



# 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 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **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 by the school office.

**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

### **NOV**

Monday 28th Family Photo Session 4.30 - 6pm  
Wednesday 30th Year R Teddy Bear Hospital - on site  
Wednesday 30th Year 1 Celebration Event 2.45pm

### **DEC**

Friday 2nd FOSIS Wreath Making  
Monday 5th Dress rehearsal Christmas Play  
Tuesday 6th Christmas Play 1.45pm St James Church  
Wednesday 7th Christmas Play 9.45am St James Church  
Wednesday 7th Year R Teddy Bear Hospital - on site  
Friday 9th Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day  
Friday 9th Year 2 Wizard of Oz - off site  
Friday 9th FOSIS Cake Sale Year 2  
Saturday 10th FOSIS / PTA Christmas Fayre  
Tuesday 13th Year 1 Christmas Party  
Wednesday 14th Year R Teddy Bear Hospital - on site  
Wednesday 14th Year 2 Christmas Party  
Thursday 15th Year R Christmas Party  
**Friday 16th School closes at 3.10pm for the Christmas Holidays**

## Shirley Junior School

### **NOV**

Monday 28th Family Photo Session 4.30 - 6pm

### **DEC**

Thursday 1st Year 5 Swimming Malamutes  
Thursday 1st Share my Learning 8.45am & 3.20pm  
Friday 2nd PTA Wreath Making  
Monday 5th Year 6 Bikeability Training on site  
Wednesday 7th Year 5 Minstead Parents Info Evening 5pm School Hall  
Thursday 8th Year 5 Swimming Malamutes  
Friday 9th Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day  
Saturday 10th FOSIS / PTA Christmas Fayre  
Monday 12th Year 4 Outcome Ticket to Ride 1.30pm, parents invited  
Monday 12th Year 3 outcome Southampton through Time 3.20pm, parents invited  
Tuesday 13th PTA Elfridges  
Wednesday 14th Year 3 Christmas Play 2pm & 5pm  
Wednesday 14th PTA Elfridges  
Friday 16th Christingle 1.30pm St James, Parents invited  
**Friday 16th School closes at 3.20pm for the Christmas Holidays**

## **Starting school (Year R and Year 3)**

**Deadline** to make an application is **Sunday 15th January**

[https://ems.southampton.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://ems.southampton.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

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

Coming soon

Arctic Fox Swimming starts 5th January 2023

Husky Swimming starts 23rd February 2023

### NO DOGS ALLOWED



NO Dogs on the playground for any reason this includes carrying them unless they are a guide dog, if you have a guide dog please inform the office and provide the irrelevant paperwork.

No dogs allowed  
in the school  
grounds

### Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

On Friday 9th December 2022



We are inviting all pupils to take part in **Christmas Jumper Day** in aid of the **Murray Parish Trust – to advance paediatrics emergency medicine at Southampton Children's Hospital and School Funds for Christmas DVD's**

Everyone will be invited to wear their silliest, sparkliest or cosiest Christmas woollies on this day and make a donation of whatever you can give, to help this appeal.

If your child does not have a festive sweater, do not worry – it is easy to decorate a plain jumper with tinsel or homemade stars and snowflakes.

**Please make sure your child wears school trousers or skirt with their Christmas Jumper**

**In addition, pupils are invited to join us for our Christmas Dinner on this day too!**

Your child's Christmas dinner must be ordered on School Grid



### SIS & SJS CHRISTMAS CARDS, WRAPPING PAPER, MUGS ETC READY FOR COLLECTION

All of those wonderful Christmas cards, wrapping paper, mugs and other gifts that you had made with your children's artwork are all ready for collection from the school office, don't forget to collect yours! If you do not collect them by Friday 2nd December, we will send them home with your child.

### After School collection—Juniors

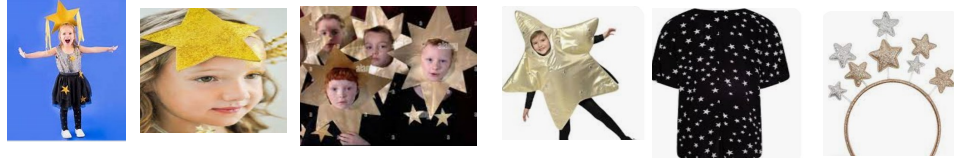
Please leave the playground promptly after you have collected your child so clubs can start safely at 3:30. The gate will be locked at 3:40.

