

Shillington Lower Newsletter

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk



Our value of the month: Responsibility

FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2018

WELCOME BACK !

Welcome back to all of our families, staff and children. We especially welcome our new Pixie's and Reception children and their families to Shillington Lower school. I hope you all had a fantastic summer break, enjoyed the beautiful weather and had some family time. The children are all settled into their new year groups and are busy getting on with new learning already.

Shillington Superstars

Unicorns

Kara

Dragons

Poppy

Phoenix

Max

'Schools for the future' in Central Bedfordshire

You may have heard in the press or elsewhere rumours about Central Bedfordshire and the future of the school system. Schools have been asked to reassure parents that no decisions have yet been made and no changes are imminent. Within the Council's website there is a Schools for the Future page which provides the public with a brief summary of the project and work so far. The link for the website is; <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school/schools-future/overview.aspx>

Information for Parents Booklet 2018—2019

Traditionally we have sent this out in book bags at the start of every year however as an eco school we are always looking at ways to prevent unnecessary waste and therefore this year would like to sign post you to our website where this document can be found;

<http://shillington.sites.schooljotter2.com/information-1/parent-handbook>

If you prefer a hard copy of this document please contact the office.

Mrs Young's run

As mentioned in a previous newsletter Mrs Young will be running the Richmond 10K this Saturday, 15th September, in aid of Great Ormond Street hospital charity. She has been training hard all summer and is now ready for her challenge. We look forward to hearing all about it next week in assembly.

If you would like to sponsor her please visit

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Kerry-young79 or you can leave money at reception.

Many thanks to those who have already donated.

Pixie News

We were very excited to welcome the children back into Pixie class after the summer break. We also welcomed lots of new friends into preschool this week and they have all settled in really well. Our topic for the next few weeks is 'all about'. We will be painting our own portraits and talking about our families.

Rainbows News

We have absolutely loved our first week in Rainbows. The children have had so much fun getting used to their new classroom and making lots of new friends. We have been practicing to write our names, singing lots of counting songs and even been making our own play dough following instructions. We have enjoyed playing outside in the garden on the trikes and scooters as well as playing with the diggers in the sand. We can't wait for next week!

Unicorns News

In Unicorn class we have settled really well and been really busy getting use to some new routines and a few new friends. We have already created some great pieces of work around the book 'Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs' as well as counting and sorting objects in maths.

Dragons News

We have had an excellent start to the new school year in Dragon Class. We have been discussing Growth Mindset and how it can help us with our learning. We have already started looking at place value in Maths and have completed some tricky challenges.

Centaurs News

We have had a brilliant start to the new school year. Getting used to new surroundings and new people can sometimes be a real challenge, however, we have spent a long time talking about what we need to do to help each other with our learning and promote a happy and healthy learning environment. Centaurs are all looking forward to the coming academic year.

Phoenix News

We have had a great few days in Phoenix class. All of the children have come into school with a positive attitude and ready for the challenges of Year 4. In maths we have been working really hard on knowing Roman Numerals up to 100. We have been looking at fables in English and begun our new topic 'The Americas'.

Shillington Lower School Parents Survey June 2018 Summary

We had responses covering 77 children which is a good response and more than double the number last year! The overall results are very positive. I am firstly delighted at the number of responses and the amount of time and effort that parents went to in writing comments. I will make sure that positive comments that specifically refer to individuals are passed on to them. I will also make sure that we address where possible as many concerns that you have. I am always available to listen to your comments and I warmly welcome them all. I take the viewpoint that we can always improve!

Highlights

Everyone agreed that they are confident in the school's future – with the percentage strongly agreeing (74%) being the highest in the last 10 years by some margin.

The Management categories were again strong, 100% agreed, 60% strongly agreed that the school is well managed; parents also thought the school is well resourced in terms of staff (95% agreed)

Staff encourage my child to be independent and confident; the school provides adequate access (physical and otherwise) for its disabled users; the school has good links with the community; and the two questions relating to the PTFA, all showed overwhelming agreement

Children enjoy coming to school (95% agreed) and feel safe and well cared for (96%)

Everyone agreed that children are encouraged to be independent and confident, the school values all children, and the school is welcoming.

