



# Sheffield Lower School

## Spring 1 2025 Newsletter

### Message from the *Headteacher*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very successful first half of our Spring Term. Cherry Class have been out bird spotting and have reported their findings to The Big Garden Bird Watch 2025. We have also enjoyed an active 'Healthy Me Week' which included speed skipping, yoga, circuit training, orienteering and coaching sessions from Luton Town FC as well as sampling a superfood! The children engaged really well in collaborating over how to keep their bodies and minds healthy and we will be sending their work out into the community in the form of some published books. Our next immersive curriculum week is 'Reading For Pleasure Week' from 3rd March which will include a theatre production of Jungle Book, a puppet show, reading cafes across the school and a book fayre.

Our Family Support Team led our first 'Wellie Swap' to ensure all children have wellingtons in school and we also have a new 'Golden Wellie' trophy for classes who earn the most Opal tokens. Our community Opal 'Stay and Play' was well attended and we are adding to the resources regularly to ensure the best possible play curriculum for the children. Our new house-point token cylinders are rapidly filling up and our house captaincy team are doing a fantastic job of counting them weekly and pouring them into the cylinders in assembly for us all to see.

The Early Years Cake Sale was a success and raised money for more outdoor equipment to enhance the children's play. The year two children really enjoyed their trip to the fire station and I have given a lot of headteachers awards out for some extremely impressive models of The Great Fire of London!

Next half term we look forward to seeing Year Three start their swimming curriculum, World Book Day, our Year Four PGL residential, a School of Rock assembly, a variety of sports competitions, Reading for Pleasure Week, an immersive French cafe and our annual PSA Easter Colouring Competition. We wish all of our families a happy half term.

Kind Regards

Mrs Ross  
Headteacher



# What have we been up to?



In **Cherry Class** this half term, we have been practising lots of mark making in our 'Message Centre'. We have been writing secret symbols and hiding them for our friends to find! We also took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch. As part of this work, we went on a walk around the local area, looking out for birds. We also counted the birds we found in our own garden area.

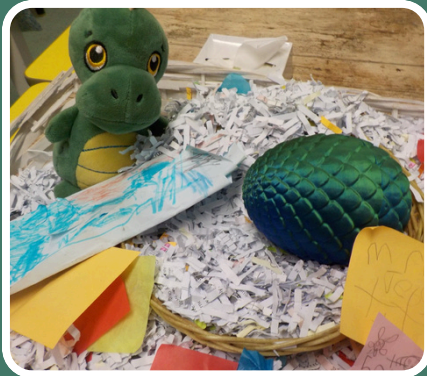


Next half term, we will explore the traditional tale of The Little Red Hen and learn how to make bread. We will also learn the skills to make our own books. We will explore seasonal changes; including planting some seeds and watching them grow.  
The Cherry Class Team.



In **Reception**, we have shared stories, including The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and then we got 'busy' creating our own stories - thinking about the character, settings, problems and solutions. We shared our stories and enjoyed acting them out together. We were very excited when a nest of dragon eggs appeared outside! We enjoyed hunting for the eggs outside and creating our own maps to find them.

Next half term, we will be looking forward to developing our cooking skills further, when thinking about Spring celebrations, such as Shrove Tuesday and Easter. We will be taking part in more Drawing Club activities and continuing to use the Tales Toolkit to support our storytelling skills. In Maths, we will be continuing to develop our understanding of numbers, as well as our measuring skills. In Phonics, we will continue to learn and apply more digraph sounds and tricky words.  
The Reception Team.

