

Summer 2 Term 2026



Message from the Head Teacher

We have had a super term full of activities and experiences and it has been a really positive end to the year. This term, as a whole school community, we really enjoyed Arts Week where the children across the school produced a range of wonderful creations for our exhibition within the community at Shefford Library. The week also gave pupils the opportunity to immerse themselves in hands on experiences through a fantastic Arts Careers Fayre. In addition to The Arts, we have had successful sporting events with all of our Key Stage Sports Days during which, the children showed their PE values and it was lovely to have our Parents and Carers in to support them. We have also had teams attending the Cricket Festival where they performed well and showed great sportsmanship with teams coming 1st, 2nd and 4th. The children really enjoyed watching the football together and celebrating as a community.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, the children and staff showed great team spirit and resilience during the heat and it was nice to see them creatively finding ways to keep cool and to enjoy being in school together.

We have been really proud to see that most of our children now engage with our clubs enrichment offer with over 80% of our children attending at least one club. We have increased the number of clubs on offer to over 46. Alongside clubs, we have had some wonderful trips and Visits including some of our children going to RBA and SWA for curriculum activities and to use the facilities which gave them a fantastic learning opportunity. Earlier in the term, the Year 2 children also enjoyed (though a little wet for June!) a trip to Hunstanton.

We continue to work with a link school in Sri Lanka and this term we sent over a Shefford bear which has been democratically named 'Sheffy'. This was sent over with a special book about our school which the children have created. We are continuing to explore our global links to enhance the children's learning and global connection.

With regard to pupil wellbeing, within our Opal provision, children have been continuing to learn key skills through play and are developing in their teamwork, resilience, confidence and oracy. We have plans to continue to develop this provision which brings so much to pupil engagement and wellbeing. They have also enjoyed the opportunity this term to eat Al Fresco! Our school Breakfast Club continues to be popular and supports a sociable soft start to the school day with a nutritious offering! We are very grateful to our PSA who we work in close partnership with. There have been a number of activities enjoyed by our community this year and this term children took part in a 6K challenge getting children outside and active while raising money for the school. I am less excited about the impending Schools out - Soak the Teacher event!

This morning, we all came together to celebrate the year within our Final Assembly. Many achievements and awards were celebrated as well as some thankyou's, goodbyes and see you agains! We say goodbye and thank you to Miss Garrett who has been a wonderful teacher and we wish her all the best as she moves upwards and onwards in her career as a SENDCo. We also say thank you and goodbye to the lovely Miss Hagland and wish her all the best for her exciting next step as a Play Therapist. We wish Miss MacIntyre and Miss Lynch all the best for their maternity leave and can't wait to hear the news of their joyous bundles! We also say a sincere thank you to our wonderful Mrs King who attended Shefford Lower School herself in the 1950s and has worked at the school for over 20 years. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

In Key Stage 2, we have had the 'Something for Summer' concert in the open air where our Year 3 children gave a wonderful performance of their Sing Up songs. Our Year 4 celebrations are well underway and the disco and picnic were a success. They have also created a wonderful performance. They have been a fantastic year group who have been a pleasure to have throughout their journey and we wish them all the best for next year.

This month, I have had the pleasure of reading the children's reports and it has been lovely to see their teachers' comments which tell a story of growth, values, joy and success. We have really enjoyed our year with the children, we thank our parents and carers for working in partnership with us and we wish all of our families a safe and happy summer.

Polly Ross

Notes for Autumn 1

- Please remember to sign up for clubs for Autumn 1. They will begin w/c 21st September
- Forest school and PE days will be sent out before the start of Autumn 1.  
- School lunches will be available to book from September.

Upcoming dates

- Thursday 3 September / Friday 4 September - Inset Days
- Monday 7 September - Back to School 
- Thursday 10 September - KS2 Welcome Talk
- Friday 11 September - KS1 Welcome Talk
- Tuesday 29 September - EYFS Welcome Talk



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO

Cherry Class

Cherry Class have had a brilliant final half term. It has been full of exploring, creating, moving, talking and getting ready for what comes next.

For Arts Week, the children looked at A Muse (Calliope?) by Cosimo Tura. They noticed the colours, patterns and interesting details, then helped to create a collaborative sculpture. We are very proud that this is being displayed in Shefford Library as part of the school project.

One of the lovely child-led interests this half term was ladybirds. The children spent lots of time spotting them outside, looking closely and talking about what they could see. We took the opportunity to learn about life cycles here. Cherry Class also took part in ballet sessions with a ballet teacher. The children listened carefully, followed instructions and really enjoyed moving to the music. It was lovely to see them trying something new and growing in confidence.