## Shirley Infants Nativity costumes

Letters have previously come home, stating what your child need to wear.

Could you send in your child's costume in a named bag into school on Friday 2nd December preferably not before because of storage.

**Squirrels** - Please can you provide a simple star costume. These can be either silver, gold or white. This can be as simple as a t-shirt with stars on or tinsel, headbands with stars on or shiny clothes.



**Otters** - Please can you provide a simple Christmas tree costume. This can be as simple as a green t-shirt with black leggings/trousers, a green dress, headbands with tress on or Christmas tree costume.



**Hedgehog** - Please can you provide a simple Candle Costume. This can be as simple as a black T-shirt with black leggings/trousers or a dress.



**Mole** - Beach clothes E.g colourful t-shirt and shorts.

**Rabbit** - Plain Black outfit E.g. plain black t-shirt and trousers.

**Owl** - Plain red, green or black clothes E.g black trousers and green t-shirt.

**Woodpecker** - Colours of the USA flag: red, white and blue. E.g. red/white t-shirt and blue trousers

**Fox** - Colours of the German flag: red, yellow and black. E.g. red t-shirt and black trousers

**Badger** - Colours of the Hawaiian flag and Hawaii lei flower garlands

This week in our assembly, we have been learning about road safety and how to "**stop, look, listen and think**"! I have added the link to the Think road safety website the assembly was based on. If you would like to share the video with your children again to reinforce the message, this would be wonderful. There is also a catchy tune to embed the message of '**stop, look, listen, think**'!

[https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/explore-education-resources/?age%5B0%5D=3-to-6&resource\\_type%5B%5D=film](https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/explore-education-resources/?age%5B0%5D=3-to-6&resource_type%5B%5D=film)



### **School Visitor Code of Conduct**

For your information, please see our new [Visitor Code of Conduct](#).

Can parents / carers please ensure they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.

# Safeguarding

If you are Christmas Shopping and thinking about purchasing online or computer games for your children, please be aware of the age appropriate games that are on offer to you.

Game 'age ratings' explained

## What do game ratings mean?

To help you choose age-appropriate games for children most platforms will feature an age rating on the game. Due to the way certain platforms categorise games according to their content, at times the age rating for one game may not be the same across all platforms. So, it can be confusing when taking a call on whether a game is age-appropriate. However, you can set [parental controls](#) on your games console to limit what content your child accesses.

## Choosing age-appropriate games

It's important to pay attention to the age minimums for the video games your child plays. However, there is sometimes contradicting information. For example, Clash of Clans is rated Everyone 10+ on the Google Play app store, but Supercell – the makers of the game – have set the minimum age of the game to 13 and over because it features a chat function and in-app purchasing.

Therefore, it is important to understand what the ratings mean and why these may have been categorised in this way.

## How are games rated under PEGI?

All games released in the UK will have one of the following PEGI age ratings on the packaging: 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18. The rating means that the game shouldn't be played by a young person under that age.

Why? Because there may be content within the game which could potentially be harmful, frightening or worrying to children. As well as an age rating, PEGI also uses icons showing content descriptors, letting you know if a game contains: violence, drugs, bad language, discrimination, fear, gambling, sex, or in-app purchases.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings>

This link will also have other links and guides to online games such as Roblox and Adopt Me!

# FOSIS/PTFA

## JUNIOR DISCO FRIDAY – TONIGHT – TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR!!



Dress to impress, treat yourself to a hotdog and something from the tuck shop and show off your moves on the dance floor!

Year 3 & 4 disco – 4.45pm until 6pm  
Year 5 & 6 discos – 6.30pm until 7.45pm

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## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### 🎄 FOSIS/PTFA WREATH MAKING EVENT – FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 🎄

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....." And what better way to start the festive season off right with a bit of wreath making courtesy of FOSIS/PTFA:



Why not start the festive season with a crafty evening making a Christmas wreath. All equipment will be provided and an experienced instructor will be on hand to help show you what to do. Basic greenery and embellishments are included but if you have any specific design ideas or preferred foliage or decorations then please do bring them with you.

