



## Shinfield Infant & Nursery School

Autumn Term Newsletter 5

Friday 8th October 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had lots of fun this week in school thinking about Harvest and Autumn. It's been lovely seeing the children collecting conkers from the tree on the corner of Chestnut Crescent.

This letter contains important information about School timings after Half Term.

Mrs Nicky Lauchlan

Headteacher

### Meet Tom and Jerry!

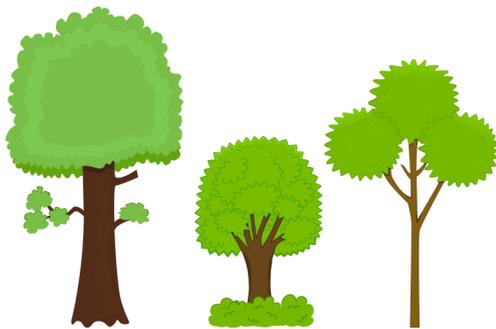
Children from Maple class have been enjoying visiting our school Guinea pigs. They live in the Year 2 corridor.

They love most vegetables so if you ever have any to spare please send them in.

If you would like them to spend a weekend with you please talk to Mrs Lauchlan or Mrs Feeny.



### Forest schools



Mrs Phillips who works in F2 is taking part in Forest schools training. She is learning lots that will enable us to make better use of our outdoor spaces. She would like to put more natural resources and loose parts in our gardens for the children to play and be imaginative with.

Fitting with the forest school ethos we would like to source locally and recycle what others don't want. We are looking for... Off cuts of decking, small logs, bamboo canes, tree stumps, long branches for den building, baskets of any size and canvas shopping bags for collecting materials. Thank you!

### Parking

It has been brought to our attention that some of our parents are parking along Millworth Lane whilst taking their children to school and picking up at the end of the day. If you park there please ensure that you don't restrict parking at the Medical Centre or block residents driveways.

## Shinfield's got talent



Jessica, Beth, Lottie, Ava and Shay play for Shinfield Rangers and have won their last three matches. They are working so well as a team and are showing great sportsmanship and supporting each other.

Meanwhile, Logan in Year 1 has been working out alongside Joe Wicks!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4xfwllum2ww>



*Please let us know of any talents and successes that your child has had.*

## Nursery (Foundation one) in the spotlight

This week our focus has been "Exploring the environment around us." We have been asking children to send us photos of themselves and their families on Autumn walks. The children have been bringing in all sorts of treasures they have found whilst exploring with their families. We had lots and lots of conkers, we've been using a dice to roll a number and collect the correct number of conkers. We have been matching the number to the numeral, counting in sequence, comparing groups and adding groups together. We have rolled conkers in paint, covered pumpkins in shaving foam, used tweezers to investigate the seeds and talked about signs of Autumn. Of course in true Nursery style, following the children's interests is a huge part of our Learning Journey.

We have noticed lots of teeny tiny aphids and spiders on a tyre in the garden. The Ladybirds are enjoying feasting on these tiny creatures. We have loved watching the Ladybird larvae turn into Ladybirds, then uncover their wings and fly away. We went to the library to find some books too. We talked about looking with our eyes and not touching any of the delicate insects as we would not want to hurt them.

Maybe you could all go on an Autumn walk with your families over the weekend too! Happy hunting! Mrs Ayres and The Nursery Team.



NUT FREE SCHOOL



THANK YOU

Please be aware that we have children in school who are severely allergic to nuts. Make sure that your child doesn't bring in **any** products that contain nuts.

Thank you!

## Phonics workshop for F2 and Year 1 Parents

Friday 15th October

9.15 am

The School Hall



There will be tea, coffee and biscuits!

We would like to show you how we teach Phonics and early Reading in our school. We hope that you will be able to join us and that it will help you to understand how we



## Discos!

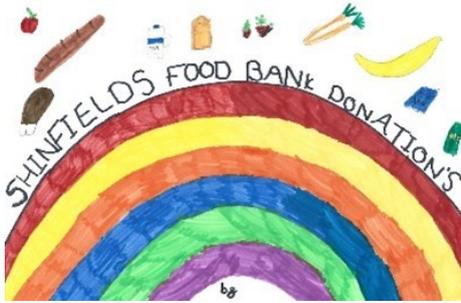
Thursday November 4th

F2- 4.30-5.30pm, Year 1- 5.45-6.45pm, Year 2- 7-8pm  
in the School hall

Tickets will be available to purchase soon-

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fos/#.YWAfKtrMJPY>

## Celebrating Harvest



Thank you so much for your generous donations of food for the Shinfield Food Bank.

We had a lovely time in the hall on Thursday celebrating Harvest together...



The F2 children performed a wonderful rendition of 'I'm a Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'. Some were nervous initially, but they all joined in beautifully.



The Year 1 children joined together to perform a lovely Harvest song.



The Year 2 children performed Harvest poems that they had written.

We hope that we will be able to invite Parents in to see performances later this year.

