for the leader of art,
This is always applied with good heart.

So now it's time to send you all with luck, love and a smile,
We thank you for all you've done - please visit once in a while!

Staff Changes

As you will see from the above, Mr. Kerin has left his role of Maternity Cover teacher in Year 6. Today, we welcomed Mr. Mark Chappel to the class to begin the handover process. We look forward to warmly welcoming him to the team.

Mrs. Weston and Mrs. Page will be joining the Office Team, with Mrs. Weston taking on the Finance Administrator role. Mrs. Page will work as an Administrative Assistant and will also continue with the Nurture Group provision. I am sure you will join me in warmly welcoming them to the office team.

Parent Point

We have a variety of tools in place as part of our day-to-day practice and a number of support mechanisms that we can offer. We have this helpful laid out in our **Early Help Offer**. You can view this on our website [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.

Governors' Note

Governors recently met for the second Full Board meeting of the year. We discussed how valuable it was to welcome parents, staff and governors to our School Development Plan meeting in the summer term. School leaders and governors have taken time to consider the feedback and incorporate it into the planning for this year.

In particular, we noted how parents value effective communication between school and home. This was a specific focus for us in 2021 so it is appropriate for us to now monitor the effectiveness and implementation of the communications policy and processes as part of our work this year. We are also focussed on how we communicate our inclusive values and will be looking at how these values are shared with all members of our community.

Another theme that was raised was homework. Again, this is a topic that has been carefully considered by the Board in the past. We remain committed to our current evidence-based policy, which can be found on the school website, and are delighted that a strong reading culture is promoted through daily reading (and phonics) at home, along with a range of other resources that staff share through the year.

Parents and stakeholders also expressed the importance of sustainability and this is equally an area we are very keen to develop. The governors will be forming a working group to explore opportunities to build on the school's current teaching and learning on climate and sustainability, including forest school and eco council. We are looking ahead to planning for 2024/25 and looking at how the school can develop a climate action plan, in line with the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

The final area noted from the feedback related to behaviour. Shelford School has operated a Therapeutic Behaviour Policy for many years now and as governors, we will be looking into the impact of this on a range of aspects of school life throughout the academic year.

Thank you again for engaging with the school's development plans last summer. We look forward to inviting you to do so again this coming year, especially as we near the end of our 3-year plan and look to shape a new one.

Shelford School Governors

Key Dates Summary

	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.

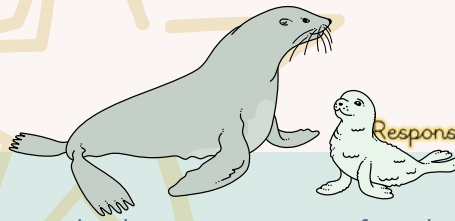
Earrings must be removed for PE sessions.

Black school shoes are expected on non PE days.

Food Box at St. Mary's

Did you know there is a food box in the porch of St. Mary's Church? You can donate an item to it if you are passing. Meanwhile, if you are in need - please do take something from it.

Celebration Warship



Kindness

The Celia Award was awarded to **Daya M** for her kindness, politeness and cheeriness in asking about others and always applying good manners. Meanwhile, the following Headteacher's Awards were shared for kindness towards others: **Ollie H, Itai F**



Creativity

This week, we shared three Headteacher's Awards linked to creativity: **Bertie G-C, Eleanor P, Joseph S, Lyra N, Eleanor P**

It was wonderful to hear about the range of creativity shown - from construction, to creative writing and artwork.

Resilience

Several children received Headteacher's Awards for their resilience: **Bob S, Gilly G, Otis C**. 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 1** for their responsibility shown at lunchtimes. The Eco Award was earned by **Year 4** for ensuring the lowest energy consumption in their class. The termly Eco Award went to **Year 3**, with a special prize of a book. The following pupils received Headteacher's Awards for responsibility: **Leo P, Florence O-C, Ember B, Jasper C, Alexandra H, Reuben V-V**

Housepoints for our Shelford Star Values

*This week's winning house is domus inspiratorum - the house of inspiration:
The Eagles*

