



# SHEERHATCH NEWS

January 2019

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Belated Happy New Year greetings to you all and welcome back to the Spring Term. As usual, there will be plenty going on, so I have included a few dates that have already been set. Please keep for reference. This is often the term when adverse weather may hit, so please see below information on how we will communicate any impact on school.

## TOPICS

A new term means new topics and I hope your children will be excited to tell you all about their new learning.

The Squirrels are having '**Rhyme Time**' playing with words and learning poems. Polar Bear footprints in the classroom and other clues signalled the start of the Rabbits journey into '**Ice World**'. The climate may be warmer in the Otters as they visit the '**Rainforests**'. The Foxes will be getting everywhere as they delve into '**Around the World in 80 days**'. Meanwhile, the Badgers will be in Ancient Rome as they discover about '**Swords and Sandals**' amongst other things. The Woodpeckers will also be in the Rainforest, delving a little deeper as they enter the '**Rumble in the Jungle**'. In Owls, watch out as '**Here Come the Anglo Saxons!**'

## ABSENCE

Please remember to try and call school as soon as possible (and before 9.30am) if your child is going to be absent. In case of illness, if you are unsure, please see the document 'what to do if my child is ill' on the school website (under parents letters).

We continue to receive a number of requests for holiday absence in term time. Thank you to those parents who make every effort to avoid holidays in term times and those who come and speak to me to explain circumstances where they have done so. There are very few occasions where these absences can be authorised, so if the holidays are taken, the absences are marked as unauthorised. The governing body will be considering criteria for referring to the local authority for a fine.

Good attendance at school has a direct impact on your child's attainment and progress.

## LAND

We hope that work will start very soon on clearing some of the land at the rear of our Cople site. If all goes well, we should have the long awaited increased PE and play space in use by the end of the year!

## STARTING SCHOOL

The deadline for applying for school places (starting Reception in September 2019) is on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to those of you who have helped share information about our school through facebook and other means. We are keen to keep our numbers up in the face of competition from new and expanding schools in surrounding villages, so please continue to spread the word.

## PARKING

Please drive and park with due regard for children's safety and consideration of our neighbours. There have, unfortunately, been complaints of driveways being blocked recently. We would also be grateful if space could be left for the minibus directly outside of the Willington site and at the end of the zig zags outside of the Cople site, so that the children can get on and off safely.

## BAD WEATHER

The need to close school in the event of bad weather is rare, but should this occur information will be shared via Parent Mail, Facebook and Twitter as well as on the Bedford Borough Website. No news of closure means school is open.

## CARE CLUB

Care Club on both sites is open in the morning on both sites at 7.50am. If your child attends morning Care Club and you would like them to have breakfast there, they should arrive by 8.15am.

Remember that even if you do not have a regular booking, there is often space at Care Club should you need it on an ad hoc basis. However, to access this, your child would need to be registered annually. Please contact the office or see the school website for further details.

## CLASS PHOTOS

The school photographer will be visiting to take group photos of the Squirrels and the Owls on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Having reviewed the take up on the purchase of class photos, we have decided to limit this to 'First year at school' and 'Leavers'.

## WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL

Our parental consent form includes a section to give permission for your child to walk home alone. Currently this is only marked for Years 5 and 6. If you have a younger child whom you allow to walk home alone, could you please let the office know so that we are aware? Many thanks

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Johnson

## SPRING TERM DATES

Week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January (and fortnightly)

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January (and fortnightly)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Clubs start

Donna Gower (Family Support Worker) at Cople site 8.30am

Donna Gower (Family Support Worker) at Willington site 8.45am

KS2 Choir to Young Voices at O2

Squirrels celebrate Chinese New Year

3.30pm Y4 Parents' Meeting re: Frontier Centre

2.45pm Squirrels Open Afternoon

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

7.00pm Y6 Parents' Meeting re: SATs

Class photos – Squirrels and Owls

4.00-6.30pm Parent Consultations

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Y4 Residential Trip to Frontier Centre

Y3 Sports event

Y5 Boys football event

Y3/4 to Sandy Easter Trail

KS2 Orienteering competition

6.30pm Y3/4 Performance

Y1 Multi-sport event

Mufti day – last day of term

2.00pm School closes

## **FUTURE TERM DATES**

### Summer Term 2019

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

May Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Half Term Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

### Autumn Term 2019

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Half Term Holiday Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Staff Training Day Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### Spring Term 2020

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Half Term Holiday Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

### Summer Term 2020

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

May Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Half Term Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Yours sincerely