Parents overwhelmingly thought it was beneficial to have the pre-school as part of the school and the before and after school club on the school site

Possible areas for review and improvement

Communication – the new question 'the school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning only had 36% in strong agreement, although 93% overall agreed. We have already made changes to the information we give parents about how well your children are doing. What we need to do now is be able to give parents a way of helping you support your children more effectively. We fully appreciate that finding time to attend open mornings and afternoons in school time, excludes working parents and so we are planning to develop our use of a free App called Seesaw and there will be more information about this coming out to you soon.

Extra curricular – only 43% strongly agreed although 94% overall agree, that the school offers a good range of activities that enhance learning. The range of activities offered within school time is very wide but we will look at ways of offering more clubs outside of school time. I would be interested to know what parents have a desire to see offered. Is it clubs that carry a cost, offered by other providers or is it no cost afterschool activities that parents are seeking?

We are looking at reintroducing a Parents' Forum. This may be something that we can discuss through this Forum.

Shillington Lower School PTFA Newsletter (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association)

As a parent you are a welcome member of the PTFA and are automatically considered a member as soon as you become part of the school. Being a member, you can do as little or as much as you want. You are welcome to come along to any of the PTFA meetings, you are not obliged to attend every meeting, and you are not committed to roles at every event.

To make the PTFA work, we are reliant on good will and volunteers.

We communicate via Parentmail, Shillington Lower School PTFA Facebook page and Shillington Mums Facebook page.

The group's purpose is to bring the community together, create fun events for both kids and parents, and work closely with the school to enhance our children's experience whilst at Shillington School. The funds we raise are all fed back into the school for the benefit of our children.

Annually we fund the maintenance and upkeep of the swimming pool, this costs in the region of £2,000. We are very fortunate to have this facility and the kids have regular use of this all over the summer, we also use the pool for out of school activities such as the recent camping event.

Each year we give a donation to each class for their school trips of around £200 per class and fund the Year 4 leavers presents and Young Voices trip.

We provide fruit, refreshments and ice lollies for Sports Day.

We do an Easter egg hunt and give every child an egg.

We serve Christmas dinner to the children and provide each child with a chocolate.

We also fund bigger projects or equipment that the school need over and above their curriculum or budget.

We have successfully replaced the flooring and all the tables in the field under the canopy; this was funded by a grant from Shillington Parish Council alongside £2,800 from the PTFA.

We hold a summer camping/fun day event, Christmas Fayre, ice-lolly and cake sales to name a few. We hope to be able to do more with new support, i.e. a summer ball?

We have a core team of people that meet regularly to plan events/fundraisers and liaise and coordinate directly with the school.

We have a rep for each year. Their role is a point of contact, to help communicate and get volunteers, attend meetings when they can and to help plan what the PTFA does.

If you have any questions or want to chat please contact:

Pixies James Howarth **We need another rep to join James, please get in touch for this**

Rainbows Victoria Barker/Sally Harrison

Year 1 Suzie Kidd/Emma Shelmerdine

Year 2 Lydia Sweeney/Claire Beedle/Karen Bohr

Year 3 Jackie Bowry/Chris Littlejohn/Blair Austin

Year 4 Minty Bhinder

You can contact us on our Facebook page; @Shillingtonptfa.

Please sign up to the page to receive all the latest news on events

Diary Dates

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 2018

(Half Term 22nd - 26th October 2018)

(Closure Day 29th October 2018)

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)

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>

The Book People www.thebookpeople.co.uk

Shillington Lower School have signed up to The Book People School Fundraising Scheme and can earn 10% on orders placed through their website. They currently have a special offer where you can receive £10 off a £40 order (until 21st Sept, please see attached flyer)



Starting School 2019

Online applications are now open via the Central Bedfordshire website at;

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Paper applications can be downloaded for the CBC website or are available by post on request. The 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.