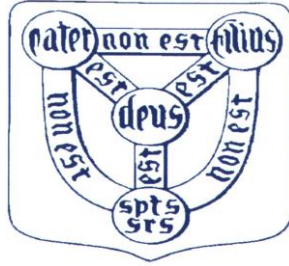


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

School Newsletter

Autumn Term One 2025 - Issue 1

5th September 2025



'Roots and Foundation in Love'.

Ephesians 3:17

Dear Shellingford School Family,

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. We would particularly like to welcome all our new families who have joined our school.

It is lovely to see the children return to school with big smiles and eager to learn! It is also always a delight to see our youngest recruits start their primary school years with us and settle in so well.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Carnegie who has joined our staff team and will be teaching our Reception children, along with Mrs Weeds who will be working as a Teaching Assistant this half-term.

As a church school our Christian vision is at the heart of our provision and steers all we do with our pupils and with one another. We talk about having '[roots and foundation in love](#)' ([Ephesians 3:17](#)) to help inspire and guide our hearts and minds. In our Collective Worship and as part of daily activities and interactions we remind ourselves that the best roots we can have can be provided by our faith, our family and friends, and demonstrated by the way we show love for other people. We hope that this will become the foundation of our lives to enable us to grow into good people.



At our school we also talk about the 'Shellingford School Family Learning Culture' and refer to this in our lessons. We expect all our pupils to have a 'Growth Mindset' and for children to embrace challenge, to persevere and learn from mistakes, show curiosity, enjoy learning together and have aspirations. We would really appreciate it if you could help encourage your child/ren to 'not give up' when things go wrong, and to encourage resilience when issues arise with their learning or friendship difficulties. Our poster is up around the school as a visual prompt for the children. It is also on the [Curriculum](#) page of our school website and may be helpful for parents to refer to when supporting your child/ren at home.

The children are encouraged to take responsibility and ownership for their behaviour and the school's Christian ethos plays a major part in promoting respect for one another. We are very proud of the high standard of behaviour in the school. Our [Behaviour for Learning](#) policy is inherent to daily teaching and ensures the children actively understand our expectations.

These fortnightly newsletters will be emailed to you and will keep you up to date with relevant information, as will our school website: www.shellingford.oxon.sch.uk. This first newsletter is inevitably long, and we ask that you take the time to carefully read the following information and attached documents:

Please remember that Mrs Merritt is the Senior Teacher and is responsible for leading the school and deputising in my absence. Miss Long is the school's SENCo and works part-time.

Diary Dates for the Autumn Term

I have attached some key dates which you will need for the autumn term; specific details of events will follow as the term progresses.

In the next fortnight the following events and curriculum activities are scheduled:

- All classes - Forest School sessions begin (**see email sent yesterday*) & TA Sports Stars
- Year 3/4 Violin Tuition
- Year 6 - Yenworthy Lodge Residential
- Year 5 Active Junior Leaders
- Year 4 /5(& top-up Y6) Swimming Lessons
- All classes – Photogenic Photographers (Class Photographs)

Please make a note of relevant dates and check emails regularly for more information. Thank you.

Attendance Expectations

Punctuality

- We expect all children to arrive at 8.45am. Lessons start promptly at 8.55am.

It is really important all children are in their classroom by 8.45am ready for the start of the first lesson. Late arriving pupils disrupts the class's learning, and it can be both embarrassing and unsettling for the child.

- The school day finishes at 3.15pm. Please make sure you collect your child/ren promptly at 3.15 (or 4.15pm if they are attending an After-School Club) as the staff have other commitments after 3.15pm and cannot look after the children.

Holiday Requests and Medical Appointments

There are 175 non-school days in a year for families to take holiday and enjoy days out together. School Attendance Regulations mean that Headteachers' cannot authorise family holidays in school term times. Similarly, routine dentists and doctors' appointments should not be arranged during the school day.

Ensuring good attendance and being on time at an early age will help children later on in life.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Curriculum Newsletters and support at home

Attached is a Curriculum Newsletter for each class from your child/ren's Teacher. This will give you an overview of the work being covered this term, along with a list of activities you can do at home to support your child/ren's learning. Each class has chosen the following learning focus:

-  Class 1 – All About Me / Let's Celebrate!
-  Class 2 – Intrepid Explorers
-  Class 3 – Secrets within the Walls
-  Class 4 – Invasion!

We are always looking for additional resources or expertise to enhance curriculum topics; please let us know if you can offer anything to help as we would be most grateful.

