

# Shillington Lower School Newsletter

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk



Our value of the month is Resilience

FRIDAY 11TH JANUARY 2019

## The Importance of Daily Reading

Child A reads	Child B reads	Child C reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8000 words per year
		

Reading everyday is so important and has a huge effect on children's reading development. Children read in school in **lots of different ways not always on a 1:1 basis but there isn't enough hours in the day.**

Read at home a little everyday, enjoy sharing a book together and let us know when you have by writing in your child's reading record.

**Want to be a better reader? Simply read.**

Our value of resilience is an important skill in preparing children for adolescence and adulthood generally but is also so useful in building children's confidence and learning power. As a school we are working on five skills needed to develop a growth mindset (Reflectiveness, Self improving, Reflecting, Independent Learning, Inquisitiveness). We are aiming on developing the following learning behaviours in our children. We want them to show resilience by...

- Enjoying the challenges of the learning pit (the place where learning is new and perhaps tricky)
- Keeping on task and managing distractions
- Being able to try another way
- Persevering and not giving up
- Using what we already know to help
- Having a positive attitude to mistakes
- Listening to others and being prepared to change your mind

Here are some ideas for things you could try at home to build resilience in your children.

- ⇒ Try something new together so children can see that adults too are always learning. Praise the effort that every one makes!
- ⇒ Get the family together and tackle a task that it would be easier to leave like clearing out the toys or the shed and demonstrate how it would be easier to give up but don't.
- ⇒ Encourage children to try a different way with their homework or when working out an unfamiliar word in their reading books.
- ⇒ Have a focus on how we learn from mistakes, adults too! Make mistakes a part of your day, discuss them and identify what you've learnt from making that mistake. Above all show children that it's OK to make them!
- ⇒ Have a family discussion about an issue that affects the family and agree a compromise which shows that as adults too we can listen and change our minds.

## Rainbows News

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have enjoyed the break with family and friends. We have been very excited and very busy this week. We had fun at circle time talking about what we did over the holidays and some of the special gifts we received. We have been **reading 'Elmer' this week and all the other** lovely stories around him. We have painted, designed, coloured and learnt some interesting facts about elephants.

We have also been working on adding two numbers together.

## Unicorns News

Unicorn class have had a busy start to the new term. We have introduced our new science topic of materials identifying different objects and the materials they are made from. In Maths we have been working hard at counting forwards and backwards to 100 and representing numbers in different ways. **Don't forget to practice your counting at home!** The children really enjoyed computing this week. We begun learning about the laptops and how to work them and login independently.

## Centaur News

Centaur class have had a busy start to the new spring term. In Maths we have been continuing to learn strategies for multiplying and dividing and I have to say that we are certainly thinking and talking about our learning in much more detail.

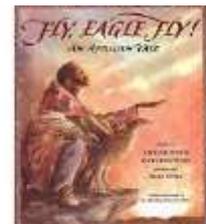
In English we have begun the term learning about poetry; in particular onomatopoeia and humorous poems. We all enjoyed learning 'Talking Turkeys' by Benjamin Zephaniah and found that we were all quite good at reciting the poem in a West Indian accent! We will be moving on to creating our own shape poems using ICT next week; so much more to look forward to!

## Pixie News

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our families. We would also like to welcome our new children who have started in Pixie class this term. This week we have been working on our scissor control. Everyday the children have completed different scissor activities from cutting feathers and catalogues to cutting playdough. The children have really enjoyed our phonic listening games especially the sound button game.

## Dragons News

In Dragon class we have started looking at our new focus book in English - Fly, Eagle, Fly. It's an African tale and so fits perfectly with our current topic of Africa! So far we have read the book and tried to learn the story off by heart by creating story maps. In Maths we are continuing our work from before Christmas of sharing and grouping, but with a focus on division calculations. Our knowledge of the 2 times table has really helped us to divide by 2. In Topic lessons we have found Africa on a world map and have learnt about Eagles and their habitats.



## Phoenix News

Phoenix class have settled back into school after a brilliant Christmas break. We have been challenging ourselves with conversion of metres to kilometres in Maths. At the beginning the children didn't know what a kilometre was but now have mastered the conversion with confidence. In English we have been looking at bedtime stories and have planned and written our own stories about a Dragon. Our Topic this term is 'Ancient Egypt' and we are excited to explore this throughout the term.

During our active assembly this week we have been learning Yoga.



### Universal Free School Meals

As we have mentioned previously, the funding from the Government for universal free school meals is triggered by the take-up of meals on two days across the school year. The second census day takes place on Thursday 17th January. 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/salmon fish fingers and chips. Please note that chips will not be served on Friday, we will be having beef lasagne that day. Please help the school to maximise its funding income for this by taking up their entitlement to a free school meal on Thursday 17th January.

Thank you.



