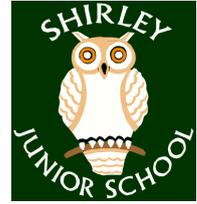




# Shirley Schools



## Weekly Communication

To contact any member of staff, please email  
[office@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:office@shirleyschools.co.uk)  
marked for the attention of the member of staff and your email will be  
forwarded.

Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Please find the links to the letter pages on our websites:**

[Infant School Letters Link](#)

[Junior School Letters Link](#)

# Dates for your Diary

## Shirley Infant School

### **MARCH**

Monday 6th Parent Drop in with Karen Allen our Family Support Worker 2.30 - 3.30pm  
Tuesday 7th Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm on site  
Thursday 9th Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm on site  
Friday 10th FOSIS Family Disco  
Friday 17th Year 2 Home Learning due in  
Monday 20th Year 1 Victorian Day-on site, Dress up  
Thursday 23rd Year R Celebration Event 2.45pm in Class  
Friday 24th Year 1 Home Learning due in  
Saturday 25th FOSIS Colour Run  
Monday 27th Year 2 Woodpecker Class Celebration Event 2.45pm - Hall  
Tuesday 28th Class Photos  
Wednesday 29th Year 2 Fox Class Celebration Event 2.45pm - Hall  
Thursday 30th Year 2 Badger Class Celebration Event 2.45pm - Hall  
Friday 31st FOSIS Non Uniform Day  
Friday 31st FOSIS Cake Sale Year 1  
Friday 31st **School closes for Easter Holidays**

### **APRIL**

**3rd—14th**  
**Monday 17th**  
Monday 17th  
Saturday 22nd

### **EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**School re-opens for SUMMER 1**  
Parent Drop in with Karen Allen our Family Support Worker 2.30 - 3.30pm  
FOSIS School tidy up day

## Shirley Junior School

### **MARCH**

Monday 6th Parent Drop in with Karen Allen our Family Support Worker 2.30 - 3.30pm  
Tuesday 7th Parents Evening Face to face 3.30-6.30pm  
Thursday 9th Year 5 Siberian Husky Swimming - off site  
Thursday 9th NO CHOIR  
Thursday 9th Parents Evening Online 3.30-6.30pm  
Friday 10th PTA Family Disco  
Thursday 16th Year 5 Siberian Husky Swimming - off site  
Tuesday 21st Share my learning 8.45am & 3.20pm  
**\*\*note change of day\*\***  
Thursday 23rd Year 5 Siberian Husky Swimming - off site  
Friday 24th Careers Fair 1pm – 3pm  
Saturday 25th PTA Colour Run  
Tuesday 28th Zones of Regulation Workshop 6pm - Hall  
Thursday 30th Class photos  
Thursday 30th Year 5 Siberian Husky Swimming - off site  
Thursday 30th Year 4 Project Outcome, Rags to Riches - off site  
Friday 31st PTA Non Uniform Day

### **APRIL**

**3rd—14th**  
**Monday 17th**  
Monday 17th  
Saturday 22nd

### **EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**School re-opens for SUMMER 1**  
Parent Drop in with Karen Allen our Family Support Worker 2.30 - 3.30pm  
PTFA School tidy up day

### **Share my learning—Juniors**

We will be changing days from Spring 2 as follows:

Tuesday 21st March

Thursday 18th May

Tuesday 11th July

In light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023, an **additional bank holiday has been announced on Monday 8th May**. Settings that are normally closed on a bank holiday should close on this day. This will include schools and colleges.

## Coming soon

Infants Sports Day - 25th May Morning only - Further information of organisation to follow

Junior Sports Day - 13th July - Further information to follow

### **IMPORTANT MEDICINE REMINDER**

If you send your child to school with **any** medicine for headaches, coughs, colds, indigestion etc, please make sure it is signed in at the school office.

Could we also remind you that all medication needs to be handed in, in its original packaging, bringing in just a tablet will not be accepted.



### **Calling all adults of the Shirley community - we need you!**

Would you, or someone you know, be willing to come and talk about your job at the junior school careers fair on Friday 24th March (1pm - 3pm).

Our annual careers fair is a highlight for the children and an opportunity for them to widen their horizons and learn about what jobs are, what skills are needed and generally learn about what work is. If you are able to gift us your time please email [office@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:office@shirleyschools.co.uk) FAO Mrs Booth - Careers Fair.



Link to letter:

<https://www.shirleyjuniorschool.org/site/data/files/documents/280A25725B502B1814A607A0C45421B5.pdf>

### **PARENTS EVENING**

Just a reminder to book your parents evening if you haven't already done so.

Infants please see your child's Teacher.

Junior book online via school cloud, you should have received an email. Any problems please call the school office 02380 775057.