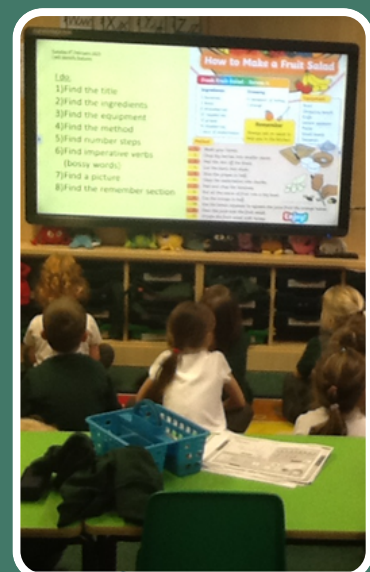


We have had a brilliant start to 2025 in **Year 1!** We have enjoyed learning about the 7 continents and the different oceans and we have learnt some catchy songs to help us remember them. We have started 'Fluent in Five' during maths lessons, which allows us to start the lesson with mental arithmetic questions. We have also started sending spellings home on a Friday in preparation for a test the following week. The children have responded to this really well and are becoming familiar with the new routine. Please be aware that all children have a Numbots login in their home-school book. This is the same login details as TT rockstars. This app helps the children to become secure with their number bonds and times tables knowledge.

We all loved healthy me week. The children had the chance to participate in a range of activities that supports their mental and physical health and wellbeing. Year 1 enjoyed planning a recipe for a healthy fruit salad. Thank you for all your support with home learning and reading this half term - the children really benefit from it. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Next term, we continue to develop the children's phonic understanding in preparation for their phonics assessment in June. We will also be learning about important people from the past. This will give children the chance to learn about the interesting lives of Emilia Earheart and Amy Johnson! We are also super excited for our trip to Woburn Safari Park!

The Year 1 Team.





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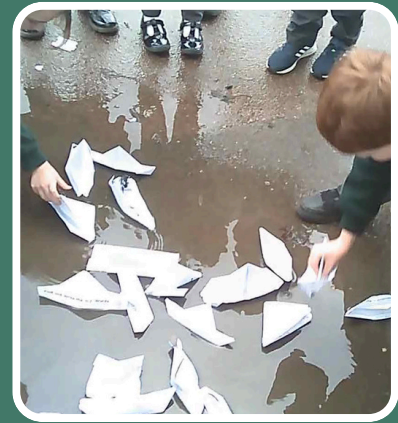


**Year 2** have been busy learning about The Great Fire of London, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. We have just finished writing a poem about the GFoL, we used rhyming words, adjectives and verbs. Children have loved learning about the fascinating history of London, and comparing fire safety equipment to what we have today, culminating in a visit to our local fire station. In maths we have been dividing using concrete resources and moving on to more challenging questions using reasoning skills. We have loved learning how to play the Ocarina in music lessons and we already know how to play 3 notes! Last week we had 'Healthy Me Week' which incorporated skipping workshops, yoga, eating new foods and finding out how to stay healthy. The children enjoyed doing dance in PE where they have learnt lots of new dance moves!

Next term, we look forward to preparing for our Spring Showcase, continuing to explore different materials in Science and exploring shape in maths.  
The Year 2 Team.



**Year 3** have been enjoying starting their Egyptian topic this term. We have been focusing on the Geography aspect of this, learning about where in the world Egypt is, the climate of the country and the importance on The River Nile. The children are looking forward to delving deeper into the History of Ancient Egypt next half term and can't wait to learn all about mummification and the role of the Pharaoh. We had a fantastic lesson about Judaism from the children in Year 4 and it was great to see the children engaged with each other's teaching and learning. This half term we have been having fun in dance and gym sessions during PE, and next half term we will be starting our swimming lessons at Flitwick Leisure Centre. Year 3 have been fully immersed in Healthy Me Week and loved challenging themselves during the skipping session. We are so proud of the progress the children have made with their learning, particularly in their times tables and spellings assessments. Well done Year 3, keep up the hard work!  
The Year 3 team.



**Year 4** have really enjoyed learning about our WWII theme this first half-term. We were very lucky to have Mia P's grandmother come in to tell us all about her experiences as an evacuee during the war. Thank you for your support with our 'Make do and Mend' DT projects too. Children have started to create their designs. Thank you all again, for your on-going support with our home learning with times table practice up to 12 times table. This will help us prepare for the Multiplication Times Tables (MTC) assessment in June. Year 4s are getting very competitive with the weekly times table trophy. Please see links that will help your child to practise for their June assessment.

