



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*

31st March 2023

Vol. 19

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 Spring Term! I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Easter.

- **Friendship Bench**
- **Holy Week Events**
- **Paduano Science Prize**
- **PTA Readathon**
- **Announcements**

Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome visitors to the school for our commemorative ceremony for the Friendship Bench - in memory of former Headteacher, Mr. Starling.

Last academic year, after his passing, school council heard a little about Mr. Starling's time at school. In particular, they heard about his love of teaching woodwork. This led to a decision to investigate a Friendship Bench. A local carpenter crafted the bench - with generous donations from local community members. School council also sought the views of classes for ideas on what decorations should be added. Visiting artist, Hannah Hutchings, combined ideas decided by School Council to prepare a final design. Small groups of pupils painted the bench and last Friday it was unveiled!

Annie (Deputy Head Girl) and Milo (Head Boy) helped lead a short presentation about Mr. Starling's time at Shelford, before unveiling the bench upon a countdown!

Friendship Bench Ceremony



Holy Week Events

This week, we were delighted to mark our Shelford Holy week with events each day to retell the Easter story. Thank you to St. Mary's, All Saints' and Great Shelford Free Church for their willing and wonderful support and help this week!

On Monday, Rev. Julie welcomed us to St. Mary's for collective worship around Palm Sunday. We had wonderful branch waving and even our very own donkey (with wonky ears) - Ffion!

On Tuesday, children in EYFS and KS1 visited St. Mary's to work with Victoria Goodman (Church Schools of Cambridge). Victoria retold the Easter story in a very engaging manner - captivating the children! Afterwards, children created a variety of items linked to different parts of the Easter story.

Meanwhile, pupils in KS2 visited Great Shelford Free Church to undertake a variety of hands-on Easter activities. From exploring the empty tomb to creating their own crosses and sowing wildflower seeds for next year.

On Thursday, we welcomed Rev. Scott to school - with his daughter and former pupil Sheila. They helped us unpick and understand the events of the last supper, linking it to the eucharist.

Today, we enjoyed an Easter Service led by Year 5 at All Saints' Church, little Shelford. Rev. Keene welcomed us and shared reflections, along with readings from the Year 5 children.

Holy Week - CSOC Activities



Paduano Science Prize

This year, we will be introducing a new Science Prize in memory of former teacher, Mike Paduano, who taught at Shelford for 25 years.

The School Council discussed ideas for a memorial and decided that they wanted to do something that honoured his creative and enthusiastic approach to science teaching.

Older members of the current School Council fondly remember his passionate approach to teaching science in an engaging way. One former pupil remembers how she came home inspired to grow her own crystals after one of his lessons.

The prize will be awarded to a pupil for progress in science and will be given out in the summer term each year, alongside the Philippa Pearce Prize for English and the new Ada Lovelace Prize for Maths.

We hope that the Mike Paduano Science Prize will continue to inspire many more generations of children.

If you would like to donate to the Prize Fund in Mike Paduano's memory, please transfer donations to:

Shelford School Governors

20-17-19

00811386

Please include the reference 'SCIENCE'.

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, the form is available here:

http://www.shelfordschool.org.uk/web/ssf_donations/552705

Clare Mellor

Parent Governor and School Council Link

Staff Update

I have heard from Mrs. Hunt, who teaches Year 4 on Thursdays and Fridays, that due to unforeseen family matters, she will need to step back from her role with us. We hope that Mrs. Hunt will be able to undertake some supply with us in the future, so we hope to see her soon! I can let you know that Mrs. Davison will be teaching Thursdays and Fridays from May onwards in Year 4. Mrs. Davison is known to the school and worked in Year 2 earlier this academic year. I am sure you will join me in warmly wishing Mrs. Hunt all the very best and in warmly welcoming Mrs. Davison to the Year 4 team.

Choir Day Change Reminder

After Easter, Choir will be every Wednesday morning at 8am in the hall.



Unauthorised Absences

At the end of this term, we have noticed a significant increase in unauthorised absences. Please be aware that pupils should attend school every day that it is available. Often, there are many special and significant events that take place at the beginning and end of our terms.

Chicks!

It is that time of year when we get ready to welcome the living eggs for our Reception pupils to hatch and care for chicks. If you are interested in adopting the chicks to raise into chickens, please get in touch with the office. The school can offer some advice on keeping chickens... along with the many benefits!

Re-entering School

Please be aware that it is not possible to re-enter the school after dismissal time, unless agreed by a school staff member. There have been occasions where families have attempted to re-enter the school after clubs. Please be aware this is not possible for site security, fire safety and safeguarding purposes.

PTA Readathon

The PTA are asking the children to set themselves a reading challenge over the Easter holidays.

Whilst helping the children to develop a love of reading, the children can help raise vital funds for the school.

Click here:

https://shelfordschool.eschools.co.uk/web/march_2023/64417

or see **Classlist** for more details including link to sponsorship form.



PTA Quiz

We're excited to announce that our popular annual PTA quiz will be taking place on Saturday 20th May at 8pm in the school hall.

Teams of up to 8 players can now sign up. Please assign one group leader to sign up your team and send a classlist message to Ellie Rugg-Gunn to book your team place stating the number of players on your team.

Tickets are £10 per person and the team leader should transfer payment for their entire team to the PTA account.

Account name: Shelford School PTA

Sort code: 30-91-74

Account No: 01248038

using the reference quiz and your surname

A bar with drinks and snacks will be available on the night.



Travel Survey

As you may remember, in the Autumn term, we welcomed local members of the community and the Parish Council to seek the views of pupils around safe journeys through what we called the 'Our Streets' project. As part of this there is a new anonymous survey for families. Please see the details below:

Great Shelford Parish Council is looking at ways to make all journeys in and around the village safer and more pleasant. Understanding how families make their way to school and pre-school (and how they would prefer to, given the right circumstances) will help the Parish Council develop proposals.

Great Shelford Playscape is running a short, anonymous travel survey on behalf of the Parish Council and the school, and would be grateful if every family completed it by Monday 27 March:

[Here is the survey link](#)

The Parish Council has also created an online form to report any traffic accidents, concerns and near misses directly to them.