### **Infant School Year 2**

Year 2 are in need of toys with a winding mechanism as part of their DT topic, this is only if you are having a clear out. Please don't buy anything new.



# Items not allowed in school



Prime Drinks  
or even a Prime bottle filled  
with water or juice.

Chewing gum



Nail polish/  
fake nails



We would like to remind parents that children **should not** be wearing nail polish or make up in school, or bringing in any possessions from home. If children are found to have brought items in from home, staff will put them somewhere safe and hand them back to you at the end of the day. On this page are some examples of the things the children should not be wearing /bringing in; please ask if you are unsure.

Make up



Jewellery



Toys or balls, soft toys or fidget toys unless the parent (not the child!) has agreed this with the teacher

## SHIRLEY JUNIOR PUPIL JOBS

We are excited to tell you that the SJS Employment Agency will be reopening this week, with a range of jobs available to Junior pupils, which we will tell them about in today's assembly. Jobs range from assembly monitors and office helpers to pond monitors and infant playtime colouring club or reading buddies. Some jobs are open to anyone, whereas others are only open to children in certain year groups. All jobs are paid at the rate of 6 House Points per half term.

If they would like to practise the skill of Aspiring, and apply for one of the jobs, children need to first make sure they have the qualities we are looking for (each job has a Person Specification to guide them) and then fill in an application form. This needs to be their own work but you are welcome to talk their thoughts through with them

By the end of Friday 3rd March you will be able to find details of the current jobs available, as well as view the application form, on the website here: <https://www.shirleyjuniorschool.org/page/?title=Pupil+Job+Agency&pid=226>

We will be running a training session for any children who would like to apply but who do not feel confident to do this without some help, and will make sure children know when this is.

The deadline to apply for the current jobs is Friday 24th March. The Learning Ambassadors will help to decide which children will be given each job and children will find out by Friday 24th March whether or not they have been chosen.

It is likely that more jobs will become available in the summer term, so anyone who misses out should get another chance.

Good luck to all of our applicants!



# easy2name

## Back to School? Lots to Label?

Try the Sticky Starter pack, for clothing, shoes, stationery, sports kit, water bottles and more!

This pack has you covered!

Enter our special code at checkout to get us to our fund-raising goals! **PLUS YOU GET FREE SHIPPING**

FR- SHIRLEY INFANT -61

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[www.easy2name.com](http://www.easy2name.com)

Platinum ★★★★★  
Trusted Service Award

For consistently delivering excellence 2021 feefo<sup>ee</sup>

# Parent/Carer Drop-in

Do you have any worries, concerns or questions about your child?

Do you need advice or support about family life worries?

Come and have an informal chat;  
we can signpost you onto relevant agencies.

We look forward to seeing you,

We'll have the kettle on!

Karen & Vicky

2:30-3:30pm

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month Monday

Starting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Community Room

(entrance via Junior School Gate) Please come in  
for

Tea, Coffee and a chat

Vicky Crawford - Shirley Branch Salvation Army

and Karen Allen

Family Support Worker



# Safeguarding

## 1,000 per cent increase in sexual abuse imagery of 7-10s since lockdown

Primary school children aged 7-10 years old are increasingly being groomed to perform sexually online by predators warns the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

The IWF, the UK hotline to report and remove child sexual abuse imagery online, have warned that since the beginning of the pandemic, they have witnessed an increase of 1,058 per cent in the number of webpages depicting sexual abuse imagery of children aged 7-10. This content was recorded by predators via internet connected devices and shared online.

Read more here :-

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/1000-per-cent-increase-in-sexual-abuse-imagery-of-7-10s-since-lockdown>



### Parents' Guide for Talking to children about online sexual harassment

We may think this won't happen to our children, but research back in 2017 found that 2 in 5 young people aged 13 and over have witnessed people their age circulating nude or nearly nude images of someone they know, and research has also found that very few children report these incidents because they do not believe that reporting makes any difference. It is clearly vital for parents to be having conversations about these things with their children as soon as, if not before, children have access to smart phones and social media, so that they know how to stay safe.

You can download this excellent guide from <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>

It includes advice from 16-21 year olds about how they would have liked their parents to handle discussions about sensitive topics such as peer pressure and sharing nude images, along with links for more information on each topic.



# FOSIS/PTFA

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### FAMILY DISCO – FRIDAY 10 MARCH – TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



Bring the family to our fun-filled disco and dance the night away to tunes by DJ Tash!

**Date:** Friday 10 March 2023

**Time:** 5.30pm - 7.30pm (come anytime you like!)

**Price:** £3 per child / adults FREE

**Tickets:** available here: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sjs-ptfa/index.cfm?event=shop#.Y-QxeC2l0Us>

All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times and each adult can supervise up to 5 children. The cafe will be serving light food and refreshments.

