



SHEERHATCH NEWS

September 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wish a very warm welcome to the Autumn Term to all our new and returning families. It is so lovely to have everyone back in school after such a long time. I am hugely grateful for all the support you have shown during such a challenging time. The uncertainties are ongoing, but together we will make sure we are doing the best for your children. Please remember to keep in touch with any queries and concerns.

STAFFING

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Meershoek after her maternity leave. She is really enjoying getting to know the Otters.

Mrs Bowers (Foxes) has recently changed her name and will now be Miss Warwick. The children are already familiar with this. *Please note her email address has not been changed.*

VOLUNTEERS

We are keen to welcome volunteers back in to school soon, particularly to hear children read. We are working on a specific risk assessment to ensure we can do this safely for everyone. If you have some time that you would like to offer for this please let the office know so that we can keep you in the loop with our arrangements.

NUTS

Could I please remind you that no nut products should be in school due to allergies? Please be aware of items such as chocolate spread, which often contain nuts.
Many thanks for your support with this.

ACHIEVEMENTS ASSEMBLY

We will continue to hold an Achievements Assembly for the whole school each week. This will be pre-recorded and shared in class each Friday. If the children have achieved something out of school they would like to share, could they please bring in badges, certificates, trophies etc. with a note (and maybe a photograph) on a Wednesday to Willington or Thursday to Cople to be included for that week?

OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE

Despite Covid restrictions and lockdown, we have been able to make some progress with the land at the rear of the Cople site. Initial clearance work has been completed and the area has been fenced, with a new gate from our existing field.

We are looking forward to developing this area further as funds allow so it can be more widely used for outdoor learning for the children from both sites. We have many ideas and plans, but grant bids have been affected by the current situation, so we may have to be patient. The governors have been working very hard on this project and we are hopeful that further development will continue soon. Watch this space!

MUSIC

We currently have instrumental teachers visiting school giving lessons on violin, piano and guitar. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument, please find information on www.bedsmusic.coop. Lessons are then organised in school.

We have subscribed again to Young Voices, which is a huge choir festival involving hundreds of schools performing in major venues across the country. Our Key Stage 2 choir have performed at the O2 and at Wembley over the last two years and we really hope to be able to take part again this year. It is such an amazing experience for the children and the audience! The concerts have been postponed to June/July 2021 (usually in January/February) and we will start choir when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we hope to look at ways that any children that are interested could have the music to get familiar with the songs at home.

MRS SUTHERLAND'S FUNDRAISING

Mrs Sutherland, Owls Class teacher, grows her hair to donate to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides wigs for children who lose their hair through medical treatment or other conditions. Usually before getting it cut she would ask for sponsorship, however we are not living in usual times! She has bunched up and is ready to send off 38cm of hair and would love to send a monetary donation with it too. It costs the charity £550 to provide a wig free of charge to a child. If you are in a position to be able to and would like to support this cause you can go to <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/donate-money>, or send a cheque, payable to The Little Princess Trust, or cash in a sealed envelope in to school by Friday 18th September. Mrs Sutherland estimates it will take her about six years to grow her hair long enough to donate again, unless she goes grey first!

CONTACT US

Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher directly with any relevant concerns, queries or information. Below are the teachers' email addresses.

Owls (Year 6)

k.sutherland@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Woodpeckers (Year 5)

a.page@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

l.buisson@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Badgers (Year 4)

e.case@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Foxes (Year 3)

j.bowers@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

r.carter@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Otters (Year 2)

c.meershoek@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Rabbits (Year 1)

h.smith@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Squirrels (Reception)

v.davy@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

PARENT GOVERNOR

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the strategic direction and support of the school. We would love to hear from anyone who has experience or an interest in finance, marketing, premises management/development or any aspects of education. Most of all you need a passion to help provide the best education possible for all our children. I will send out a ParentMail tomorrow with the details of nomination, election and appointment. In the meantime if you would like further information, please contact Siobhan Godden, our chair of governors on s.godden@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you receive certain benefits, you may be entitled to Free School Meals. If your circumstances have changed recently you may wish to check your entitlement. Even if your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 and automatically gets Free School Meals, it is worth applying as the school receives funds which we can use to support your child in a number of ways.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/education-welfare-service/free-school-meals/>

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please remember the school website has a range of useful school information. Below are a couple of quick links for you:

Information about school dinners:

<https://sheerhatchprimary.org.uk/parents/school-dinners/>

Information about Care Club:

<https://sheerhatchprimary.org.uk/parents/before-and-after-school-club/>

Lots of useful links to information and activities about online safety:

<https://sheerhatchprimary.org.uk/parents/e-safety/>
(Scroll right down to the bottom of the page for key parent information sheets)

Yours sincerely



Miss H Ryan

AUTUMN TERM DATES

Monday 28 th September	Bikeability – Squirrels
Week beg. 28 th September	Healthy Eating Week and Harvest collections
Tuesday 6 th October	Individual School Photos
26 th – 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	Staff Professional Development (school closed to pupils)
3 rd – 13 th November	Parents' Consultation Meetings (by arrangement)
Week beginning 9 th November	Flu Immunisations
Week beginning 30 th November	Bikeability - Owls
Week beginning 14 th December	Christmas events (to be arranged)
Friday 18 th December	End of term

FUTURE TERM DATES

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 26th March 2021
Half Term Holiday Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021

Summer Term 2021

Tuesday 13th April – Thursday 22nd July 2021
May Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021
Half Term Holiday Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021

Autumn Term 2021

Monday 6th September – Friday 17th December 2021
Half Term Holiday Monday 25th – Friday 29th October 2021
Staff Professional Development Days
Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September, Monday 1st November 2021 (school closed to pupils)