Green foliage: Check ✓

Christmas spirit: Check ✓

Adults only: double check ✓✓

Tickets on sale here, don't delay, it's usually a sell-out - [Shirley Infants School \(pta-events.co.uk\)](http://Shirley Infants School (pta-events.co.uk))

**WE NEED YOUR FOLIAGE!! Please hold off pruning any evergreens as we'll be asking for donations of holly, ivy, rosemary, bay, mistletoe etc. next week. THANK YOU!**

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### 🎄 FOSIS/PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR – SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 🎄



Come and join us at our Shirley Schools Christmas Fair on **Saturday 10 December - 11-2pm** at Shirley Junior School.

Come and meet Father Christmas at our Grotto and buy some Christmassy gifts at our festive stalls. There'll be Christmas crafts for the kids to do, lots of activities and our café to grab a drink and lunch.

If you or someone you know would like to have a stall on the playground, please complete this booking form. - <https://forms.gle/ehWYmmUgazywpFNbA>

Having a clear out? Why not have your own pre-loved stall or perhaps an older child who needs to fundraise for a project or charity – all welcome

**Any sealed bottle donations for our tombola gratefully received – please take to the school office.**

## CHRISTMAS CARDS, WRAPPING PAPER, MUGS ETC READY FOR COLLECTION

All of those wonderful Christmas cards, wrapping paper, mugs and other gifts that you had made with your children's artwork are all ready for collection from the school office, don't forget to collect yours!

## ELFRIDGES – DONATIONS NEEDED



On 13 and 14 December your junior school child will have the chance to go 'shopping' in our present room (aka the Community Room) and buy and wrap a gift for you. This will be done during the school day and 'tickets' to buy a gift, if you wish, will be on sale in advance - details to follow.

If you have any unwanted gifts, wrapping paper, bows etc that would be suitable for Elfridges, we'd be very grateful - **please bring to the school office.**

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## BUY YOUR SCHOOL A PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS!

At this seasonal time of year it's always nice to give something back. As we all know schools are chronically underfunded so aren't able to spend on some of the resources that would really add value to our children's education. If you feel able to help then please have a look at the school's Amazon wish lists and see if you could gift them something useful this year. Remember if you shop through AmazonSmile, the school will receive a percentage from your purchase! Thank you!

[Juniors Wish List](#) – remember to choose Shirley Junior School PTA through AmazonSmile

[Infants Wish List](#) – remember to choose Friends of Shirley Infant School through AmazonSmile



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## 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>



## Extra special prize this December....



We're thrilled to be able to announce our big prize for the December draw – a MASSIVE PS5 bundle! This incredible prize includes a PS5 (disc edition), extra controller, 3 amazing games, an official PlayStation Pulse headset, and loads more goodies – as well as a 43" 4k Ultra HD Smart TV to play it on!



If you are **shopping online**, please click on these links first. They then donate to the school at **NO EXTRA COST TO YOU**. Amazon = <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>  
**Infants** – choose Friends of Shirley Infant School  
**Juniors** - choose Shirley Junior School PTA



Online shopping from bread to bathrooms, use Easyfundrasing, 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

## **Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week!**



Many households are at an increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning this winter as people look for ways to save on heating and cooking costs.

Group Manager for Prevention, John Amos said:

“Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer as you can’t see it, taste it or smell it.

“Poisoning from carbon monoxide can occur when any fuel-burning appliance, such as a boiler, gas fire or central heating system that has not been properly installed, maintained, or if there is a lack of ventilation.

“Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide alarm in the same room as any heating appliance which doesn’t run off electricity.”

### **Read more**

<https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/smoke-alarms/carbon-monoxide/>

### **Ensure you have a CO alarm.**

Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide alarm in the same room as any heating appliance which doesn’t run off electricity. CO detectors can be bought in most supermarkets and DIY stores. They’re inexpensive and save lives.

### **Read more**

<https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/smoke-alarms/carbon-monoxide/carbon-monoxide-detectors/>

### **New CO regulations**

Since 1 October, landlords in England have been required to provide carbon monoxide alarms for all rooms in the home where there is a ‘fixed combustion appliance’; such as a fireplace or a boiler.