We can't wait to see your moves on the dancefloor!

### COLOUR RUN SAT 25 MARCH – TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



What better way to spend a Saturday than taking on our obstacle course and getting splatted with paint at the same time!

**Date:** Saturday 25 March 2023

**Time:** 11am – 2pm

**Price:** £5 per person and includes an exclusive medal.

**Tickets:** available here: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosis/index.cfm?event=events&eventUpdated=true>

As well as paint, we'll have a BBQ, face painting, candy floss and much more, so come and join us!

We still need lots of volunteers to help run this event so please contact [fosis@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:fosis@shirleyschools.co.uk) if you can help at all, even if for an hour, every little helps. All are welcome so why not rope in a grandparent too!

## DON'T FORGET ...



**Our school lottery** raises money directly for the **Junior School**. Every week there is a guaranteed cash prize for someone from the school.

This prize money goes up the more tickets we sell.

You are also automatically entered into the national draw where

you could win £25,000! The tickets cost just £1 each week.

Sign up here: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/shirley-junior-school>



Online shopping from bread to bathrooms, use Easyfundraising, sign up here:

[Infants – Friends of Shirley Infants – Southampton](#)

[Juniors – Shirley Junior School PTFA – Southampton](#)

## STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED...

Our website pages:

**FOSIS** – [Friends of Shirley Infant School - Shirley Infant School](#)

**PTFA** – [PTFA - Shirley Junior School](#)

On Facebook through the private year groups – please remember that these groups are managed by parents and not run by the school:

### Infants

Year 2 Face book group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/849370902208557>

Year 1 Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/774368666506974>

Year R Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1150736922357432>

### Juniors

Parents of Year 6 Face book group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1716707195249069>

Parents of Year 5 Face book group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/649407131910961>

Parents of Year 4 Face book group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/137311320449399>

Parents of Year 3 Face book group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/172919936937823>

# Community Information

## From next month millions of people will see their benefits increase as the Government updates benefit payments in April 2023

If you receive welfare benefits such as Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Carer's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance, your payments will rise in line with the 10.1% inflation rate.

You don't need to do anything as your payments will automatically increase.

Read our guide below to find out more about some of the benefits that are set to increase and remember, if you live in a low-income household, it's worth [checking your benefit entitlement](#). Millions of pounds of benefits go unclaimed every year so check today to see if you could be in line to claim extra money.

[The new State Pension](#) will rise from £185.15 a week to £203.85.

[The benefit cap](#) (which is a limit on the total amount of benefits you can get if you are working age) will increase in April 2023. [Check if you are exempt from the benefit cap](#).

Currently the cap is set at:

- £20,000 a year (£1,667.67 a month) for couples (with or without children) and single parents with dependent children.
- £13,400 a year (£1,116.67 a month) for a single adult who doesn't have children or whose child/children do not live with them.

From April 2023 the limit on benefit payments will increase to:

- £22,020 a year (£1835 a month) for couples (with or without children) and single parents with dependent children.
- £14,753 a year (£1,229.42 a month) for a single adult who doesn't have children or whose child/children do not live with them.

Examples of other benefits that will increase from April 2023 are:

[Universal Credit](#) - The standard rates will be increasing as follows:

- Single person, under 25 – rising from £262.31 to £292.11
- Single person, 25 or over – rising from £334.91 to £368.74
- Couple, joint claimants under 25 – rising from £416.45 to £458.51
- Couple, joint claimants where one or both is 25 or over – rising from £525.72 to £578.82

[Attendance Allowance](#) – This helps with extra costs if you have a physical or mental disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you. The lowest rate is due to rise from £61.85 to **£68.10**, with the higher rate to climb **from £92.40 to £101.75** a week.

[Carer's Allowance](#) – This is available if you care for another person for at least 35 hours a week. Rising from £69.70 a week to £76.75.

[Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#) – This benefit is replacing Disability Living Allowance and is available if you have a long-term physical or mental health condition.

- Daily living component, enhanced rate – rising from £92.40 to £101.75
- Daily living component, standard rate – rising from £61.85 to £68.10
- Mobility component, enhanced rate – rising from £64.50 to £71
- Mobility component, standard rate – rising from £24.45 to £26.90

For a full list of benefit payments that will increase on 1 April for the new financial year visit the [Government website on benefit and pension rates 2023 to 2024](#). If you have any queries about benefit payments or making a claim just [get in touch](#) with our friendly [Welfare Rights & Money Advice Team](#) or call 023 8083 2339.

