



SHEERHATCH NEWS

August 2021

Willington Road
Cople
Bedford
MK44 3TH

Church Road
Willington
Bedford
MK44 3QD

Tel: 01234 838827

office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

It may seem unusual to receive a school newsletter in the middle of the Summer holidays, but it's been another unusual year and to be honest, I needed to switch off completely for a couple of weeks! I hope to reflect on the last year as well as look ahead so this is being addressed to families of children who have left us and those who have not yet joined us as well as our current families.

I hope you are all enjoying some rest and relaxation whether at home, taking a staycation or venturing further afield, enjoying time together and with families and friends.

2020-21

We have got through another disrupted and challenging year. The January to March lockdown and school closure was incredibly hard for everyone and we fully recognise the toll that it took on children, families and staff. We adapted on a daily basis to help as best we could with remote learning and other challenges and we know how much support you gave at home too. I can only thank you again for doing everything you did and continue to do to support your child and the school. I also want to recognise all the staff who went above and beyond throughout the year. I am privileged to work with such a great team.

I am also extremely proud of the resilience shown by the children when school resumed as 'normal' in March. We put in a number of support measures to build up learning and well-being and by the Summer Term, it would often be difficult to remember that that chunk of school was disrupted.

We sought to pack in as much as possible into the Summer Term and it was a delight to be able to offer activity days, sports day, performances and finally a residential trip. Our facilities and those available to us came into their own as we were able to invite parents and carers to join us for some of those events in outdoor space.

On reflection, our sites have provided us with space not always available in other schools to be able to maintain clear and separate bubbles, which I believe has been a factor in keeping us largely COVID free for much of the year. I very much hope that along with continued safety awareness, this will continue to be the case.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Although we have not made as much progress as we would have liked with our outdoor learning, for obvious reasons, we are still very excited with what has been happening.

The outdoor learning environment at Cople is now very much a usable, though untamed, space. Further to clearance, fencing and the fabulous tree planting earlier in the year, the area now boasts its own fire pit with log seating around. Care Club children have planted an orchard and Rabbits class planted some wildflowers. Owls class enjoyed outdoor activities as part of their Sleepover in June and all Key Stage 2 classes have had experience of learning in the outdoors. Rabbits and Otters classes both visited and teachers have had training in outdoor learning, with more scheduled for the coming year.

On the Willington site, Mrs Smith has developed a growing area under the Oak trees and a water butt has been installed. The Early Years and Key Stage One curriculums offer lots of opportunities for outdoor learning, especially awareness of the natural world and growing food. We will continue to take advantage of the site and surrounding area as well as planning regular visits to the Cople site.

We have many more plans for the area at Cople including raised beds, greenhouse, bird boxes etc. and not least, our main fundraising project – an outdoor classroom. Do keep a look out for news on how you can help us with these plans as we move forward and how the children will be using the area for their learning.

LEAVERS

Leavers' Assembly was a blast! I'm so pleased that we were able to say farewell to our Year Six Leavers with the sharing of memories, talents and hopes and dreams for the future. Our Class of 2021 brought lots of fun and passion to Sheerhatch and we wish them all the best for their next steps.

Many will have already spent Summer School time in their secondary schools and I know they will be raring to go in September. I look forward to hearing about all their future successes.

We also wish the best of luck to those pupils leaving us from other year groups and hope they are happy in their new schools.

From the staff team, we also said goodbye to Mrs Page and Mrs Spratt. They have both contributed much to the school in their time with us and made a difference to all the pupils they have worked with. They take our very best wishes with them for their new endeavours.

THANK YOU

In addition to re-echoing my thanks to parents and staff, I would also like to mention the following groups.

Volunteers – whether you have come in to hear children read (when you were allowed), planted trees with the children or helped in another way (and there are many individuals who have done so), I thank you for your time and enthusiasm.

FOSH – the committee have continued to work hard during the year to offer adapted events and raise funds. Thank you all for your time and commitment and a special thank you must go to our most recent chairperson, Emma Parker, who steps down from FOSH after many years' service for Sheerhatch and previously for Willington. We are very grateful.

Governors – We are very lucky to have dedicated governors who support the school in so many ways, from their strategic role in curriculum, finance and many other areas to applying for funding grants and getting hands on with strimmers and mowers! Thank you all for all your support.

PAYMENTS

Before wrapping up the year, we would be grateful if you could check that any outstanding payments have been made including to Caterlink for school dinners or to the school for Care Club, trips or activities. Many thanks.

AUTUMN TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Term starts for children on Monday 6th September and we look forward to seeing everyone then. New reception children will be staying for mornings only for the first week and then full time from Monday 13th.

Whilst risk assessments may need to change at short notice, the current plans are as follows:

- Cople site will open at 0835 to start at 0845; all children should enter via the front gate and go straight to class; school will finish at 1525.
- Willington site will open at 0850 to start at 0900; all children should be brought to the front gate from where they can go straight to their classrooms; school will finish at 1515.
- PE kit (see below) should be worn on days when PE lessons are scheduled for children in Years 1 to 6 (timetables will be confirmed at the beginning of term).
- Reception children (Squirrels class) will change into their PE kit in to school on their PE day.
- For any after school sports club, kit should be brought to change into at the end of the school day.
- Children from Reception to Year 4 should only need to bring in their bookbag to school daily.
- Children in Year 5 and 6 may use a plain black back pack to carry their folder and may bring their own pencil case if they wish.
- For further day to day information this [link](#) will take you to the updated information leaflet on the school website

UNIFORM

We have been flexible over the last year with uniform, but I would like to take the opportunity of the new school year to ensure that pupils are attending school in full and correct school uniform, including PE kit.

- Summer uniform can be worn until the end of September (white polo shirts with grey shorts/trousers/skirts or red gingham dress).
- Winter uniform for all from the beginning of October (white collared shirts with tie, grey trousers/skirts etc. and red v-neck jumper or cardigan)
- Whilst clip on ties are available via our suppliers, we highly recommended standard ties as these can be worn more comfortably and do not come off easily.
- Socks/Tights should be plain white, grey or black. Tights can also be red.
- Shoes should be black (velcro, lace or buckle fastened – not slip on please).
- PE kit is black shorts/skort and plain red or white t-shirt. Black jogging bottoms and plain red or black sweatshirt or hoodie may also be worn.
- Many items, including logoed items, are available through our uniform suppliers, but all items can be purchased elsewhere.
- Hair accessories should be flat to the head and red or black. No jewellery should be worn with the exception of watches and plain stud or sleeper earrings. (Earrings must be removed or covered for PE).
- Please see our [uniform page](#) for more details and links to our suppliers

We believe our uniform to be inclusive and affordable. Please contact us if you need any support with providing uniform.

Yours sincerely



Miss H Ryan

TERM DATES

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)

Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4th January – Friday 1st April

Half Term Holiday Monday 14th – Friday 18th February

Summer Term 2022

Wednesday 20th April – Friday 22nd July

Half Term Holiday Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May

Autumn Term 2022

Monday 5th September – Friday 16th December

Half Term Holiday Monday 24th – Friday 29th October