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>  
[https://talkingtimestables.uk/y4\\_ks2\\_mtc\\_practice\\_tests\\_multiplication\\_tables\\_check.php](https://talkingtimestables.uk/y4_ks2_mtc_practice_tests_multiplication_tables_check.php)  
<https://www.mathshed.com/en-us/mtc>



Next half-term, we will be continuing to learn about World War II. Children have really enjoyed the historical family links in this unit. We look forward to seeing the children's Learning Logs with their family links/history to WWII. We are very busy preparing for our residential trip to PGL on the 12th-14th March. Children who are not going will also have a fabulous time off timetable at school. Leavers' jumpers have been ordered and children will receive them before the residential trip. Children can start to wear these for the residential and those not attending will be in non-school uniform (12th-14th March). After this, they can only be worn in school on PE days but not on normal uniform days. Thanks for your support with this. We wish everyone a relaxing half-term break.

The Year 4 Team 😊





## Family Support

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Regular attendance is vital for children to reach their full potential, and we are committed to improving outcomes for all our pupils.

If you need any support with getting your child to school, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We can work together to put a plan in place, provide any necessary support, and agree on steps for improvement. By working together, we can ensure that attendance remains above 97% for each child.

We would also like to thank everyone who has informed us that their child is a Young Carer. We are actively working to enhance the support available for these children. We will continue to update you as this develops.



We are continuing to develop our play curriculum to enhance opportunities for children during breaktimes and lunchtimes. As part of this, we are improving our play areas, with a new space recently created thanks to generous donations from local businesses.



To ensure children can access all areas of play, please make sure they have a pair of wellies in school every day. **Children are only be able to play on the field if they have wellies.**



To further develop our provision, we would really appreciate any donations of the following items if you are able to spare or source them:

Gravel/stone, pushchairs, walking frames, wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, small spades, large tubes, crates and mud kitchen resources.



We will send out a full list of resources separately going forward that we would love to collect. Donations can be dropped off to the office or if you have any questions please email: Miss Cooper on [familysupport@shefford.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:familysupport@shefford.cbeds.co.uk)





## Community Update



**School Parliament:** Our School Parliament attended the Town Council Offices recently and met with members of Shefford Town Council. They had talks from the Secretary and staff from Environmental Services spoke to them about how they keep Shefford clean. They experienced a 'mock parliament' led by the Mayor, Ken Pollard, discussing local issues – flooding, keeping playgrounds clean and potholes.

**Parent Forums:** Thank you to all the parents who attended our forum on communication this half term. A survey following on from this is currently active for parents to share their views. Once we have the responses to this we will be in touch with our next steps. Our next Parent Forum is on Monday 17th March and we will be looking at Parents Evenings and workshops to support parents with children's learning at home.

**EDI and Global Majority:** We would really like to set up a group of parents to work alongside us to ensure that children from all ethnicities and cultures feel truly valued and represented in school. If you would be happy to be involved in this, please contact Mrs Ross via the school office.



## Sports News



A big well done to all the year 4s who attended the Sportshall festival at the end of January. Team 2 finished 3rd and Team 1 finished in 1st place and have the chance to represent Redborne in the county finals. All the children showed great teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. We are so proud of their efforts and the values they have demonstrated.

A huge thank you to all families who took part in Street Tag last term. Thanks for your amazing efforts - we finished in the Top 10 on the Central Bedfordshire leader board and won £50 to go towards new sports equipment for the school! Let's keep moving! Please download the Street Tag app and join the Shefford Lower School Team using code: 16533. Every step counts—whether you're walking, scooting, or cycling to school, you'll be helping us climb the leader board while staying active and having fun!



## Safeguarding

We have recently become aware that a few of our children in school have been talking about playing or watching Squid Game. Please see the poster attached to the parentmail.

*Have a lovely half term*

from everyone at  
Shefford Lower School

