



SHEREDES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher ~ Mary Childs B.A. (Hons.) M.A. Ed.

9th January 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and very warm wishes to all of you. Thank you for all your support for our very special school. You are all much appreciated. We hope that you have enjoyed a happy Christmas break, and we welcome back all our children. We also welcome back Mrs. Reeves, who returns from maternity leave, and will be teaching in Year 4.

Our School Profile, summarising our successes and plans for the future, has been updated on our website for you to view; www.sheredesprimary.herts.sch.uk.

Here are events planned for this term.

Dates for your diary

Specific details of events to follow, where appropriate

January

- 12th Swimming commences for Year 4
- 16th Clubs start *unless otherwise notified for specific activities*
- 16th 8.00pm FOSS meeting
- 17th 7.30pm Governing Body Meeting

February

- 6th 3.30 - 6.00 Open Evening, a chance for you and your child to view his/her work in the classroom and school before Consultations
- 7th 5.30 - 8.30 Consultation Evening
- 8th 3.30 - 6.00 Consultation Evening

13th – 19th

HALF TERM

20th February – 24th February Book Week – more details to follow!

8th March

Year 4 to Year 6 choir take part in Voice in a Million, Wembley

21st

7.30pm Governing Body Meeting

22nd

3.30pm – 5.00pm FOSS Easter Bake

29th

Spring Concert: 4.15pm and 5.15pm. Musical performances for parents to include our orchestra, choir, flute and recorder players, and pianists.

31st

End of Term



Class Assemblies Juniors at 10.30am, Lower Hall, Infants at 11.45am, Upper Hall

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|-------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| Jan. | 26th | Class EMa | Class SR |
| Feb. | 2nd | Class AC | Class LA |
| March | 2nd | Class SBa | Class SG |
| | 8 th | Class LM | |
| | 9 th | Class NM | Class MA |
| | 15th | Class CD/RR | |
| | 16 th | Class RO | |
| | 23rd | Class PL | Class KB |
| | 30 th | Class NL | |

Clubs

Clubs start again in the week beginning 16th January.

We will be using existing club lists for participants, unless the age group for the club has changed, or the day has changed, or there is a new club, in which case letters will be sent out to the new year group. Where clubs are oversubscribed, letters will be sent informing you of the dates when your child may attend. If your child would like to join a club ask him or her to see the club leader or Mrs. Childs. There is no netball, football, tag rugby or Greenfingers club when it rains.

We are always looking for new opportunities for our children, so if you have a little free time and would like to run a club, I would love to hear from you. We would provide all the materials you need.

Please see club list with this letter, and on our website.

Children's studies

Across the school in **English**, all children will be focusing on writing imaginative and thoughtful texts, which are appropriate to task, reader and purpose. In **mathematics**, we continue to focus on improving children's mental arithmetic ability and number fluency, alongside teaching other areas.

The Nursery

Our children are studying the topics of **Toys**, and **Places of Interest**, over the term. All our Nursery parents receive a copy of each topic web to take home. Do see Mrs. Kearns if you would like another copy.

Classes RO, KB

Children will be studying the topic **Toys** in the first half term. In history children will study the similarities and differences between toys in the present day compared to the past. Their studies will be enriched by **a practical workshop using artefacts borrowed from Hertford Museum**. In English, children will be writing factual sentences and learning a range of **traditional playground chants and poems**. In science children will use toys to investigate materials and their properties, as well as studying light, sound and forces. In design and technology they will make models using reclaimed materials which will involve the exploration of wheels and their movement.

In the second half of the term, children will be learning about **The World**. They will be introduced to different countries, their cultures, special places/ landmarks, food and traditional dress. In English children will be writing their own imaginative stories based on the story 'The Magic Bed' by John Burlingham and learning **a range of poems from around world and cultural songs from the book Tam Tam Tambalay by Helen MacGregor**. Whilst studying the world children will also learn how to create simple maps and how to care for the world we live in.

Over the term in religious education children will be identifying special people in our family and the community, and learning about special books, including the Bible and will be listening to a range of bible stories. In personal, social and emotional education children will be learning about how to help and care for friends, how to keep safe, and will be identifying and dealing with feelings positively. They will sing familiar songs and new ones introduced during music, as well as playing percussion instruments and exploring sound patterns. In art

they will be exploring colour mixing, a skill which will aid other creative work in the classroom.

Classes MA, SG

In English children will be learning from traditional tales and how to write instructions. They will be studying the **poetry of Julia Donaldson**.

In science children will study the topic of **everyday materials**. In design and technology they are exploring building structures. In computing they will use a range of approaches to develop their understanding of algorithms and programming using unplugged approaches, onscreen and physical devices such as BeeBot. In dance children will interpret the story of Sleeping Beauty through movement, based on the music by Tchaikovsky. In religious education children will be focusing on the importance of special places where they can enjoy being part of a community such as club venues and churches. This will include **a visit to a local church to learn about how it works as part of the community and what it stands for**. They will also learn about the religious symbols of the Christian church. In art children will be investigating the qualities of a variety of natural and manmade materials. They will learn skills for weaving and gain sensory experience of materials and an understanding of colour and texture. In geography children will be learning about **countries and capital cities in the UK and comparing Shunyi in Beijing, China with Hoddesdon**. These studies will include linking with The British School of Beijing. In music children will be exploring pulse and rhythm.

