

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

7th June 2024

Vol. 25

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 after an enjoyable half term. It has been wonderful to hear of tales of adventures near and far. Whatever you and your family did, I hope that you were able to rest and recover for a busy term ahead.

- **Welcome back!**
- **Curriculum Thread**
- **Park & Play Mobil**
- **Farewell Miss Mayo**
- **Welcome to Miss Shepard**
- **Empathy Day**
- **Music events**
- **Governor update**
- **Parent Governor applications**
- **Athletics Tournament**
- **Announcements**

A new half term brings a new curriculum thread. This half term, it is **curiosity**. This underpins each class' topic. From curiosity about how things work to big questions in RE, children will be exploring aspects that reinforce deep thinking and wonder.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the Park and Play Mobil van to the school's playground. It is filled with a variety of loose parts play materials. Objects ranged from an old boat to a wheelie bin, from wheelbarrows to buggies. As I wove through the children I was greeted with a sea of smiles and comments such as, "This is the best day ever!" and "I just don't want it to end!" We welcome the Park and Play Mobil back for three further Wednesdays! Thank you to Cambridge Kids Club for their generosity and hard work in providing these sessions.

This provision supports an approach that the school has been researching for lunchtime provision and we look forward to seeing how it will develop.

Park and Play Mobil



Farewell to Miss Mayo



Over the past 9 weeks, we have been delighted to welcome Miss Mayo as a visiting teacher. She has been based in the Year 5 class and worked closely with the children and staff team there. However, Miss Mayo has also worked with children across the school in a variety of ways. It has been a pleasure to work with Miss Mayo and we wish her the very best for her next steps in her teaching career.

Welcome to Miss Shepard

We welcome Miss Shepard (*not to be confused with our Interim Deputy Headteacher Mrs. Sheppard*) as visiting teacher in Year 4. Miss Shepard has settled in well to the Year 4 team and working closely with children and adults in the class.

Empathy Day



Today, we marked Empathy Day. Miss Shepard led a special, engaging worship session this morning to introduce the day and theme of empathy. Back in classes, children undertook a variety of activities linking to the theme of empathy. Reception class created empathy superpower glasses to show that they can apply empathy by how they see and understand the emotions of others. Year 1 and 2 read and explored texts that relate to the theme of understanding the emotions of others. Year 3 pupils created eye-catching posters to tell others about the importance of empathy. Meanwhile, Year 4 interpreted a range of emojis and explored the idea of agony aunts! They responded to a range of problems as an agony aunt. In Year 5, pupils created empathy resolutions, thinking about how to apply empathy going forwards. Throughout the day, Year 6 plotted their emotions on an emotion map, reflecting on the range of emotions they felt at different times.

Summer Music Events

Music is something we prioritise at Shelford. We are fortunate to have it flowing throughout the curriculum and throughout our daily life, including in worship. As part of our continued showcasing of music, we hold annual concerts: an **Instrumentalists' Concert** and a **Summer Concert** this term. In addition to this, the choir have a public engagement at The Shelford Feast!

On Tuesday 4th June, we enjoyed the Younger Pianists' Concert. It was a pleasure to hear a range of pieces and see the children practise the skill of performance. Well done to the pianists and thank you to Mr. Bond for his hard work and preparation with the children.

During the evening of Wednesday 5th June, we enjoyed a stunning Instrumentalists' Concert! The evening commenced with a range of pieces from the orchestra. Throughout the evening we heard a range of individual performances, duets and ensembles. You can also enjoy a little snippet of the evening here:

- **Orchestra**
- **Violin**
- **Pianist Group 1**
- **Guitarists**
- **Pianists Group 2**
- **Woodwind**
- **Cellists**
- **Pianists Group 3**

Thank you to the PTA for providing refreshments for the audience!

Our annual Summer Concert comprises performances by our orchestra and choir. This is set for the evening of **Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 6:00pm**. It will take place at Great Shelford Free Church.

Each year, our choir perform at The Shelford Feast. This year, they will perform on **Sunday 7th July**. Choir members will need to meet at **3:00pm** on the day!

Governance Update - Summer 2024

As we head towards the final Board meeting of the year in June, I wanted to share an update on some of the work the Governors have undertaken this year.

