

Shillington Lower Newsletter

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk



Our value of the month: Responsibility

FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2018

This week you will have had information by Parentmail and a hard copy about the Governors consultation to federate the school with Stondon Lower school from January 2019. Information is also available on our website. I just want to take this opportunity to reassure Parents and Carers of the benefits of this for both schools: It's a really exciting positive and proactive move forward; both schools are and will remain equal and this is truly a mutually arranged proposal made in the very best interests of our parents and pupils. Parents should see no difference to the arrangement as it is now as the biggest change will be to do with Governance.

Shillington and Stondon will maintain their own names, identities and uniforms which is usually parents biggest worry. By being proactive about this now, at this point in time, we can make the most of those benefits in a climate of ever rising costs and demands on our budgets. The opportunities for collaboration and mutual support for teachers and support staff, access to best practice and the sharing of resources and costs like trips, visitors and other resources will bring many benefits to both schools. Mrs Young will remain as the Deputy Head here at Shillington and is available when I am not.

Governors will host an information session which will give Parents and Carers the opportunity to ask any questions about the proposal. This will be held at **Shillington Lower School on 10th October between 6 and 7pm. Please come along. If parents and Carers are unable to attend on this date, they are most welcome to attend the following Wednesday 17th at Stondon also between 6 and 7.**

Miss Woodham

Harvest Festival – 15th October—All Saints Church

Our Harvest Festival will take place at All Saints Church in Shillington on Monday 15th October at 2pm. Each class will present a short item to mark the occasion and parents and carers are invited to join us at the church for this celebration. Children will be dismissed from school at the end of the day as usual. Don't forget to send in non-perishable items such bottles and packets, store cupboard basics such as tea, coffee, sugar, rice, pasta, tinned goods etc. We plan to donate all the goods to the Food Bank (The Need Project). Please support us to support our local community.



Open Morning for Parents of Prospective Shillington Pupils

Tuesday 30th October 2018

We would be very grateful if friends and family could spread the word that our Open Morning for prospective pupils is on the Tuesday immediately after half-term. We will be advertising this with posters locally and via local social media, but these are not as effective in the end as our own parents and families.

Of course the school is happy to receive visitors enquiring about places across all year groups at other times, but this is a key moment for letting people see the school in full flow and getting a taste of why Shillington Lower is such a good place for children to start their great educational journey.

Pixie News

We are continuing our topic on 'All About Me' We have been talking about our homes, families and pets this week. The children have made lovely family pictures, painting with cutters and have enjoyed sharing their family books which they made at home. Thank you to all the families who have completed them.. Next week we are concentrating on our names!

Unicorns News

Over the last couple of weeks in Unicorns we have been creating stories based around the books 'Harry and the dinosaurs'. The children have acted out, planned and written our own stories. In maths we have been learning about one more and one less as well as comparing numbers. We have also started our topic of Polar Exploration and Shackleton, locating the South pole on the globe and thinking about what it may have been like to travel there.

Centaur's News

The last two weeks have been very busy in Centaur Class. We have been working extremely hard on improving instructional writing in English; learning what imperative verbs and prepositions are and their impact on instructions. This has been linked to our topic of The Stone Age during which we wrote instructions on how to wash a woolly mammoth and also followed instructions to make a mammoth too!

Rainbows News

What a busy first full week we have had in Rainbows! The children have settled really well and are enjoying making new friends. We have been learning our Phonics and playing some interactive Phonics games. We have also made sound books and been practicing to write our names. This week, we enjoyed getting changed for P.E and going into the hall for some fun games.

Dragons News

This week in Dragon class we have been looking at the book At The Beach by Roland Harvey. We were so inspired by the pictures and postcards in the book that we wrote our own postcards. We were concentrating on the use of adjectives and correct punctuation. In maths we have been continuing our revision of place value and have applied our learning to different types of questions. Our topic for this term is The Great Fire of London, we have started by learning what London is like today. If anyone has any photographs/souvenirs from trips to London we'd love to see them!