### Extra dates for your diaries

PTA ( Friends of Shinfield) meeting to discuss the Christmas Fair- Tuesday 12th October 7pm in the staff room, everyone is welcome.

Oak cake sale new date- Thursday 4th November



In preparation for a whole school art display, please could your child bring in the end of a plastic bottle?

Please could these be washed and cut like the picture below before bringing to school. We don't mind what size or colour they are and there is no limit to how many your child can bring in before the half term holiday.



Thank you!

Miss Cresswell

### **GOLDEN GOOD BOOK**

Friday 8th October

For Working well together

Birch class: Olivia and Idris

Maple class: Emilia and Dayana

Willow class: Scarlett and Ezra

Apple Class: Minahil and Sulaf

Cherry Class: Chessie and Haneen

Plum Class: Deano and Nora

Ash Class: Alexa and Elliott

Elm Class: Grace and Theo

Oak Class: Shea and Nathan



**Well done children!**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Elm class Cake sale yesterday. It raised an amazing £283! This money will be spent on resources for Elm class.



Thank you for supporting our 'Rags to Riches' collection. It raised £112.84. This money will go into the Friends of Shinfield funds which will be used to buy IT equipment for all classes.

### Term time absences

We are getting more and more requests for holidays in term time. Whilst we understand that many families who have relatives abroad haven't had a chance to see them due to the pandemic. We are unable to authorise term time holidays. Wokingham Borough Council are likely to charge families who take their children out of school for 5 days or more. This money goes to WBC not us. We are working really hard to help all the children to catch up on lost learning, so please try to support us by ensuring that your child has good attendance.

### Meet the Chair of our Local Advisory Board

The Local Advisory Board is very similar to a Governing Body. They are a group of people who support, guide and act as 'Critical friends' to the school staff. Together, we make sure that your children get the best education we can give them.

Chris Young has lived next door to our school since 1969. His daughter attended our school in the 1970's. His direct links with the Infant School did not start until 1980.

At the time he was an elected Parish Councillor and in February 1980 he was appointed as a Minor Authority Representative to the Governing Body by Shinfield Parish Council. He has served continually since that time. He was Chair from July 1984 to November 1988 and then again from October 2003 to the present time. (Gwen Hutson was Chair 1988 - 2003). During his time he has worked with four Headteachers - Marion Smith, Monica Rook, Ann Nolan, Mandy Turner and, now, Nicky Lauchlan.

He is called upon by us for many duties alongside meetings. He winds the clock up, he digs holes for trees, he even dresses up as Guy Fawkes! He has been described by



children as 'The Government next door'.  
Here he is helping children to plant a tree.

### Parent Helpers

We are now able to invite Parent helpers in to school. If you have spare time and are interested please talk to your child's class teacher. We would need you to have a DBS check before you come in and we would ask you to take a LFT on the day.

### School day timings

We have kept our Staggered start and end times whilst the building work has been ongoing to help alleviate parking problems. Having spoken with the Site Manager the work should be finished by the end of October. This should mean that there are more spaces in the Public car park for Parents to use.

From November 1st we will be returning to our fixed times that were used before the Pandemic. This will make many elements of school life easier for us to organise, it should also help the many families who have children in different year groups.

The School day will work like this-

**8.45-8.55 am** All children in F2, Year 1 and Year 2 can arrive. There will be a member of staff from each year group on the playground to supervise them. There will be a member of staff on each gate as there is now to ensure that no child can exit without an adult. You may leave your Year 1 and 2 children on the playground to be supervised by school staff if you wish to do so.

**8.55am** The whistle will be blown and all children will line up by their class signs to be taken in by their teacher.

**9am** The registers will be taken and the gates shut

**3.20pm** End of school for all F2, Year 1 and Year 2 children. If you have children in more than one class please collect your youngest child first.

This used to work well, we will be watching it closely and looking out for any teething problems.

When exiting the school site at these times we would like you to continue using the one way system as this has improved the flow of people.

If you have any concerns about this please let a member of staff know.

### Covid update

Thankfully, we have not had any further cases in our school this week.

Cases have however been rising in the area, particularly amongst secondary school pupils. This has caused Wokingham Borough Council working alongside Public Health England to look at how we can work together to slow down the infection rate. Evidence shows that it has, not surprisingly, been spreading amongst siblings who until now were not required to self isolate.

Local Public Health England have consequently set out a time limited change from published national guidance. Specifically, they now say that **if a student takes a PCR test they are advised to remain absent from school until they have received a negative result.** This absence is sanctioned and recorded as a permissible absence. If a student's PCR test is positive, they should as you would expect, continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance.

**Siblings of a student who has tested positive via a PCR, are also asked to stay at home until they can take a PCR test on day three of their sibling's self-isolation, even if they are not showing symptoms.** Day 0 is the first of symptoms of the sibling or their positive PCR test if they did not show symptoms. If the PCR test is negative, siblings can return to school. If siblings are waiting for a PCR test result, this too will be a permissible absence from school.

If your child has to self isolate there is Home Learning for them to access on the School website.

<https://www.shinfieldschools.co.uk/information-for/information/home-learning/>