

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk

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

Half term

We break up for half term tomorrow and children return to school on **Tuesday 31st October**.

We hope you all have an enjoyable break. Thank you very much to the PTFA for organising our end of half-term Discos and to Mrs Young for organising the great music.

Wrest Park visits - a great success

Well done to Rainbows and Centaurs for working so hard and being so well behaved for our visits to Wrest Park on Monday. Phoenix class will undoubtedly match that when they have their visit tomorrow, Friday. We were blessed with such lovely weather for striding in all directions around the park and enjoying the glorious mansion too.

Thank you to Arnold Academy, Barton, for lending us their minibus and thereby enabling us to put on this outing for free. Thanks also to supporting volunteers without whom we could not have staffed the visits.

Standing in the road outside school

Before and after-school the lovely social atmosphere at the school gates is a delightful feature of life at Shillington. However could everyone also be aware that there is still car movement in the area, including in and out of school so we need adults keeping an eye out as the children are not consistently alert to the dangers. The children should also not climb up onto the wall for fear of slipping.

Open Morning for Parents of Prospective Shillington Pupils Tuesday 31st October

We should also 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 also 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 it is such a good place for children to start their great educational journey.

Message from Bedfordshire Police

As Halloween approaches Bedfordshire Police is reminding parents and guardians to keep their children safe.

If possible, parents and guardians should go out trick or treating with their children, sticking to well-lit areas and only knocking on the doors of people they know. Some people may have 'No trick or treat' posters up at their doors and we ask that these are respected.

Bedfordshire Police is also reminding children and parents to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may feel intimidated by people calling at their doors and appeals to all residents to look out for their neighbours who may feel frightened during this time.

Extra patrols will be on hand over this period to ensure that the evenings can be enjoyed safely. If you do have any concerns during Halloween, it's important that you call 101 in order to keep 999 free for genuine emergencies – 31st October is one of the police's busiest nights of the year! For more advice about Halloween please visit www.bedfordshire.police.uk



Dinners Next Term

School dinners next term will cost £75.60 up to Christmas. Our menu will change after half-term; this will follow in a separate Parentmail. All allergens will be catered for.

Pixies Update

As this bulletin goes to press we are just at the initial deadline for applications for places in Pixies pre-school for January. As you will know, Pixies will be open both morning and afternoon in the New Year. Thank you very much for spreading the news both about the extended hours and also about what a lovely setting it is. The numbers coming forward for places has shot up and Pixies will be really buzzing in 2018. Thanks also to the families who have placed children here from our start in September – this has been excellent for Shillington to ensure that we have our systems and processes very well worked out and practised before the bigger numbers in January. Many congratulations to the staff who have worked so hard and gained the appreciation and approval of families so quickly.

Violin Lessons

We have a number of really impressive violinists in school. The hope will be that they stick with their playing in the coming years because they have certainly had a great start here. You may be aware that learning a musical instrument also has great benefits in the way it exercises your brain and helps it work better in lots of other areas of learning! If you want to take advantage of the availability of music lessons in school do please contact Central Bedfordshire Inspiring Music on telephone number 0300 300 6604 or email inspiring.music@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Message from PTFA

Save the Date - The PTFA Christmas Fayre will be held at school on the 8th December, full details to follow. We will be holding a raffle again this year so if you can donate a prize or work for a company that may donate please can you email the PTFA at ptfashillington@gmail.com
Many thanks for your support.

Top Table

Apologies from Mr Haddon for not being able to join top table this week – very busy driving the minibus back and forth from Wrest Park endlessly. Nevertheless congratulations to the following pupils who were chosen for their exemplary behaviour and values:

Elsie, Heath, Liam, Rosemary, Ayden, Ayrton, Healey, Max C, Harry T, Denis, Camille, Sally

Shillington Superstar Awards

<i>Rainbows: Teddy</i>	
<i>Unicorns: Noah</i>	<i>Centaurs: Jessie</i>
<i>Dragons: Jett</i>	<i>Phoenix: Niah</i> Well done!

Dates for your diary

20th October	Last day of this half-term
20 th October	Year 4 visit to Wrest Park
	PTFA Halloween Discos – Rainbows & Yr1 – 2.30 – 3.20pm
	Years 2, 3 & 4 – 3.40 – 4.30pm
30th October	Teacher training day – school closed to pupils
31st October	Open morning for prospective parents
8th November	Y3 trip to St Albans
1st–3rd December	Christmas Tree Festival at Congregational Church
7th December	Pantomime visit Jack & the Beanstalk at The Gordon Craig Theatre
8th December	PTFA Christmas Fayre
11th December	KS1 Festive Merry Melodies 2pm at All Saint's Church
12th December	KS1 Festive Merry Melodies 10am at All Saint's Church
13th December	School Christmas dinner
13th December	Christmas jumper day - £1 donation
14th December	Rainbows Nativity in school 10am and 2:30pm
15th December	Parent open session: Christmas Crafts 9:05am – 10am
1st February	Year 4 Young Voices at the O2 Arena
26 th – 28 th March	Year 4 residential visit to Caythorpe Court

Term Dates

Tues 5th Sept 2017 – Tues 19th Dec 2017 (Half term 23rd Oct – 27th Oct) **Inset Day 30.10.17**

Weds 3rd Jan 2018 – Thurs 29th March 2018 (Half term 12th Feb – 16th Feb 2018)

Tues 17th Apr 2018 – Fri 20th July 2018 (Half term 28th May – 1st June 2018)

May Day 7th May – Sch Closed

****Please note our school is open Mon 4th June 2018 (some surrounding schools closed)****

Our current value is "Inspiration"