



Shirley Junior School Weekly Communications

KINDNESS.
RESPECT.
INTEGRITY.

Friday 9th February 2024

Head Teacher Message:

We have had a fantastic half term of learning. Year 3 have used excellent scientific knowledge of electricity to be design engineers and build a torch, they worked really hard and work very well.

All the children and staff had a fantastic sleepover in the school last night. Year 5 had a fantastic trip to Minstead learning about how to look after our planet.

The year 6 artists have been developing skills in sculpting with wire to learn to create animals, we look forward to seeing the final pieces finished!

This week Year 4 they have designed, created and tested catapults that the Romans would have used, luckily on a smaller scale! We look forward to inviting parents into our Geography Showcase after half term to find out about how we develop as Geographers.

Reminder: Our school uniform states children should be wearing black trainers to school. Please ensure your child is not wearing brightly coloured trainers. Thank you for supporting the uniform Policy.

Whole School Dates:

Mon 12/2/24 – Fri 16/1/24 Half Term

Thu 22/2/24 – Geography Showcase (Parents are welcome from 3.30 - 4.15).

1/3/24 – School Disco

Tues 5/3/24 – Virtual Parents Evening

Thu 7/3/24 – Virtual Parents Evening and **World Book Day (Uniform as normal)**

Mon 11/3/24 - INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Tues 19/3/24 - Share my learning 8.45 and 3.20.

Tues 26/3/24 – School Photo Day

Messages:

Junior School Parents Evening March 2024

Parent evening in the Junior School will be by virtual appointments on 5th & 7th March 2024.

Tuesday 5th March 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Thursday 7th March 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Bookings will open on 26th February at 6:00pm and close on 4th March at 9am.

Instructions of how to book your appointment are attached to this week's weekly communication and will also be on the school website.

Messages Contd

February Half Term Activities



The February half-term is nearly here! Southampton City Council have plenty of free, drop-in craft activities on offer in addition to the regularly scheduled events. Please note we do ask that parents/guardians stay for the duration of the sessions.

Underwater crafts / Bitterne Library / Monday 12 February / 10.30am to 12.30pm / suitable for all ages

Dancing Dragon crafting / Portswood Library / Wednesday 14 February / 2.30pm to 3.30pm / suitable for ages 4+

Pirates and Parrots / Shirley Library / Thursday 15 February / 10.30am to 11.30am / suitable for all ages

Dragon and Lantern crafting / Central Library / Thursday 15 February / 10.30am to 12.30pm / suitable for ages 4+

Underwater crafts / Woolston Library / Friday 16 February / 10.30am to 12.30pm / suitable for all ages

Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. Attached is a leaflet with 'Top Tips on how to respond to your child's anxiety'.

If you need to discuss concerns you may have about your child's anxiety or mental health please contact Karen Allen Family Support Worker to arrange a meeting.



Free This can be incredibly useful in helping to spot recurring patterns or triggers behind behaviours. Another great feature of the app is that it recognises keywords, such as bullying, friendships, anger, and automatically suggests links to key resources on the My Family Coach platform. Anything parents and carers write in the app is completely confidential, you can choose to print off a report to share with school, which can be particularly useful for parents' evenings, action plans and EHCP reviews, and other meetings.

It's free to download the My Family Journal app from Apple and Google Play stores. <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/journal/>. Don't forget, we also have free online classes coming up soon.

We also send out the recordings to watch on-demand if you can't make it on the night – you just need to book a space to receive the recording:

- [What Can I Do When My Child Feels Angry? Tuesday 4th June 2024, 8pm](#)

Coming up in your year group...

Year 3

Watch this space!

Year 4

Watch this space!

Year 5

22nd Feb – Pizzly Bear swimming lessons

29th Feb; 7th Mar, 14th, 21st, 28th - Walrus swimming lessons

Year 6

Mon 4th March – Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

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Reminder: Good Grub Club

There is a free Good Grub Club running in February half term, on Tuesday 13th. Families attending will be able to get involved in cooking some tasty food. Please see the flyer attached for further information and to book.

Girlguiding - World Thinking Day

Thursday 22nd February is Thinking Day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world.

Any of our pupils that are members of the Guiding movement, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers are permitted to wear their uniforms to school on this day.

Photocopying Volunteer – Juniors

We are currently looking for a parent volunteer to assist with some photocopying. If you are interested in helping please email office@shirleyschools.co.uk for further information. When emailing the office please title the subject line, Photocopying Volunteer. We would be so grateful for any assistance, even if you manage to photocopy the wrong thing; all array of photocopying skills welcome!!

World Book Day 2024

Reading with your child

This year for World Book Day we will be showcasing our enjoyment of reading in school by inviting our adults to experience one of our class book reading sessions. Parents and carers are invited to join their children in their classrooms on Thursday 7th March.

Year 5 and 6 between 9:00-9:30.

Year 3 and 4 between 2:30 and 3:00.

During our class book reading sessions, adults will have the opportunity to watch and listen to our skilled teachers reading aloud whilst modelling the skills of being a fluent reader.

In these sessions, parents and carers will also discover how teachers use echo reading to support reading fluency, a reading tool which could easily be used at home to encourage and develop a love of reading.

The Great Book Swap

Throughout World Book Day, all children will have the opportunity to be part of the Great Book Swap.

To get involved in the book swap, all children need to do is bring a book from home, which they no longer wish to read, on Thursday 7th March. Throughout the day every class will have an opportunity to hand over their book and swap it for a different book of their choice.

Books to be swapped need to be in a good condition so others can enjoy them. If you have any extra children's books which you would like to donate please bring these to the School office on Wednesday 6th March.

Uniform

This year we will be asking the children to wear their normal uniform on World Book Day.

We have made this decision for many reasons including:

- Cost of dress-up costumes are often expensive for adults to buy.
- Wearing different clothes can distract children from concentrating fully in lessons. Lessons will continue as normal throughout World Book Day.