### **Read more**

<https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/smoke-alarms/smoke-alarm-advice-for-tenants-and-landlords/>

## **What causes CO poisoning?**

The build-up of carbon monoxide can be caused by any of the following:

- Boilers, gas fires, cookers, water heaters, open fires and central heating systems
- Using cooking appliances as heaters
- Faulty heating or cooking appliances
- Badly ventilated rooms – sealed windows or no air bricks

### **Learn more**

<https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/smoke-alarms/carbon-monoxide/>

## **Spot the symptoms early**

The early symptoms of CO poisoning can easily be mistaken for other common ailments and can develop quickly or over several days or months.

These include:

- A headache
- Feeling dizzy, sick, tired and confused
- Being sick and/or having stomach pain
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

### **Learn more**

<https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/smoke-alarms/carbon-monoxide/>

## **Do you know the 5Cs and how you can keep yourself and your family safe this winter?**



Candles - keep lit candles away from clothing and bedding and put them out before you leave the room

Carbon monoxide - ensure you have a CO alarm fitted in your home and look out for the early warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Cooking - barbecues and camping stoves are unsafe to use inside as it puts you at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Chimneys - make sure you use the correct fuel for woodburning stoves and open fires to reduce the risk of toxic fumes and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Clothing - think about where you put clothes to dry and keep well away from portable heaters and fires.

### **Read more**

<https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/cost-of-living/>

## Warm Spaces

Information on containing warm spaces in Southampton.

<https://www.solinked.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/10-List-of-Warm-Spaces-in-Southampton-A4-format-updated-16th-November-2022-1.docx>

## Do you have a Council Tax account?

Sign-up for an online Council Tax account. Having an online account will allow you access to your account at any time. You will be able to:

- Sign up to receive an e-Bill rather than a paper bill
- View bills online including the balance outstanding and see previous payments
- Request payment by or amend an existing Direct Debit
- Notify us of a change of address
- Make an arrangement to pay

Sign-up here: [Manage your account online \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://southampton.gov.uk)

## Cost of living information



Many people are being deeply affected by the rising cost of living and it can be very hard when you don't feel in control of your money. Whatever your concerns may be, we've put together some helpful information based on Southampton's cost of living top five checklist:

1. Claim what you can
2. Be scam aware
3. Keep warm this winter
4. Access food support
5. Look after your mental health - it's ok not to be ok

For information about the support available in the city and from government please visit our [Cost of Living Information webpages](#) or visit your local library where staff or digital champion volunteers will be able to help you find information.

## Help with your water bill

If you're struggling to pay your bill, you could be entitled to one of Southern Water's payment schemes.

You could be eligible for a discount if any of the following applies to you:

- Your household income is low
- Someone in your home gets a means-tested benefit
- You've got three or more children under 19 living at home
- Someone living with you needs more water because of a medical condition
- You haven't made a payment to us for a while

Contact [Southern Water](#) to find out more about the options available.

## British Gas Energy Trust Support Fund

If you are struggling to pay for gas and electricity bills, you may be eligible to apply to the [British Gas Trust Energy Support Fund](#) to clear energy debts. Grants of up to £1,500 are available to British Gas customers with fuel debts of between £250 and £1,500.

You must get money or debt advice before applying; there are local and national agencies offering online debt and money information.

If you are a council tenant, [contact Welfare Rights](#).

If you are not a council tenant a list of help can be found [here](#).

Find out [more information](#) about British Gas Energy Trust.

## If you get benefits based on your income

The second and final part of the £650 Cost of Living Payment will arrive between Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 23 November 2022.

You will get the £324 payment if you receive:

- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support

The payment will be made separately from your benefit.

## New Local Supported Employment service

Southampton City Council has secured funding to help adults with learning disabilities to find and maintain employment.

People with learning disabilities can face a variety of barriers when looking for work. The grant funding from the Local Supported Employment (LSE) initiative will enable the council to build on its existing work to support people into employment. If you ...

- Have a learning disability or autism
- Are aged 18 and over
- Claim Universal Credit or are economically inactive
- Are known to a team at Southampton City Council (e.g. Adult Social Care, Homelessness, Pathways Through Care etc.)

...then you could be able to get support from our team to find your next job.

To find out more, please [contact Dan](#) who will be happy to have a chat.