The core functions of a Maintained School's Governing Board include ensuring:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

We undertake this responsibility through an annual plan of work, including Board meetings, finance committee meetings, focus group meetings (for example, data scrutiny), school visits, reports and presentations from staff, meeting with pupils, parents and carers, and more. All our work is rooted in the vision of the school and aligns with the strategic priorities developed by stakeholders within both the 3 years plan and the annual development plan.

Governors have made regular visits into school this year to meet with staff and pupils for specific purposes. These have related to curriculum subjects, specific funding streams, pupil attainment and progress data, and school development priorities, among other things. Every time we visit, or undertake a piece of work, we place safeguarding at the centre, to ensure our culture is embedded and effective.

This year we have had a particular focus on Ofsted readiness, and were well prepared to show off our brilliant school to the inspectors last term. The staff worked incredibly hard, the pupils were superb, and Governors were able to share our vision for and commitment to the pupils in our meeting with the inspectors.

Governance Update Continued....

Another focus we identified for this year was monitoring the further implementation of the Therapeutic Thinking approach to understanding and managing behaviour. As has been shared previously, this is a trauma-informed approach that is recommended throughout Cambridgeshire and beyond, and which aligns closely with our inclusive ethos. Governors have been involved in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of this approach within school and have met with pupils, parents/carers and staff to gain a thorough range of perspectives. We anticipate continuing this work into next year as well.

At the end of the year we must also say a couple of goodbyes - one is to parent governor, Gwen Casazza, who has served the school incredibly well this year and will be missed as she moves concurrently with her son moving to secondary school. The other goodbye is my own as I will be stepping down this summer after nearly 10 years in governance here, four of those as chair. This is due to my securing a Governance Advisory role with Cambridgeshire County Council, supporting schools and boards across Cambridge City and South Cambs. As it is best practice not to chair a board and advise it at the same time, I will step off the Board but continue to be available to them for advice and support. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in governance at Shelford and am grateful to all those who took time to help me develop in the role as a lifelong learner!

We look forward to welcoming new governors to fill the roles and invite all parents to consider applying for the parent governor seat - look out for the details and election papers in the coming weeks.

Parent Governor Applications

If you would be interested in serving on the governing board as a parent governor, please do have a look at the relevant information [here](#). The application form can be found [here](#). Meanwhile, if you wish to know any more, please do reach out to our current governors or Mr. Grey.

Athletics Tournament

On Wednesday 5th June, we were very pleased to attend an athletics tournament. The Year 5 and 6 team represented the school exceptionally well and demonstrated all the Shelford Star values throughout the event.



The whole team were noticed for their exceptional efforts throughout the event. As they represented the school so well, each athlete has received 6 housepoints (2 more than are traditionally given for representing the school at a sporting event). In addition to this, three athletes went above and beyond:

- Jasper C for his resilience: he completed all his events with a blister on his heel and stitch but persevered for the team.
- Lola for her kindness – her lovely, positive attitude was noted by all the adults who appreciated her consistent happiness and joy.
- Harry for his perseverance – his first event was the 600 meters and he worked so hard to get around and finished so strongly. He then gave such a lot of effort in all the other events.

PTA Announcements

Smartboards for Y1, Y4 and Y6

We are currently fundraising for essential smartboards. Thank you for all your generous donations so far ! If you do have any spare cash, do consider making a bank transfer to the PTA account towards these items:

Account Name: Shelford School PTA

Sort Code: 30-91-74

Account No: 01248038

Year 4 have even written a poem!

A Plea for an Essential Tool

Games, quizzes, reading, it all goes through the board,
A treasure trove of knowledge the teachers like to hoard.

But why are they needed? I hear you all cry,

To keep the kids engaged and reaching for the sky. We model
how to write and the children join in too, All the interactives
change a person's view.

The white boards are static and info can't be stored,

We really, really, really, need our interactive boards!

Save the Dates

Campout - Saturday 15th June - overnight at school

Summer fair - Saturday 22nd June - 1-4pm at school

Kids' Disco - Wednesday 10th July - 4-5:30pm in the Feast tent

SHELFORD SCHOOL
SUMMER CAMP OUT
SATURDAY
JUNE 15TH