## Council Tax increase explained

In line with neighbouring councils, Southampton City Council will be increasing its part of Council Tax by 4.99%. For the average property in Southampton (Band B) this is equivalent to a **weekly** increase of just:

- £1.23 (for a household)
  - £0.92 (for a single person)
- £0.31 (Council Tax support claimants)

The 4.99% consists of two separate charges

- **The adult social care precept will increase by 2%** - This money (approximately £2.2 million) is ringfenced for supporting adults in the social care system.
- **The core Council Tax will increase by 2.99%** - Generating approximately £3.3 million, this helps the council maintain the current levels of frontline services on which residents depend.

## Council Tax Support Fund

The government announced on 23 December 2022 that extra funding will be made available for Local Authorities to support the most vulnerable households in England with Council Tax payments.

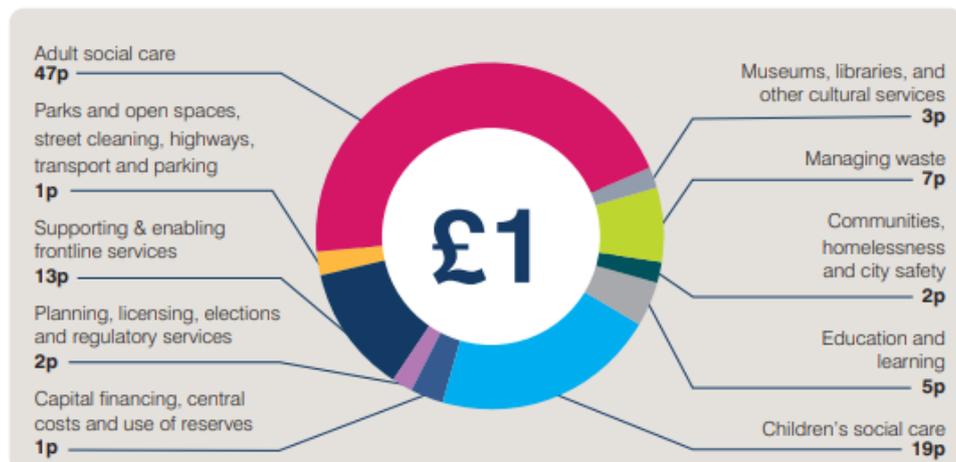
If you get Council Tax Support as of 1 April 2023, an extra amount up to £25 can be paid towards your Council Tax bill.

- If after you get Council Tax Support you still owe £25 or more for 23/24 bill you will be awarded an extra amount of £25.
- If you owe less than £25 you will have the full outstanding amount credited to your account.
- If your bill is fully covered by Council Tax Support, no further award will be made.

No application is required.

## How your Council Tax is spent

### HOW YOUR COUNCIL TAX IS SPENT BY SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL



\*The overall amount is made up of the budget for Southampton City Council and Adult Social Care

In the most challenging [budget](#) environment we have seen in many years, the council will continue to make sure every pound we spend works for you, ensuring you are getting value for money. Above is a breakdown of how £1 of a Council Tax payer's money is spent.

## Cost of living - Help with food

**Cost of living information**

Worried about affording food?

[southampton.gov.uk/costofliving](https://southampton.gov.uk/costofliving)

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

We have developed a [cost of living webpage](#) which contains information and guidance to support people with cost of living pressures.

The webpage includes a range of information and advice including making sure you are claiming the benefits you are entitled to, how to access support for paying bills and specific help available for older people and those with families, plus avoiding scams and looking after your mental health.

There is also information on how you can [access help with getting food](#), should you need to.

## Removal of the one month discount for empty/ unfurnished properties

From 1 April 2023 the one month Council Tax discount for empty or unfurnished properties will no longer be available.

The council ran a consultation from 9 November 2022 to 10 January 2023 with the aim to:

- Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the budget proposals for 2023/24
- Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to feedback on any impacts the proposals may have
- Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objectives in a different way

The key findings from 661 responses showed that 82% agreed with the proposal to remove the one month discount for empty and unfurnished properties.

At the Full Council meeting on 22 February it was approved that the discount will be removed from 1 April 2023.

## Care leaver discount

Southampton City Council has been supporting care leavers up to 25 years old with a local exemption on their Council Tax. From 1 April 2023 we are extending this support to include where care leavers are a second adult in the property but not the bill payer.

Further details are available here: [Reduction for Care Leavers](#)

## Local Elections on 4 May - the way you vote is changing

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time on Thursday 4 May 2023, when local elections take place in Southampton.

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can [find a list on our website](#). For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, you can also visit the [Electoral Commission website](#) or call 0800 328 0280.

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or your ID no longer looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can do this [online](#), or by completing a [paper application](#) and returning it to us by 25 April 2023.

Or, you may find it easier to vote by post or proxy - which don't require you to provide photo ID. The deadline to apply for a post or proxy vote is Tuesday 18 April 2023 and more information can be found [here](#).