The new initiative will run alongside our Learning Disability Employment Service that works with people with a learning disability who use the council's day services and/or are supported by the council's Learning Disability Team, as well as our Solent Get Into Employment (SGIE) project, which is part funded by the European Social Fund, that provides free one-to-one support to help people with a [neurodivergent condition](#) to get into employment or volunteering.

Find out more about the Council's employment support services for people with learning disabilities, autism and neurodivergent conditions on [Access Southampton](#).

Southampton Christmas Market

**On now until 24 December | Above Bar pedestrian area**

**Opening Times: Huts 10am - 8pm / Bars 10am - 10pm**

When you are in the city centre, a visit to the Southampton Christmas Market is a must. It boasts a wide range of tasty treats to eat and drink, special gifts and goodies, live entertainment and a magical Christmas carousel. [Find out more here.](#)

## A pick of Christmas activities coming up

Now until 2 Jan: [Westquay on Ice](#)

23 Nov - 30 Dec: [Glow at Marwell](#)

26 Nov - 8 Jan: [Christmas at Mottisfont](#)

27 Nov: [Christmas Festival at Bursledon Brickworks](#)

3 Dec: [Communicare's Tree of Light in Woolston Millennium Garden](#)

10 - 11 Dec and 17 - 18 Dec [Christmas Makers Market at God's House Tower](#)

Keep up to date on all things Christmas by visiting [SO this is Christmas in Southampton](#) webpage.

For more information about events taking place in and around Southampton this week, this month and beyond, go to the [Events listings on the Visit Southampton website](#).

## The Great Elf Investigation

Free Family Walking Trail in the City Centre | 25 November - 3 January



Explore Southampton with this free, festive walking trail.

Follow the trail through Southampton's city centre to track down the pesky elves that have escaped and stolen some of the toys Father Christmas had ready to deliver on Christmas Eve. You can help find what is missing so no one goes without a gift!

Two separate routes are planned for families to explore which will break up the city into North and South poles. You can pick up your free trail guide from either starting point. Walk both trails in one day or complete them in two separate outings. Children who solve all of the elves' clues will receive a free prize! [Find out more here.](#)

## Family Christmas at Tudor House and Garden

Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 December | Saturday 17 - Monday 19 December.



Get in the Christmas spirit with a family visit to Tudor House and Garden covered in festive decorations. You can book a time to see Father Christmas then book a traditional Christmas decoration workshop or enjoy a festive afternoon tea together. [Find out more here](#) - Book early to avoid disappointment!

You can also have festive fun at [Southampton City Art Gallery](#) and [SeaCity Museum](#) with Christmas activities for all the family, from wreath making to fun history talks – book at [WeGotTickets](#).

# Shirley Advent Windows

Discover the Christmas story in our festive walkabout of Shirley this December. A different window appears each day.

- 1st. Mary
- 2nd. Angel talks to Mary
- 3rd. Joseph
- 4th. Advent Candle - Love
- 5th. Immanuel
- 6th. Bethlehem
- 7th. Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem
- 8th. Stable
- 9th. Jesus in a manger
- 10th. Shepherds with their sheep
- 11th. Advent Candle – Joy
- 12th. Angel
- 13th. Choir of angels
- 14th. Shepherds meet Jesus
- 15th. Shepherds celebrate in Bethlehem
- 16th. Star
- 17th. Wise men see a star
- 18th. Advent Candle – Peace
- 19th. Wise men follow the star
- 20th. Gift of Gold
- 21st. Gift of Frankincense and Myrrh
- 22nd. Nativity tableau
- 23rd. Advent Candle – Hope
- 24th. Light of the World



View the map online here

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1GSzjrkuOimhXBq6WgZk-yjiKEwL44>



Southampton Music Hub and Friends of the Southampton Youth Orchestras  
present their annual

## Pyramid Concert

Featuring Acorn Strings, Elgar Strings, Youth Strings, Youth  
Concert Sinfonia and Youth Orchestra

### Saturday 28 January

7.00pm

at Central Hall  
St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF

Tickets:  
£12 adults, £8 concessions, £2 under 16s  
£25 Family ticket – 2 adults and 2 children  
Box Office:  
Available on the door on the day

 [southamptonmusicclub.org](http://southamptonmusicclub.org) 023 8083 3648  
[music@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:music@southampton.gov.uk) @musicclubsouth  SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY COUNCIL