Miss Sharpe is running a Finger Knitting club at lunchtime but we are a little short of wool in school—if you have any wool spare we would be very grateful for donations. Thank you.

**Social and Emotional development**

Ms Copeland is currently running lots of clubs and groups throughout the school that help support our values ethos and the children's emotional and social development. Many of the children in school will experience one of these groups at some time during the year. This is to help children develop new skills and support the PSHE curriculum as well as the governments recent focus on mental health and wellbeing. Other staff are also running clubs this term at lunchtimes for children to engage in.

**Responsibility**

To encourage our value of responsibility children from years 3 and 4 will be taking on roles within the school at lunchtimes. They will be supporting the younger children and demonstrating good role models both in the lunch hall and in the playground.

**Websi te**

Our new Shillington & Stondon Federation website is currently under construction and is due to be live next term. Please bear with us as our current Shillington website may have minimal information in the meantime. Please continue to refer to our Shillington website for information and contact the school office if you have any questions you cannot resolve online.

**Staff changes**

We would like to welcome Miss Tori Hodgson to Dragons class this term. Miss Hodgson is a student teacher on a teaching placement and she is going to be working in Year 2 for the term. Miss Sharpe will still be in the class and available for parents to contact.

Ms Anita Hare will also now be working in the main school supporting a child 1-1.

Shillington

Superstars

**Rainbows**

Joe

**Unicorns**

Ben S

**Dragons**

Imogen

**Centaur**s

**Phoenix**

Dylan

Exciting Writing

**Rainbows**

Lorelei

Ellis

**Unicorns**

Heath

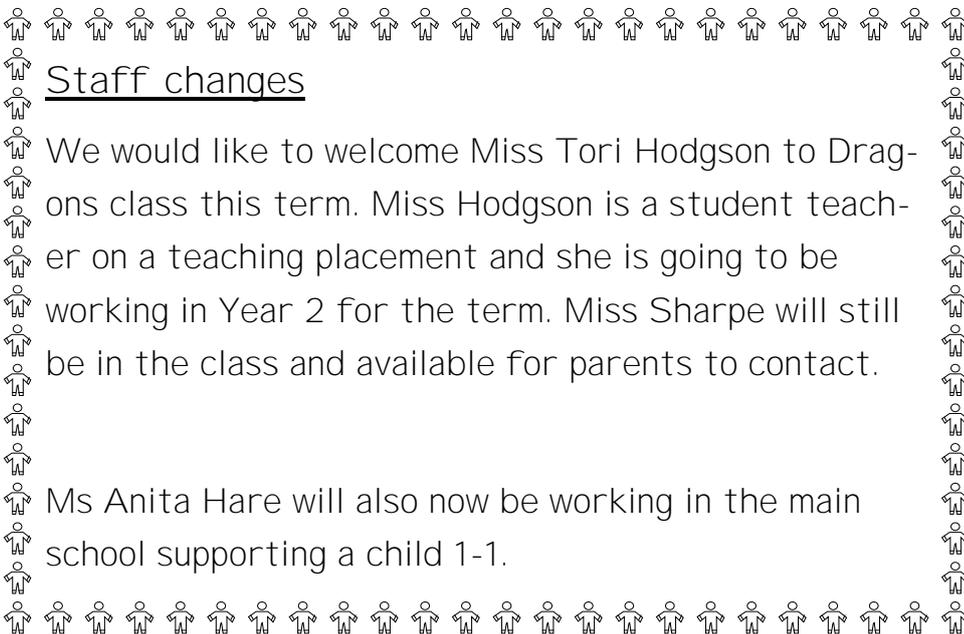
Toby

**Dragons**

Sebastian

**Phoenix**

Harry T



## Diary Dates

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14th Jan 3.40pm—Year 4 Residential Parents Information Meeting

4th Feb 2019—Yr 4 Young Voices

22nd—24th May—Yr 4 Residential Trip

### Term Dates

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)

### Starting School 2019—Reception & Middle

Please remember that applications for Reception and Middle school places for September 2019 are only open until Tuesday 15th January.

All applications received after 15 January 2019 will be deemed as late and not processed until the late allocation round, which will take place after the national offer day. Late applications are not dealt with until after all the on time applications have been considered. Places are not reserved at schools in the on time allocation for late catchment children or any other circumstances.

**Submitting a late application significantly reduces your child's chance of an offer of a place at one of your preferred schools.**

All late applications need to be made using the paper application form as the online facility is only available for on time applications and will close at midnight on 15th January 2019.

Online applications can be made via the Central Bedfordshire website at;

[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

Paper applications can be downloaded for the CBC website. *Remember; the on time application deadline is Tuesday 15th January 2019.*

There is NO automatic transfer from our Pixie pre-school class into our Reception year and parents must apply to their home local authority.