Homework will continue on a regular basis for all classes. We ask all children from Reception to Year 6 to be in the habit of reading or sharing books regularly throughout the week. This is one of the most important things you can do to support your child's learning. We will start sending homework activities out at the beginning of Week 4 (22nd September).

Friends of Shellingford School (FoSS)

The FoSS Committee is a team of parents and staff who work together to coordinate a variety of events that everyone can enjoy, with the aim of raising funds that will enrich our children's learning experience.



We ask all parents to become involved in supporting FoSS, in any way, however small. Please read the attached FoSS Newsletter which contains the dates of all their events for the Autumn Term. For more information, please contact our Chair of FoSS, Mrs Laura Bond (parent of Alex in Year 4 and Luke in Year 1) via foss.shellingford@outlook.com or the FoSS Facebook page.

Family Quiz – Sunday 21st September (4.00 – 6.00pm)
£2.00 per person and £3.50 for food

Our first **FoSS General Meeting** is on **Wednesday 1st October** at **6.30pm**, and we will be discussing our events planner for the coming year. Anyone is welcome to join the meeting.

Parking

For new parents in particular, please help us to keep good relationships with residents in the village and a safe road outside school. We ask that all vehicles drive slowly through the village and park considerately. **Please do not obstruct residents' driveways; there are a number of farms which need wide access for farmyard machinery.** Please reverse into spaces on the parking area opposite the old nursery so you have full view of pedestrians when driving away. Do not park or drop-off on the road leading towards the main school gates. This area is not only private land but must be kept clear at all times for emergency access. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Uffington Benefice of Churches

As a Church of England school we have close links to St Faith's church in Shellingford and our local community. The Vicar of Uffington, the Reverend Jeremy Goulston, has responsibility for four parishes, including Shellingford, and is assisted by the Ministry Team. Reverend Jeremy and his Ministry Team lead our Collective Worship weekly and the school regularly holds services in St Faith's at significant times in the church year. The benefice website is www.uffingtonbenefice.com and has details of all services including a Weekly News Sheet.



Correspondence

We ask if any of your contact details have changed (address, telephone numbers or email addresses) to please urgently let the School Office know to ensure we have the correct information in case we need to contact you in an emergency.

All correspondence, particularly emails, must go directly via the School Office. Emails regarding pupils should not be sent to teachers or myself as Head. The reason for this is: firstly, teachers do not have the time to check emails on a daily basis; and secondly staff may be out of school for the day on a course. Therefore, to ensure that we can address concerns immediately and forward any important information to the relevant staff we ask that emails are sent directly to the school email address: office.3853@shellingford.oxon.sch.uk

We must also know who is on the premises at all times and parents must come to the main front door to speak to the school.

Please remember that we ask all parents to ensure that:

- Children wear clean school uniform every day.
- Any Packed Lunches brought in from home must be in a named lunchbox or disposable bag. Please note that sweets, chocolate are not allowed, and crisps and biscuits are discouraged. **We also have pupils in the school who have a potentially life-threatening allergy to nuts and peanuts.** For this reason, please do not bring food items into school which contain nuts and peanuts, e.g., cereal bars or Nutella spread.
- ***Fruit and vegetable snacks only*** are permitted at playtime. Snacks brought in from home must be in a separate named container or disposable bag. (All schools also receive fruit and vegetables via the 'School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme' for children in EYFS and Key Stage One which is administered by the Department of Health. This also provides the children with a daily 'playtime' snack for children in Reception, Years 1 and 2.)
- A Water Bottle (named) is brought into school daily.
- A pair of wellies (named) are brought into school and left in school.
- Book bags are brought into school daily.
- PE bags (drawstring bags only) are brought into school on a Monday (these will be sent home weekly on a Friday for kit to be washed).

Please remember that rucksacks are not permitted in school as we do not have adequate cloakroom space for the children to safely hang-up their bags and coats on their pegs.

Finally, thank you for your help in making the start of the new school year run smoothly.

It has been great to see children coming into school independently. We always request, if you have any urgent concerns or messages to contact the School Office. Mornings are so busy with settling the children it is often difficult to give you our full attention and lessons need to start promptly at 8.55am. Please make every effort to ensure the children arrive on time – at 8.45am. Staff are always available for you after school. Please make an appointment through the School Office and Teachers will be delighted to talk to you.

I appreciate this letter contains a lot of information, particularly for our new families. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Ashdown via the School Office if you have any concerns or are unclear about anything.

With Best Wishes,

Judith R Terrell

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