



Shinfield Infant & Nursery School

Autumn Term Newsletter 1

Friday 6th September 2019

admin@shinfield.wokingham.sch.uk

School office telephone: 0118 988 3389

www.shinfieldschools.co.uk



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year at Shinfield Infant and Nursery School. If you are new to Nursery or the school, I hope that your child has enjoyed the start of their time with us and that you will have a very happy few years here.

This newsletter normally comes out every Friday. Please be sure to read it every week as it will contain useful information about what is happening in school. Past copies are stored on the website and printed copies are kept in the school reception area. Please also check your child's book bag for any paper letters or information sent home. If any parents are not receiving this letter, they should check their junk email or check the office have the right email address.

We also welcome Miss Anderson back from her maternity leave. She is teaching in Cherry Class with Mrs Lauchlan.

We look forward to working with you all this year and providing lots of new learning opportunities for the children. Please speak to your child's class teacher or myself if you have any concerns or queries. Teachers are usually out on the playground first thing for a quick message, but if you would like a longer conversation please call the school office for an appointment to meet up or have a phone call. Emails for teachers can be sent to the school email address above, marked for the attention of the teacher or the class, and we will respond as soon as they can.

Wishing you all a restful weekend after this busy first week back!

Mrs Amanda Turner, Headteacher

Dates for your diary These are attached for you, for the whole year. You can also go on our school website and synchronise the Google calendar with your mobile phone or computer. Any changes or amendments will be posted in newsletters and in updated date lists each term. Please note that there will be Christmas performances only for F2 and Nursery. Year 1 will perform to their families at their class assemblies in and Year 1 will perform to their families at their end of year play. This is to allow us more time to teach the new school curriculum and try other events that your children will be delighted to share with you throughout the year.

Welcome to our new F2 children!

What a great start the children have made this week (and so have Year 1 and 2)!

F2 have enjoyed exploring their new classrooms and the F2 garden. We hope you found the welcome tea and coffee and Lisa Ward's transition workshop helpful and a good chance to get to know other parents. Many thanks to the Nursery team for allowing us to use Nursery for these activities. We also look forward to next week when the children will start their first full school day. We will be arranging for some 'First Day At School' photos to be taken so please keep a look out for these in the newsletter and in the local newspaper. We will soon start to get children changed for PE so please carry on encouraging your child to get undressed and dressed by themselves. As a healthy eating school, the children are offered a vegetable or fruit snack and milk or water during the morning. There are a number of children in school with severe allergies so please do not put any food or sweets in your child's book bag.

Year Group Information Meetings 'Meet the Teacher'

Come for an update on what is happening in your child's year group—and visit their new classroom!

F2 on Wednesday 18th September at 9.15am in the Hall

Year 1 on Thursday 12th September at 2.30pm in the Hall

Year 2 on Friday 13th September at 2.30pm in the Hall

If you are unable to come, some information will be posted up on the website under the Curriculum section after the meetings for you to read. Any handouts or slides will also be posted on there.

Please also look out for the Curriculum News for F2, Year 1 and Year 2 which will be sent out by email soon. This gives details of what is being taught this term and what parents can do to support their children's learning. There will be an opportunity later in the term to speak with your child's class teacher about your child's progress in school.

Reading Information Evening for Parents

Thursday 19th September 7-8pm in the school hall

This is an opportunity to find out more about how we teach the skills of reading from Nursery through to Year 2. A crèche is provided so that you do not need to take your children to the meeting.

You should have received a letter in your child's book bag to fill in showing whether or not you'd like to attend, and if you need a place at the crèche.

Some information will be posted up on the website for parents who are unable to attend this information evening.



Friends of Shinfield—our school PTA

The Friends of Shinfield (FOS) are the PTA for our school. All parents are invited to be a part of this. FOS work closely with the school staff to arrange fundraising events. Last year we raised over £20,000! We have added new playhouses to the playground, a new bike rack, new playground equipment, new benches and tables to the Shinfield Hut for class lessons outdoors and each year group has been allocated a good sum of money for much needed new resources and play equipment for their learning areas.

