



Shelley First School Newsletter

September 2020

Care, fairness and respect... No barriers to learning... Celebration and joy

Welcome Back

We hope you all had a relaxing summer break and that everyone has returned feeling refreshed ready for the new school year. We also welcome our new pupils and their families in both Reception and higher up the school—we hope you will enjoy being part of our Shelley family.

Many thanks for supporting the restrictions that COVID places upon us all. We know that this may inconvenience some of you and this is not our intention. We are just doing our very best to maintain safety at such a difficult time. We would suggest to parents who are anxious about walking to and from the site that they may consider the wearing of a visor or mask. We simply cannot control the routes and public paths that people use to our entry points .

You may be aware that we have had children with some COVID symptoms in school. I am very pleased that they did not have the virus. We will be sending out some information next week which we hope will help you in deciding the course of action to take should your child become unwell at home. Just for information we use a thermometer which is pointed at the person's forehead and then cleaned. We do not place it onto skin, in ears etc. We know that sending children home is going to cause inconvenience—it is also affecting us as parents. We are sorry about this but safety has to come first.

In the event of a positive test result we have to follow the advice of Public Health England. We know from experience they can take several hours to respond and so we may have to make decisions in conjunction with the Trust if we cannot get a clear answer . We will be sharing our plans for home learning next week—fingers crossed that they are not needed.

As we move into Week 3 we focus upon behaviours, learning behaviour and manners so that effective learning can take place. After so long away from school children may struggle to get back into the swing of things. We will keep being positive with them of course but we do need to ensure that boundaries are maintained.

Staffing news



A warm welcome to Mrs Pepper who is now working in our school office.



Welcome back from Maternity Leave to Mrs Smith who is one of our Assistant Heads, working in Class Owl.



Mrs Moran is job-sharing with Mrs Smith and is also now lead for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

We have two new Support Assistants:



Mrs McLeod

Mrs Middleton



Congratulations to Miss Westwell who has made it a hat trick for Shelley First with a baby due in January! We will be in touch with Class Swan parents regarding arrangements for covering of the class. We are starting to recruit to this position very soon. Currently, we are assuming that Miss Westwell will work from home after 28 weeks but the guidance may change. We will of course keep Y4 parents updated.

A huge thank you...to the following children raised funds for the school during lockdown:

Elizabeth Foulkes, Henry Pigdon, Rebecca and Abigail Fleetwood

Jack Burgin, Xander Williams, Amelia Medcalf, Louis Quinn and

Jackson Brown

We have so far raised a total of £1326.00. If you have further funds to donate the Just Giving page will close on Friday 25th September.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shelleyfirstschool?>



Lunches



As you know, we are currently eating lunches in classrooms over two sittings. As the children are seated in classrooms with one adult trying to serve them we are not offering our usual menu. So for example, one day it may be a ham and cheese panini with wedges/potatoes and another day may be pizza. We do hope to return to a more 'typical' menu but as we are having to use disposable containers it is not possible to have gravy for example. Please note that meals are carefully labelled if your child has a known allergy and staff are aware of this. We will keep you posted on this.

One issue that we are having is that the children are refusing to accept salad or the fruit that is offered in addition to the pudding, therefore, they are not 'filling up' as much as they could. If possible, please could you discuss this with your child and remind them to take the full offer—we encourage but we cannot force this.

Senior Leaders would usually monitor eating in the hall but cannot be in the bubbles across school. I am sure that you will understand this.

We have had some queries about lunchbox contents—thank you for checking. We would ask that parents do not send food which includes nuts as there are children in school with allergies. We do not 'police' lunchboxes and feel sure that parents will send in a balanced meal. So, it is fine to send in cake as a pudding or some crisps to go with a sandwich. Parents have asked about 'hot' food such as soup. This is tricky in a classroom. We would expect children to be able to open and close securely their own flask. Also, please do not send in piping hot food. I have seen personally the damage that really hot soup can do and in a classroom the children are close together. So, if food is just warm it is less likely to scald and burn.

We still encourage children to bring in a healthy snack for break-time—fruit for example. I hope that this information is helpful but please contact us if you require further advice. Thank you.

COVID tests

You may have seen in the press how very difficult it can be to get tested at the moment. We have felt well prepared to open our school but sadly the support from Government just isn't there yet.



If we have asked you to keep a child at home or we have sent your child home we have access to a small number of tests—to be shared in exceptional circumstances. Please do not struggle alone with this—let us know and we will do our best to help.



Parent/Carer Year Dates 2020-21

Please note that these may be subject to change due to COVID 19

07/09/20	Training Day
08/09/20	Children back in school
9/10/20	Termly report sent home
14/10/20	Parent's Evening 1, 3:40-7pm
21/10/20	Parents' evening 2, 3:40-6:30pm
23/10/20	Break up for half-term
02/11/20	Children back in school
18/12/20	Training Day
04/01/21	Training Day
05/01/21	School opens
15/01/21	Termly reports sent home
w/c 08/02/21	Careers week
12/02/21	Break up Half term
22/02/21	School opens
12/03/21	Reports sent home (Y1-5)
17/03/21	Parent's Evening 1 (3:40-7:00pm)
24/03/21	Parent's Evening 2 (3:40-6:30pm)
26/03/21	Finish for Easter
12/04/21	Return to school
03/05/21	May Bank Holiday
14/05/21	Training Day
28/05/21	Children break up for Half Term
07/06/21	School opens
28/06/21	F/Stage reports sent home
07/07/21	Parent's Evening 1 (3.40-7.00pm)
14/07/21	Parent's Evening 11 (3.40-6.30pm)
23/07/21	Break up

Sadly, we cannot include any of our usual events such as Xmas plays, discos and so on. Who knows what the future holds? We will keep you posted.

Parent's Evenings will be held via Teams. Unless there are any significant changes to COVID procedures.

Thanks you for your understanding.