Phoenix News

Over the last couple of weeks in Phoenix class the children have been reading and learning about fables. They have all acted out, planned and written their own fable with a moral. In Maths we have been learning about place value. The children have completed some challenging work looking at the patterns and relationships between hundreds and thousands numbers. We have also started our topic of North and South America and researched the artist Joaquin Torres Garcia.

Parent Open Session—Wednesday 10th October 2018 at 2.30pm

We would like to invite parents/carers into school on Wednesday 10th October 2.30—3.20pm to work alongside the children in the classroom. We hope this will give you an opportunity to see how the children have settled into their new class and provide an insight into the classroom ethos and routines.

We do ask that parents and carers leave the session at 3:20pm and wait as usual at the school gates for the children's dismissal at the end of the day. This is to enable staff to continue with their end-of school routine for children and ensure the safe release of all children. Unfortunately we do not have the space to accommodate siblings or young children at these sessions. Can we also please request that mobile phones are not used on school premises during this time.

Flu Vaccination Programme 2018

The Flu vaccination programme this year includes years Reception to Year 4 and is delivered by a nasal spray. Further information will follow however we can share an information video which contains statements from younger children about the flu vaccine, what happens on the day, what it is like and why it is important to have it done. This can be found at:

<https://vimeo.com/dfptv/review/234319578/2f0950b9bf>

Paperwork will come home for this on Monday 1st. Consent forms must be returned to school by 12th October—we are unable to accept any consent forms after this date.

Goodbye.....

Today we say goodbye to Mr Griffin who having finished his Apprenticeship is now moving on. We wish him lots of luck for the future.

Thank you to Mr Simkins who has kindly donated and delivered soil for our Pixie garden growing boxes .



Shillington Superstars

Rainbows

Alfie

Unicorns

Dexter

Teddy

Dragons

Hallie-Paige

Jazmin

Centaurs

William

Phoenix

Josh

Harry T

Exciting Writing

Unicorns

Lottie

Elsie

Dragons

Ellen

Lily

Centaurs

Corbin

Leo

Phoenix

Oscar

Joe

Diary Dates

Parent Open Session—All Years— 2.30pm (Please note this is a time change from previously shown on website calendar)

Federation Consultation Event for Parents and Carers—Wednesday 10th October 6-7pm

Harvest Festival—15th October 2pm at All Saints Church, Shillington

Parent Consultations—16th October & 18th October (details to follow)

Open Day for 2019 Rainbows—30th October

Flu Vaccinations, Years R-4— 8th November (details to follow)

School Photographs—21st November

Young Voices, Yr4—4th February 2019

Term Dates

2018 - 19

Autumn Term 2018

Wednesday 5th September 2018 - Wednesday 19th December 2019

(Half Term 22nd - 26th October 2018)

(Closure Day 29th October 2019)

Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3rd January 2019 - Friday 5th April 2019

(Half Term 11th - 15th February 2019)

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 - Friday 19th July 2019

(Half Term 27th - 31st May)

(School Closed Monday 6th May 2019)

Universal Free School Meal Funding

The funding from the Government for universal free school meals continues to be triggered by the takeup of meals on two days across the school year; October and January. The first census day takes place next week on **Thursday 4th October**. The number of meals taken on this day will link directly to the funding given to the school to pay for the universal meals – if few children take the meal on this day, less funding will be given and the school will need to use their Local Authority budget allocated to the school for resources, staff etc. to finance the cost of these free meals. We are therefore urging all children in Rainbows, Years 1 and 2 to have a school meal on that day. Zoe, our Kitchen Manager has ensured that a favourite meal is on the menu: Pizza/fish and chips. (Please note chips will NOT be served on the Friday as well!. We will be serving Beef Lasagne). Please help the school to maximise its funding income for this by taking up entitlement to a free school meal on **Thursday 4th October**. Thank you.