The FOS AGM will be held on Monday 23rd September at 7.30pm in the staffroom at school. All parents welcome. Refreshments will be provided. We will be planning this year's events such as discos, film nights and the Christmas Market and Summer Fair. We also put on special events for parents and carers to add to the fun! We will be talking about what we hope to raise funds for next year.

Please come along and support us, as the more the merrier and all the money goes towards making the school even better for your children, who also really enjoy the fundraising events. **If you work for a company such as Microsoft that provides fund matching for monies raised by employees for charity events such as our PTA, please consider taking this up as this can greatly help the school raise more funds.**



Activity Fund In order to provide additional enrichment activities such as trips, theatre shows, animal visits, cooking and crafts, we ask if parents could make a voluntary contribution once a term or for the whole year to cover the costs of these activities, as this cannot be met from the school budget. A letter will be sent home in book bags about this. We hope to receive enough contributions to be able to provide all these activities. If we do not receive sufficient funds, some events may have to be cancelled.

SAFETY NOTICE

If you are sending in a packed lunch for your child, **please do not send any chocolate spread** sandwiches. Many chocolate spread products contain nuts or traces of these, which are potentially life threatening to a number of our children. Thank you for your help with this.

Save the date!

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Friday September 27th 8.15-9.15am

Please come with children, friends and family to help us raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you are able to help serve tea or coffee or donate cakes or pastries, please let us know.

Message for Cherry Class Parents

Please could all adults who are collecting children from Cherry Class please come and wait on the artificial grass by the entrance to the Garden Walk. This will help the school staff who are sending the children out to you. In that area the sun slants into the eyes of school staff and the adults are sometimes quite far away on the playground, making it difficult to see who is picking up the children. There are also notices for Cherry Class parents on the Garden Walk windows. Many thanks if you can wait there at the end of the school day!

Please also find attached:

- Details of tennis courses for children
- Diary dates for the whole school year
- Information about Home Start volunteers
- F2 Curriculum Newsletter

Uniform reminder

Please label **all** items clearly with your child's name and check at the weekends to make sure names have not faded or been washed off. Hair grips, bobbles etc should be in school colours of red or navy blue only, no big bows or flowers please and shoes should be black. Extreme, dyed or closely shaved hairstyles are not permitted.

UPDATED School dinner menu for Autumn Term 2019

Please find this attached. A copy will also be posted on the school website. Children will mark their choices on the class SMARTboard, with the teacher's help, every morning.

Class Cake Sales

Each class will be holding a Cake Sale this year. The money raised will go directly to that class for them to choose and buy new toys and extra resources for use in the classroom. All donations are very gratefully received! The first Cake Sale will be held by Ash Class on Friday 20th September at 3pm. It will be close to the Hall and held under cover or inside if it is raining.

Calling all F2 parents...

There will be a phonics information session for parents, lasting about half an hour at 9.15am on Wednesday 25th September. This gives parents and carers an understanding of what is taught and how you can support your child at home with phonics in everyday activities and practising what has been taught.

Attendance—important reminder

If your child is to be absent from school please phone and leave a message on the designated phone line. as this is checked frequently. We will call you if you have not contacted us, because we need to check that your child is safe. Please note that if your child's attendance falls below 90%, this is classified as "persistently absent" and is a cause for concern, so please try and make sure that children attend regularly and don't miss school unless they are ill. A copy of the school's Attendance Policy is on the website. This also contains information regarding Penalty Notices for holidays of 5 days or more taken by children aged 5 and above during term-time. Please note that Penalty Notices are sent by Wokingham Borough Council and not the school. The fine collected does not come to the school. As you are aware, if you take your child on holiday in school term time, they will miss much of their valuable education. If a child has two weeks' holiday in term time every year that they are in school, then by the time they have left us, they will have missed half a term of school. The time lost cannot easily be made up and really affects a young child's progress at school. It is Local Authority policy not to authorise absence, apart from illness, except in exceptional circumstances such as a family wedding. If you need to take your child out of school in term time, please fill in a Leave of Absence form, available from the school office or on our website.