Classes SR, LA

In English children will be focusing on the poems of **Pie Corbett**. In computing children will develop their understanding of digital texts, creating their own digital content (still, moving and animated images and words) using a range of devices and software. In science children will study **animals, learning about lifecycles and how offspring grow into adults**. They will also look at what animals need to survive and how to live a healthy lifestyle. In history children will be exploring the lives of famous people, focusing on **Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell**. **On Monday 30th January a workshop on focusing on Florence Nightingale, led by external experts, will support and enhance their learning**. In music children will study Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev and will compose their own piece of music based on this. In religious education children will be thinking about the special places where they can enjoy being part of a community such as clubs and church groups. In dance children's work will link to the Chinese New Year festivals, which will involve making up dance sequences in pairs and on their own.

Classes EMa, NL

Year 3 English studies will focus on myths and legends, calligrams/'shape' poetry, letters and stories by a particular author and instruction texts. Children will also study the **poetry of Kenn Nesbitt**. In mathematics children are focusing on strategies for addition and subtraction and measuring, data handling and solving problems involving money and fractions. In science they are studying **forces and magnets**. In design and technology children will be creating 3D pop up books. In computing they will be focusing on programming and games with an emphasis on debugging and algorithms. In history children will be studying **Ancient Greece**. They will be investigating the religion, culture and legacy of this civilisation. In music children will continue their study of a stringed instrument. In art they will create their own artefact inspired by their studies in history. The activities for PE are basketball, dance, gymnastics and tennis. In RE the children will continue to study aspects of Sikhism and Christianity, with a particular focus on the Easter story. **As part of their studies in RE, trips will be planned to a local church and the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Hitchin**. In geography children will be studying **a Greek locality**.

Classes CD/RR, PL

Children's English studies will focus on stories from different cultures, information and explanation texts. **Children's poetry studies will focus on kennings and clerihevs**. In science, children will be learning about **solids, liquids and gases**, with a particular emphasis on changes in the states of matter and the significance of these processes within the water cycle. Their scientific studies will also include investigations into how **sounds** are made and how volume and pitch can be adapted. Their design and technology project will focus on the

structure and mechanisms associated with catapults which will link to their history topic. In history children will be learning about the **Romans**, with particular reference to the Romans' arrival in and **impact on Britain**, Roman home life, religion and comparing their way of life with that of the Celts. Children will be producing class information booklets about these aspects of Roman times. **A visit to the Celtic Harmony Camp in Hertfordshire** on 24th March will consolidate their studies. In art children will be designing and creating mosaic patterns. In religious education children will continue their studies on Christianity and Islam. In PSHE and C children will be exploring the themes of friendship and working together. They will also study sustainability and equality in relation to Fair Trade. In computing children will be learning to use safely a variety of online communication tools such as email, blogs and discussion forums to support collaborative learning. In music children will continue to learn how to play a stringed instrument.

Classes SBa, AC

Children's English studies will focus on discussion, film narrative and play scripts. The play script studies will focus on **Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'**. In their studies of film narrative, they will be learning to retell the story of a short film, in the First Person. They will also be reading a range of writing by other significant children's authors and will focus on the **poems of Spike Milligan**. Children's scientific studies are focusing on **forces, and the Earth and Space**. In music children will be appraising and composing music on a space theme. In geography children are studying rivers, in particular those in the local area. **A river walk in Barclay Park** will consolidate their studies. Their art studies will focus on landscapes, and in design and technology they will be investigating mechanical systems in toys. In computing children will be collecting and presenting data using data loggers and data modelling. In religious education children will be continuing their studies of Christianity and Judaism. **A visit to The Synagogue Museum on 17th March** will support their studies.

Classes LM, NM

In English children will be focusing on writing a persuasive, one sided argument, and then learning how to develop this by writing balanced discussions. They will also explore the use of impersonal language in official documents. Children's fiction writing will cover a range of narrative genres, enabling them to develop a writer's toolkit of stylistic features and devices. They will also be exploring the **poetry of Maya Angelou**. In science children will be focusing on **electricity and light**. In geography children will be studying current **global environmental issues caused by man made and natural changes**. In design and technology they will be designing and building a shelter for a specific purpose. In computing children will be exploring how the internet is used for communication and collaboration. In history children will be exploring **the impact of the Victorian era on our locality**. In art they will design and create a sculpture to enhance an environment. In music children will be constructing and composing chord patterns and in religious education they will be continuing their studies on Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism. Work in PSHE and C will address how we face challenges and make decisions and continue the exploration of the theme of being a good friend and including everyone. A trip to the **Houses of Parliament** is planned for 13th March to support their citizenship studies.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Mary Childs
Headteacher