We had our Minibeast Sports Afternoon. The children joined in so well and it was lovely to have parents joining in too. The children enjoyed the minibeast theme and showed lots of confidence, energy and determination.

We also survived the extreme heat! We changed things around and spent lots of time enjoying water play. The children loved pouring, filling, splashing and cooling down together.

A big focus this half term has been transition. The children visited the hall to help them get ready for moving up to Reception, whether that is at Shefford Lower or another school. We have talked about change, new routines and the adults who can help them. They have done so well and we are very proud of them.



Reception

Reception have had a lovely final half term. It has been busy, hot and full of the kind of moments that show just how far the children have come this year.

For Arts Week, the children looked at A Muse (Calliope?) by Cosimo Tura. They noticed the throne, the colours, the patterns and all the interesting details in the painting. The children then worked together to create a collaborative sculpture. We are really proud that this is being displayed in Shefford Library as part of the school project.

Outside, we became fascinated by ladybirds this half term. It was lovely to see the children spotting ladybirds outside, looking carefully at them and sharing what they had noticed.

These little moments often lead to some of the best conversations.

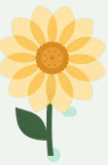
We also had our Minibeast Sports Afternoon, which was a real highlight. The children joined in brilliantly and it was lovely to have families there joining in too. The children really showed their values of determination and enjoyment.

We held a final Drawing Club week based on The Gruffalo. This was a lovely way to see the progress the children have made in their writing. It has been brilliant to see their confidence grow and to see them using their phonics and ideas much more independently.

We also managed some extremely hot days this half term! The children coped really well and we made the most of it with lots of water play. There was plenty of pouring, splashing and cooling down, which was definitely needed.

A big focus this half term has been getting ready for Year 1. We have been talking about change, visiting new spaces and helping the children feel more confident about their next step. We cannot quite believe they are coming to the end of Reception. What an adventure it has been!

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO



Year 1

What a fantastic final half term we have had in Year 1! It has been wonderful to see just how much the children have grown in confidence, independence and resilience over the course of the year and we are so proud of everything they have achieved.

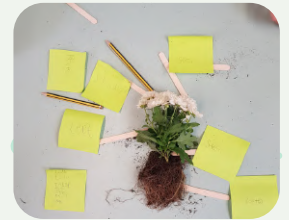
This half term, the children became 'Little Growers', learning all about plants and what they need to survive. They designed and created their own plant pots before carefully dissecting a plant to identify and explore the different parts. It was fantastic to see them working like real scientists, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their discoveries.

We also enjoyed an inspiring Arts Week! The children had the exciting opportunity to attend a careers fair and meet a variety of people working in creative industries. They loved finding out about the many different careers in the arts and were inspired to create their own beautiful artwork, which was proudly displayed in our local library.

In maths, the children have developed their understanding of money and time. They showed great perseverance as they tackled these important life skills. In English, they have continued to strengthen their sentence structure and have taken great pride in writing their own short narratives, using their imagination to create wonderful stories.

The children also completed their Phonics Screening Check this half term. We could not be prouder of the determination and effort they showed and it has been a joy to watch their reading flourish throughout the year.

Finally, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and carers for your incredible support this year, particularly with reading at home. Your encouragement has played such an important role in your child's progress and confidence. We wish you all a wonderful summer and hope the children are as proud of themselves as we are. They are more than ready for the exciting adventures that await them in Year 2!



Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the seaside. One of the highlights was our exciting trip to Hunstanton. Although the weather was cold and rainy, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits! The children had a fantastic day exploring the seaside, identifying its different features and talking about what people can see and do there. We even managed to enjoy a delicious ice cream before heading home! Back in the classroom, we have designed our own colourful beach huts and created imaginative ideas for seaside entertainment, showing great creativity and enthusiasm.

In English, we have been exploring the wonderful world of poetry. The children learnt about different types of poems, including acrostic and rhyming poems, and enjoyed creating their own. We discussed how poets carefully choose their words and how language can create different feelings and images for the reader. In Maths, we have been consolidating all of the learning from this year, including the four operations, fractions, shape, time and problem-solving. It has been wonderful to see the children becoming more confident and applying the skills they have worked so hard to develop throughout Year 2.

Despite the recent heatwave, the children have coped brilliantly and loved cooling off with the sprinklers, enjoying ice lollies and spending time in Forest School. Next half term, we are looking forward to learning how to safely build and light a campfire, exploring habitats and discovering more about how to survive in the woods. As we head into our final few weeks together, we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. They have worked so hard, have grown in confidence and are more than ready to take their next exciting step into Key Stage 2. They have truly smashed Year 2, and we can't wait to celebrate all of their successes before the end of the year!



