

# Parentmail Bulletin – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

[www.shillingtonlower.co.uk](http://www.shillingtonlower.co.uk)



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

**Our current value is "Simplicity and Joy"**

## **End of term**

We break up for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at the usual time and return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018. We wish everyone a simply joyful and very Happy Christmas!

## **Thank you**

Clearly we had a very challenging start to the week with the snow and ice. Thank you very much for your help and support and also for the really excellent way the children dealt with the constraints of snow and ice around the school site. The rolling end of day on Monday and Tuesday was particularly well done for reducing the pressure on the ice rink/crossroads at the top of Greenfields.

## **\*Some additional events for parents in school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December\***

### **Key Stage 1 Christmas Story and Songs at 2.30pm**

As parents are sadly aware, we had to cancel the afternoon performance scheduled for this week. This is being replaced by an afternoon performance (*in school*) on Monday at 2.30pm. Due to Health and Safety requirements for our school hall numbers are limited for this performance, therefore we will be sending home today 1 ticket per child (in blue books). If you require one more ticket please request this via the Blue Home/School Book and they will be sent home tomorrow.

### **Key Stage 2 – Christmas Story and Carols at the start of the day on Monday (9.00am)**

This event has been set up following parent requests to hear their children singing their Christmas songs. Parents who wish to attend for this can come into school from 8.50am and it is anticipated this performance will last no more than approximately 15 minutes. KS2 are allowed to wear Christmas hat/boppers or tinsel for this event.

## **Farewell from Mr Haddon**

As parents know, my stay at Shillington was definitely time limited and that time comes to an end on Tuesday. For me it has been a delightful term as well as a fascinating professional experience. Shillington Lower is blessed with so many aspects and characteristics that make for a great place for children to grow and flourish. The support and full engagement of families is really essential to any good school, and Shillington has that in delightful plenty. The happy fascination with learning amongst the children and their pleasure to get to school in the morning also makes for great educational progress for all. The staff have not only been very welcoming indeed but also a pleasure to watch at work – with great professional skill in view from Pre-school through to Year 4 and in all the support roles which are so important.

I should also congratulate the Governors on how carefully, thoroughly and effectively they have set up the school for this great new development on 1<sup>st</sup> January. It is no surprise at all to hear that Central Bedfordshire are looking carefully at the process here as a great example of excellent practice to be promoted elsewhere across the authority.

There are many other reasons why I am very grateful indeed for both my time at Shillington and the way I have been made to feel very much at home from the start. Thank you very much indeed and all good wishes for the future.

*Peter Haddon*

## **Shillington Sports News**

As we reflect on the success of the recent sporting events in school this term we are proud to announce that Shillington Lower School came, for the first time ever! – *first place* at a recent KS1 Multi Skills Event organised by Redborne School Sport Partnership. Well done to everyone involved.

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

Again, thank you very much indeed for your support for Jumper Day. Combined with Christmas Dinner it made for a particularly lovely and colourful day in school. Thanks also to the PTFA for their work with Christmas Dinner – a fantastic team and they really make it a very different lunch time experience for all the children following on from the hard work of Zoe and Carole in the kitchen.

*and talking of our wonderful PTFA....*

## **PTFA Christmas Fayre**

A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising such a fantastic Christmas Fayre last Friday. Feedback from the vast numbers attending the event was hugely positive and over £1200 was raised at this event! Well done everyone.

## **School Dinner – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

We have decided to change the menu for the last day of school to Fish and Chips or Pizza and Chips instead of the advertised meal.

## **Birds of Prey Visit and Photographs**

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 we will be visited by Eagle Heights who will talk to the children about the conservation of birds of prey. After the talk there will be an opportunity for the children to have their photographs taken holding one of the birds, if your child would like this there is a charge of £5 and written permission will be required– a letter will follow in January regarding this.

## **Lateness**

There have obviously been some serious practical challenges for timely arrival at school this week. However it has also been the case that we have been slipping on prompt arrival over the past few weeks and a number of children arriving at school after 8:55am. School **officially starts at 8:55am** and children should be in school by this time. The school gate is open from 8:45am. Research has proven that regular lateness or absence has a detrimental effect on learning outcomes and at Shillington Lower we aim for every child to be the best they can be.

## **Shillington Superstars**

The following pupils were recognised for overall achievement this term:

*Rainbows: Kai  
Unicorns: Jaimee  
Dragons: Cain  
Centaurs: Jack  
Phoenix: Rheanna*

Well done everyone!

## **Dates for your diary**

18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Story & Carols - 9am in school
18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Story & Songs - 2.30pm in school- ticket only
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Eagle Heights Birds of Prey visit (all years)
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 4 to O2 Arena, Young Voices
26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Residential Trip

## **Term Dates**

Tues 5th Sept 2017 – Tues 19th Dec 2017  
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 (some surrounding schools are closed) \*\*