



Great and Little Shelford C E (A) Primary School,
Church Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5EL

'From Knowledge Wisdom Flows'

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Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

While our journey through Lent isn't quite over, we are drawing to the close of our Spring Term and will be leading our Easter Service this afternoon at All Saints, Little Shelford. To mark our journey through Lent, we have continued a variety of events in response to Bishop Stephen's Lenten Challenge. The key theme for this challenge is for members of the school community to engage with people of different generations. I have been very pleased to see how the staff have embraced this and organised a variety of activities:

- 7 whole-school Collective Worship sessions linked to the challenge, including visitors;
- Pupils leading Collective Worship at Great Shelford Free Church;
- Live Library event, where visitors 'were the books';
- Year 2 and Reception hosting and interviewing Grandparents in school;
- Tomorrow, Year 4 will visit the friendship group at the community room.

It has been fantastic to see the variety of events that have taken place and to witness the interactions between members of different generations. I am also pleased to see how many members of the wider community have been involved in our school's response to the challenge. Thank you to all the staff for their involvement, especially Miss McLoughlin for coordinating the challenge.

One of the main messages that the pupils, staff and governors felt was central to the aspirational vision of the school was the idea of community. Thank you to all of the parents who have taken part in the survey relating to the draft vision. We are in the process of setting up a small working party, made up of different stakeholders of the school community. Please let me know if you would be interested in representing parental views in this group. For our school, our vision must be founded on scripture; apply to all members of the school community and must be aspirational. The pupils, governors and staff have selected four key passages that they feel are important. This is where the draft vision has stemmed from. Staff have also reviewed the 'Star Values' in-line with the draft vision, which encapsulate the surface-level behaviours for learning and qualities we promote for academic progress:

Great & Little Shelford Star



The four words around the outside were chosen as they summarise all the aims of the current 'Star Values'. The inside of the star contains the 'Secrets of Success' that the pupils currently focus on each term. We are hoping to launch this soon, alongside the new vision.

A group of people who have already demonstrated the qualities of being a Great and Little Shelford Star are those children who performed in the instrumentalists' concerts last week! I was astounded with the quality of the performances, some of which can be heard at:

www.shelfordschool.org.uk/website/music/231290

You may have seen news relating to the low funding of schools in Cambridgeshire recently. This culminated in a march of protest on Monday 1st April in Cambridge. I have not publicly mentioned this previously because I recognise the outstanding support the school receives from the dedicated parents, including the funds raised by the PTA. In addition, you will recall that the Governors' Support Fund received a very generous donation from one family and since then they have received another very generous donation from a different family. Obviously, it is imperative that these funds are used to enrich opportunities for our pupils in school, which is why they are held separately to the school's funds. Sadly, the school's income is dropping this financial year by around £7,000 – despite widely publicised messages that the government are increasing school funding. The Governors and I thank you for your continued support and felt we should raise awareness of the continuing difficulties that schools face in their low level of funding.

I would like to thank all of you who were able to attend the class briefings this term. Our final class briefing takes place on Friday for Year 5. Thank you to all the class teachers for their preparation of their presentations, activities and, of course, the performances they prepared for the pupils to introduce our Celebration Collective Worship.

With best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful Easter,

Mr. Grey

Class Updates:

Following on from their trip to Wandlebury, our Year 3 pupils have been busy making models of Stonehenge! Photos of both the trip and the models can be seen at: http://www.shelfordschool.org.uk/website/year_3/302261

You may have heard about the fire we had last week at school! Not to panic! It was a planned one that started in a model of Thomas Farriner's bakery and spread very quickly due to the light wind and materials that the houses were made out of! Yes, our Year 2 pupils' work on the Great Fire of London has culminated in their annual fire!



Announcements

Choir Event for Year 5 and 6

The older members of the choir have been invited to sing at a primary school cluster event, at the University Concert Hall, West Road, Cambridge on Friday 14th June at 6.30pm until 8.15pm. The Cluster rehearsal is in the morning of May 17th.

Netball club

Netball will resume again after Easter on Monday 29th April.

Lost Property

Please note the procedure for returning lost property is maintained by School Council. If items are named, these are returned to class by School Council representatives fortnightly. **Any unclaimed items left by Friday 5th April will be distributed to charity or to the PTA's uniform sale stock.**

Coats

Please ensure all pupils have named jumpers and coats available in school, especially as we are heading into unpredictable spring and summer weather.

Class Briefings

The Year 5 Class Briefing will take place this Friday 5th April at 2:00pm.

Term dates for next year

All term dates and INSET days have been agreed and are now on the school website under 'Parents / Term dates'.

Parking

As usual, please remember that the school car park is unfortunately too small to accommodate parents. As you will be aware, the roadside near to the school is particularly congested. Please ensure safe parking at all times and consider that we all play our part within the Shelford community. Inconsiderate and unsafe parking can reflect negatively on the reputation of the school amongst the wider community, despite our lack of control or authority over it.

Illness in school

Please can we remind parents that if your child vomits or has diarrhoea they must be kept off school for 48 hours after the last episode (as recommended by the NHS and Department for Education). These rules are put in place to limit the spread of illness throughout the school (both for children and staff members). Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Class List

The PTA would like to ensure that as many parents as possible are aware of 'Class List'. This is a great way to keep in touch with the other parents in your class and should help to ensure good communication between parents. Please get in touch with your class' PTA representatives for assistance.