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO

Year 3

As we reach the end of another fantastic year, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate all that Year 3 has achieved. It has been a wonderful year filled with exciting learning experiences, memorable activities, and tremendous progress. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have accomplished and have been spending the final weeks preparing them for a confident and successful transition into Year 4. Our transition day was a great success, with the children thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to meet their new teacher and explore their new classroom.

They embraced the experience with enthusiasm and excitement, helping to build confidence for September. This term, the children particularly enjoyed our Geography topic, where they developed their map-reading skills by learning how to use compasses. They applied this knowledge brilliantly to design detailed maps of the school and the local area. We also had another successful PBL Week,

during which the children explored the Sikh faith through stories, discussion, and creative activities. They produced some beautiful artwork inspired by the Sikh story they had listened to, demonstrating both creativity and thoughtful reflection. Our participation in the Times Table Rock Stars World Cup competition has been another highlight, helping to improve the children's fluency and recall of multiplication facts while encouraging friendly competition. In Science, the children loved learning about human and animal skeletons, especially measuring each other's skulls, femurs, and humerus to investigate how our bodies compare. It has truly been a fantastic year in Year 3. We wish every child a happy, safe summer and all the very best as they begin their exciting journey into Year 4!



Year 4

As we reach the end of a fantastic summer term, we would like to say how incredibly proud we are of all our Year 4 children and everything they have achieved this year. It has certainly been a busy few months, filled with exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and wonderful learning.

The children have taken part in lots of transition activities with RBA, helping them feel confident and excited about the move to middle school. We are also delighted with their amazing Multiplication Tables Check results – their hard work and determination have really paid off.

Our latest PBL has been a huge success, with the children creating some fabulous set designs, alongside writing super stories inspired by our Science topic on the digestive system. They have also enjoyed energetic dance workshops, as well as cooking and art workshops with RBA, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm.

We are now looking forward to celebrating the end of their lower school journey with our leavers' assembly, Oliver with a Twist and we know the children will make us all incredibly proud.

To all of our Year 4 children, thank you for being such a wonderful year group. We wish you every success and happiness as you begin your exciting new adventure in middle school. Good luck, we know you will all go on to achieve amazing things!



SCHOOL UPDATES



Orchard Class

We have had a busy half term learning all about the Seaside in Orchard Class. We have been using water colours to create seascapes, learning all about capacity and writing our own versions of The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch and started off by having a look at Mr Grinling's picnic! We have also been learning about Victorian Seasides, ocean habitats and human and physical features of the seaside.

We are really excited about our new curriculum cycle B in September which starts with our topic Food Glorious Food. We will be focusing on where food comes from, harvesting our fruits and vegetables from the summer and the digestive system.



We hope you all have a wonderful Summer holiday.



Mrs West and Team Orchard.



Sports News

We have rounded off the year with some fantastic opportunities for the children to develop their skills, challenge themselves and enjoy being active. One of the highlights of our summer term was our Early Years, KS1 and KS2 sports days. As always, it was lovely to see the children taking part with enthusiasm (and some of our parents/carers!) Thank you to all the families who came along to support and cheer on the children.

This term welcomed Happy Little Yogi, who delivered an engaging yoga workshop. This will be offered as an external club next academic year!

Last week, some of our Year 4 pupils attended a cricket festival where they represented the school excellently. The children played one another in the final and we placed 1st, 2nd and 4th overall which is fantastic!

Finally, we would like to celebrate the amazing sporting achievements of our pupils, both inside and outside of school. From gymnastics and swimming to football and martial arts, it is always wonderful to hear about the children's successes. Please continue to bring in any achievements to Miss Pates so that we can celebrate them in school!



Values

We have continued to celebrate our school values across school: kindness, respect, honesty, enjoyment, determination and community right up until the very last week!

It has been lovely to see children really noticing the small everyday moments where values are being shown, whether that is helping a friend, trying hard with something tricky, being honest, or being part of our school community.

Some children have now filled their values leaves and achieved their Rainbow Badge, and we have also had some deserving Community Leaders which is a fantastic achievement. We are really proud of them and of all the children who have worked so hard to show our values throughout the year.





SCHOOL UPDATES



Family Support

Over the summer holidays, the Family Support Team, Mrs Parry & Miss Cooper, will be holding Keeping in Touch Days, giving you and your children the opportunity to come into school, reconnect with familiar staff and friends, and spend some time in the school environment before the new term begins. Our previous Keeping in Touch Day proved to be very beneficial, helping children feel more confident and settled, and we look forward to welcoming you again. The dates for these sessions will be shared with you via ParentMail and on our Facebook page, so please keep an eye out for further information.



