

Shirley Community Primary School Shirley Pre-School



Nuffield Road, Cambridge CB4 1TF
e-mail: office@shirley.cambs.sch.uk
Tel: 01223 712252 Fax: 01223 712253
Headteacher: John Cattermole
Deputy Headteachers: Diane Mitchell & Suzanne Wernham

Headteacher's Newsletter – Friday 11th September 2020

'Welcome back' and 'Thank You' – We have really enjoyed seeing all of the children coming into school this week. They are clearly excited to be back with us, and the few anxious faces have quickly turned into happy ones as the days have progressed. There have been a few changes and things to get used to – they will be tired by today! A special welcome to our Foundation Stage children and parents in Reception and Pre-School. We are delighted to have you with us.

I would also like to thank everyone for their support over the first few days in school. Opening and closing at different times of day, and at different entrances, was always going to present a challenge; but it is one that we have met successfully, and we are very pleased with the calm way that everyone is coming in and out of school safely.

Symptoms: you must let us know – a reminder that if your child, their sibling, or anyone at home is showing symptoms of COVID-19 such as a high temperature or a continuous cough, then you **must** let us know. Anyone with symptoms will need to go for testing and then that result will need to be reported to school. This is part of the guidelines that all schools follow.

Class Names – all of our classes are now named after an animal - an insect, bird or a mammal - and children have been learning more about their new class animals this week. Our school is now organised as follows:

Pre-School: Caterpillars	Year 1: Robins	Year 3: Badgers	Year 5: Tree Kangaroos
Reception: Ladybirds	Swifts	Foxes	Blue Whales
Dragonflies	Year 2: Nightingales	Year 4: Otters	Year 6: Rhinos
	Kingfishers	Squirrels	Sea Turtles



Curriculum and Learning Outdoors – to help ease children back into school life, our first few days will have more PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), along with shorter Maths, English and other lessons. We are also taking plenty of learning outdoors, in our wonderful school grounds and also in the local Chesterton area. These trips do not require parental permission, and like all trips, will have a full risk assessment completed as part of safety requirements. Further information about your child's learning will be in our Curriculum Newsletters coming soon for each year group bubble.

Clubs - we will be offering a wide range of free after-school clubs to children in each year group bubble. This term for example we aim to have: cricket, dance, football, bushcraft, art, gardening, STEM (Science and Technology), philosophy, card games and more. Further details will be sent home by email next week, and you will need to reply quickly by email to get a place. Clubs will start week commencing 21st September.



Philosophy for Children - another new development at school is 'Philosophy for Children'. We are encouraging everyone to ask questions and discuss more in class, to really get us all thinking! We have a 'Think of the Month' for the whole school during September: **'Would you rather be a caterpillar or a butterfly?'**



Parent Governor Vacancies - we currently have vacancies for parent governors. Governors make a big difference in helping us improve – all that is needed is some of your time and an interest in schools. If you would like to find out more, please email our school office and we will put you in touch with Mark Broadbent, our Chair of Governors.

And finally.....our whole school language for this half term is Spanish! Children will be learning greetings in Spanish, doing the register and having fun with it at different points during the day. They may teach you too - estupendo!



Señor Cattermole

