



Shirley Junior School

Newsletter

1

Date

13/09/2019

DCSF: 852/2425



www.shirleyjuniorschool.org



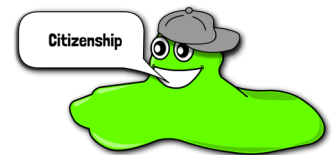
023 80771434

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children and staff have had a calm and purposeful start to the new school year with everyone settling quickly into their new classes and routines. The children look really smart in their uniform! The year groups will be taking part in 'hook days' to start their new topics over the coming weeks; more information about your child's learning will be in the year group curriculum newsletter. All the children look really smart in their new school uniform, please can I remind you that all children should also be wearing **plain black schools shoes**.

Citizenship JETT

Autumn term sees the whole school focus on Citizenship JETT. What does it mean to be a good citizen? How can we make sure we are developing skills of citizenship in the classroom? All year groups will be learning how they can be good citizens within our school and community. This will include our Democracy day in a few weeks time. Year 6 will be focusing on being citizens of the world. They will be reflecting on how the choices they make can have an impact on the wider world and how to ensure the impact is a positive one .



Family Support

As many of you are aware, Karen Allen is our Family Support worker. Karen runs an informal drop in session every Monday from 9-10am giving emotional and practical help and advice to families that are having long or short-term difficulties.

**" Do you have a question about your child's behaviour?
Is there something worrying you but you 'can't put your finger on it!'**

Come and have an informal chat;

I have lots of useful 'hints & tips', alternatively I can signpost you onto relevant agencies.

**You can find me in the Community Room (accessed via Junior School Gate)
every Monday 9-10am, I look forward to seeing you, I'll have the kettle on!"**

Karen Allen, Family Support Worker

Parking

We've been out today to put up the winning posters from last years safer parking competition. Please remember to park away from the school to help keep our children safe when crossing the road and reduce the fumes they breathe. Access for emergency vehicles is needed at all times even 'just a minute' can be too long. Please plan your travel. Alternative parking is available at St James park, The Range (but please be careful crossing and stand back whilst waiting) or at Pets At Home. Thank you again for all those that sent in posters.

Lockdown

We wish to inform you that we are required to practise the procedure for locking down the school in the possible event of an emergency or intruder on our school site or within our school building with our children. We will treat it just like a fire drill, which the children are very used to practising. The children will be asked to move and sit underneath their classroom tables, silently whilst the teachers assess the risks of windows and doors. The children will be absolutely reassured that this is a practice lockdown to ensure the school was safe.

Curriculum Evening

At Shirley Juniors we regularly see the fantastic impact which you have on your children's learning through the great support you give them at home. Research clearly shows that children make accelerated progress when parents and carers regularly engage and help children with their learning outside of school.



We would like to invite you to a curriculum open evening where you can learn more about the learning that will take place for your child this year in school. Learn the correct maths strategies, as well as understand the reading and writing skills required for specific year groups and explore the wider curriculum goals the children will be developing through their topics.

The evening will take place on **Thursday 3rd October at 5pm** for all year groups. More information will be sent out soon.

Reading

At Shirley Junior school we want our pupils to foster a love of reading, to be able to read confidently and enjoy reading. As part of this all children must choose an appropriate reading book for their ability from the reading bookshelves to read at home as well as choosing a book of their choice from the library.

Reading Incentives

Each week we ask children to read at least 4 times at home, and to record their reflections on their reading in their planner, and we ask parents to sign the planner to say this has happened. Teachers check children's planners in class once a week and look at the preceding 7 days of reading. We want to celebrate children who have taken the time to write their reflections, and encourage children to engage more with their reading, and we do this in two ways:

Reading Chest Raffle

Any child who has read and reflected at least 4 times in the preceding 7 days has their name written on a raffle ticket which is placed in a year group box. Once a week, a ticket is picked out at random during year group assemblies and the lucky winner will have the opportunity to choose a brand new reading book from our reading chest.

Reading Tree

The reading tree in the classroom may look like a traditional tree or the design may be connected to the class reading corner or a year group theme or topic.

Children who have 4 reflections in their planner get moved up the reading tree each week, and at the end of the term those who have consistently reflected every week are celebrated by getting the chance to watch a film. This is NOT a reward for reading (we strongly believe that reading is its own reward), but for consistently and regularly reflecting on what has been read, because this is good practice and helps children to engage more with the book and ultimately to enjoy it more.

If children really struggle to record their ideas, please speak to your child's teacher who will suggest alternatives, such as the child drawing a picture to show an event in the text, or a verbal discussion which you can record briefly for them. We would encourage children to write their own reflections however, particularly in upper school, as children's responses to something they have read can help inform an assessment of their writing, and also because it prepares them gently for their Key Stage 2 Reading test in year 6. Those children who achieve "age related standards with greater depth" in their year 6 reading outcome are most often children who have consistently read and reflected on their reading at home throughout their time with us.

Walking home from school -As part of our safeguarding procedures, please ensure you are aware of the following points;

- ⇒ At the end of the school day (until children reach the age of 10), all year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children **MUST** be collected from the teacher by an adult/responsible person, in the playground.
- ⇒ It is the parents responsibility to ensure that children know who they are going home with at the end of the school day.
- ⇒ We do not allow children under the age of 10 to leave the school site unattended.
- ⇒ We do allow Secondary school children to collect siblings after school if they are aged 13 or over.
- ⇒ We do not allow Yr5/6 children to escort younger siblings home.
- ⇒ We are unable to provide childcare after 3:25pm, even if it is for a few minutes. After 3:30pm all children will be taken to the main office to wait for collection.
- ⇒ It is the parent's legal responsibility to make arrangements for children to be collected safely.
- ⇒ With parental permission we allow children to walk home from their 10th birthday. Please provide the office with this permission.

To walk or not walk?

Not all 10 year olds are the same and as parents, you know your child better than anyone: some 10 year olds are old enough to look after themselves in situations such as walking to school alone. Some are not.

Before you make the decision to allow your 10 year old child to walk unaccompanied, we suggest that you may want to consider the following issue: the complexity of the journey itself and your child's nature. It is vital that you are not swayed by views of other parents, it very much depends on the individual child and how complicated the journey is and when you, as a parent, feel comfortable with it.

We do not recommend children who are 10years old walk home from an after school club between October half term and Easter as the nights are quite dark.