Summer Savings

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, enjoy a VAT cut from 20% to 5% on children's meals at restaurants, and savings on family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts, exhibitions & attractions across England.



Plus FREE bus travel for children aged 5–15 in August!

Find your nearest summer savings venues at <https://summersavings.gov.uk> – just enter your postcode!



A Community Safety Officer will be at Shefford Library on Tuesday 11 August 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer between 13.30 - 14.30 about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

Central Bedfordshire

Safeguarding

Safeguarding during the summer holidays:

During the school holidays, the safeguarding team monitors their email address periodically safeguarding@shefford.cbeds.co.uk.

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. For other serious or urgent issues, contact Central Bedfordshire children's services directly on 0300 300 8585 rather than waiting for an email response.

Children and young people can contact Childline free and confidentially on 0800 1111. Parents and carers can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

If a child or young person is struggling with their mental health, they can text YM to 85258 for free, 24/7 crisis support. Parents wanting advice can also contact the YoungMinds Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544.



SCHOOL UPDATES



Community

As another wonderful school year draws to a close, we are taking time to celebrate the many memorable experiences, achievements and partnerships that make our school such a special place to learn and grow. We are incredibly proud of our pupils, staff, families and the wider community who work together to create such a caring, vibrant and inspiring environment. This term has been filled with exciting opportunities. Supporting our pupils through transition has been a priority, whether they are moving into a new year group or taking the next exciting step to middle school. We have also loved meeting the newest members of our school family through home visits, helping children and families feel welcomed and valued from the very beginning.

Creativity has shone throughout our Arts PBL Week, with fantastic artwork proudly displayed at Shefford Library, celebrating the imagination and talents of our children. Our Sports Days were full of energy, determination and teamwork; made even more special by the encouragement and support of the Samuel Whitbread Sports Ambassadors. Pupils have enjoyed enriching visits to Robert Bloomfield and Samuel Whitbread schools for inspiring dance workshops, alongside hands-on science workshops, cooking experiences and Greater Depth Arts opportunities that have broadened their learning and sparked new interests and passions.

The performing arts have provided some unforgettable highlights. Our Year 1 Summer Showcase delighted families, while our talented Year 4 pupils brought *Oliver with a Twist* to life in a performance that filled us all with pride. Our iRock bands also gave fantastic performances to parents and our Key Stage 2 pupils, showcasing their growing confidence and musical talent, while our Black Ice Cheer team wowed audiences with energetic performances in assembly and for parents, demonstrating incredible teamwork, dedication and enthusiasm.

Our commitment to our community extends beyond our pupils. We have been delighted to welcome local students for work shadowing and work experience placements, sharing the joy of working in education while strengthening the partnerships that help our community thrive. We also benefited greatly from all of the community volunteers who supported our Arts Careers Fayre.

We are immensely grateful for the continued support of our families and our local partners. Together, we are creating opportunities, celebrating success and building lasting connections that enrich the lives of everyone in our school community. We look forward to strengthening these relationships even further in the year ahead. Our Community: Stronger together.



*We wish all our Families a lovely
summer holidays*



READ to the BEAT



Summer Reading Challenge 2026 Newsletter

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year the challenge is Read to the Beat, all about being musical and ties in with the National Year of Reading 2026.

It runs Friday 17th July to Saturday 5th September 2026.



Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about music! Children will be able to find books linked to their favourite creative arts, and access activities at the library.

The Challenge

- Children must be members of the library service. Join the library [here](#) or go to your local library.
- The challenge invites children to read six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our BorrowBox and PressReader app. [More about e-resources](#)
- Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer from Friday 17th July.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books.
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £40 voucher for The Works to buy arts, crafts and books.

Struggle with reading? We can help!



- For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- The BorrowBox app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and fontsize.
- Picture books aren't just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of older picture books for young readers.

- Get hooked on graphic novels (comic style books).
- Learning to read? Select from beginning to read or short chapter books
- Booklists with lots of ideas available on our [Virtual Library](#)
- Some children (especially boys) prefer non-fiction. Dinosaurs, transport and space are particularly popular.
- Enjoy stories through audiobooks. Free to borrow on CD or download with [BorrowBox](#).



All libraries will have activities for children available throughout the summer.
All libraries offer a Treasure Hunt to children when they complete the reading challenge

ReadtotheBeatillustrationsbyHarryWoodgate , illustrationsandlogo©TheReadingAgency2026