Parking and dropping off

To minimise car parking time, we operate an option-al 8.45am drop off at the school gate. You can leave your child there and they can walk independently into the playground where they will be supervised until it is time to line up and go in to class. Both the gates and the playground are supervised by school staff. **If leaving your child at the gate please bring them to the gate** as you are responsible for their safety up to that point. The byway is not safe for young children to cross on their own.

We ask that parents do not drive or park along the byway at the front of the school at the beginning and end of the school day as this is dangerous with so many parents and children around. The only exceptions are for disabled drivers, taxis or other vehicles by arrangement with the school.

There are 12 marked bays at the Bell and Bottle pub that are for use by the school at the beginning and end of the school day only. There is some parking for parents at the Baptist Church—please ask at the school office for details.

When parking in the public car park and roads around the school, please be mindful of our neighbours, particularly the Medical Centre, Shinfield View, Parish Rooms, Co-op and local residents. Please park considerately and don't block access routes as this prevents the easy flow in and out of spaces, creating dangerous blind spots that may also conceal children walking past. Thank you for your cooperation and support for everyone's safety.

School Milk

All children are entitled to free school milk until the day of their 5th birthday. On and after this, if you would like your child to continue having school milk, you will need to register to pay for this. Please contact the school office for more information about how to do this.



GOLDEN GOOD BOOK

Each week we focus on a good behaviour and the class teacher will nominate children who have shown exceptional effort in this area. As a special treat, the children in the Golden Good Book will be invited to have a hot chocolate or squash and biscuits with Mrs Turner and Mrs Lauchlan on

Friday afternoon, and they will be allowed to sit on the benches during assembly the following week. We hope to see lots of children enjoy this special privilege next year!

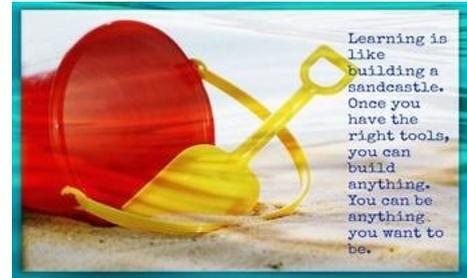
Look out for the names in the Golden Good Book next week.



On wet mornings, parents may wait inside with children until the bell goes or the teacher comes to collect the class. F2 can wait in the Pink Link (cloakroom), Year 1 in the Garden Walk and Year 2 in the Year 2 corridor—all children will be supervised once inside so you can leave them there. For security reasons, please do not go into any other areas and please leave by the gates. **Please do not bring buggies or pushchairs into the school building.** This is for safety reasons including safe fire evacuation for everyone in the school. Thank you for your support.

Summer Holiday Diaries and All About Me pages

Thank you to all the Year 1 and 2 children who have brought in their summer holiday diaries and to all the new F2 children who have brought in their 'All About Me' pages. We love reading these, especially Mrs Turner, as it gives us another opportunity to talk to the children about their lives outside of school. We love seeing photos and drawings of the children's family, friends and pets. It is not too late to send these in if you have not already done so. Thank you!



Birch Class Transformation!

During the holiday, we were very lucky to be able to have Birch Class completely refurbished. We are grateful to Mr Palterman the site controller at the Junior School, Carpatex and Nigel Jackson Carpentry for their help with this, and to Mrs Foldvari and the F2 staff members who came in over the holiday to set it all back up. It looks really lovely for the new F2 children starting school in there. We have been very lucky to have money raised from Friends of Shinfield towards new equipment for all classes. All the classes are looking very smart and welcoming for the new school year. Look out for some more photos next week.

