



# SHEERHATCH NEWS

January 2023

Willington Road  
Cople  
Bedford  
MK44 3TH

Church Road  
Willington  
Bedford  
MK44 3QD

Tel: 01234 838827

[office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)  
[www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](http://www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! It was wonderful to welcome children and families back to Sheerhatch last week, I hope that you all had chance for some relaxation over the holiday period. I am looking forward to all that we will achieve in 2023.

Best wishes,

Mrs Louise Buisson (Head Teacher)

## STAFFING

We are very happy to welcome back Mrs Meershoek to the Year 2 classroom and would like to thank Miss Mills for her excellent work over the last term.

## Young Voices

The Key Stage 2 choir (accounting for around half of the Cople site!) had a wonderful time at the Young Voices concert at Resorts World Arena, Birmingham. They sang, danced and smiled alongside thousands of other children. I would like to thank all the staff that undertook this very long day to accompany them. We can't wait to do it again next year!

## SNOW CLOSURES

If severe snow makes forces us to close, notifications will be sent out via Parentmail, put on our Facebook page and Bedford Borough will be notified and details will be here:  
<https://apps.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures/>

## PARENTMAIL HELP

If you find yourself struggling with aspects of Parentmail the help can readily be found here:  
<https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/>  
If you are still struggling, please call the Willington site school office in the mornings for further assistance.

## NEW CATERLINK MENU

A new Caterlink menu will be in place from Monday 23rd January. This has been sent out via Parentmail and is also available on the school website.

## FUNDED SCHOOL MEALS

If your circumstances have changed and you would like to apply for funded school meals, please follow the link below. This is not required for universal school meals but please do apply if you think you can claim as funding will then be provided to the school to pay for the meals. This also applies in EYFS and KS1. Even though the meals are fully funded, the school will receive additional funding to support your child.  
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/education-welfare-service/free-school-meals/>

## TRIPS AND VISITS

We are very happy to be increasing the number of trips, visits and experiences that we provide. Please could I remind you that prompt payment is really important for those where a cost is involved. We work hard to get the cheapest deals and subsidise where possible. However, if trips end up costing the school significant amounts, we will not be able to sustain them. We may also find ourselves in the position of not being able to take children on non-curriculum based trips should payment not be made.

## INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING SCARLET FEVER AND STREP A

### What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

### How can I prevent Strep A?

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching children how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

### What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Symptoms can include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

### My child is unwell and may have scarlet fever – what should I do?

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, you should contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

It is important to contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.

You must tell NHS 111 or your GP if you or your child have been in contact with someone who has had Strep A recently.

If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

### Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's [skin, tongue or lips are blue](#)
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

Where can I get the latest information? The most accurate and up-to-date information can be found on the UKHSA website: [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

## TERM DATES (Please note that we will no longer finish early on the last day of each term.)

### Spring Term 2023

Term begins: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January (3.1.23 is an INSET day for staff.)

Half Term Holiday: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Second half of term begins: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Term Ends: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Summer Term 2023

Term begins: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April (17.4.23 is an INSET day for staff.)

Bank Holidays: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (Coronation)

Half Term Holiday: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Second half of term begins: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Term Ends: 21st July

Key Stage Two SATs week : Tuesday 9th May- Friday 12th May