

Parentmail Bulletin – 14th September 2017

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk



"Enjoy, aspire and achieve together to be the best that we can be."

PRE-SCHOOL – PIXIES CLASS OPENS

It was a real delight to see our brand new pre-school – Pixie class – open for the children on Monday. An immense amount of work has gone into the pre-school building to create a total transformation of the space. It looks attractive, stimulating and homely for the children. It has also been a pleasure to watch our very experienced and knowledgeable staff at work with the children – an enchanting scene of youngsters very well cared for and having a lovely time in their pre-school. We are having a Grand Opening on the afternoon of Friday 29th September. This will coincide with the Open Afternoon in the main school and we should be delighted if any parents visiting that day would like to drop in and take a look and speak to the pre-school colleagues. Before then anyone who is looking for a pre-school place is very welcome to contact the school office and arrange to visit.

Parent Information Booklet

We send this booklet out annually as an update regarding systems and procedures within the school. It outlines key information about the school that we hope you will find useful. If you feel there are other areas that would be a useful inclusion, please let me know. This booklet will be sent home next week.

Break Time Snacks and Drinks

As detailed in the annual parent information booklet, a fruit and vegetable scheme provides children in Rainbows and Years 1 and 2 with a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day. Children in Years 3 and 4 should bring a healthy snack (fruit or vegetable). Please be reminded that we are nut free school. We strongly encourage children to drink water throughout the school day. Only still water is permitted – NO sparkling water.

Open Afternoon – Friday 29th September

We would like to invite parents/carers into school on Friday 29th September 2:50 – 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 please request that mobile phones are not used on school premises during this time?

In the case of year 1 – Unicorns – Mrs Matcham is on a very important First Aid course on this day. Therefore, we would like to suggest that parents of Unicorn pupils drop in on Friday 6th October – same arrangements as for other classes on 29th September.

Harvest Festival – 2nd October

Our Harvest Festival this year will take place at All Saints Church in Shillington on Monday 2nd October at 2pm. Each class will present a short item to mark the occasion. We would like to invite parents and carers to join us at the church for this celebration. Children will be dismissed from school at the end of the day as usual. Once again we are hoping to distribute harvest gift parcels within the Shillington village community. If you know of someone within the village that you feel would like to receive such a parcel, please let the school office know.

School Admissions for September 2018

We have been advised by the Local Authority that school admissions for children starting school in September 2018 and transferring to middle/upper school are now open. More information can be found on the following link:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school/admissions/2018/overview.aspx>

Parents and carers have until 15th January 2018 to apply for a lower or middle school place.

**We will be holding an open morning for parents interested in their children starting
Shillington Lower in September 2018
on the morning of Tuesday 31st October.**

Dates for your diary

18th September	Rainbows children begin full time
18 th September	Year 4 PGL residential information session for parents - 3.40pm
26th September	Phonics parent information session 9.00am
29th September	Parent open session 2:50pm – parents/carers welcome
2nd October	Harvest festival 2.00pm at Shillington Church - parents/carers welcome
17th October	Individual & Sibling Photographs
11th/17th/19th	October Structured conversations
30th October	Teacher training day – <i>school closed to pupils</i>
31st October	Open morning for prospective parents 2017

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2016 – Tuesday 19th December 2017

(Half term 23rd – 27th October)

INSET DAY 30th October

Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 3rd January 2017 – Thursday 29th March 2018

(Half term 12th – 16th February)

Summer Term 2018

Wednesday 17th April 2017 – Friday 20th July 2018

(Half term 28th May – 1st June)

Our current value is "Excellence."