



SHEREDES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and very warm wishes to all of you. We welcome back all our children. We are delighted to let you know that we have expanded our club opportunities to include an introduction to Latin for Years 5 and 6, choir for Years 1 and 2, and a story club for Year 1. Letters will follow for children to declare their interest in these clubs.

We will continue to use Schoolcomms as our regular means of communication.

Here are events planned for this term.

Dates for your diary

Specific details of events to follow, where appropriate

January

8 th	Swimming commences for Year 5, Class TW
11 th	Swimming commences for Year 5, Class KW
w/b 15 th	Clubs commence, unless otherwise detailed
22 nd	8:00pm FOSS meeting; <i>Teams</i>
23 rd	7:30pm: Full Governing Body Meeting; <i>Teams</i>

February

12 th	Open Evening 3:30pm – 6:00pm; an opportunity for you to see your children's work with them.
13 th – 15 th	Parent Consultations for Years 1 to 6 <i>Telephone/Teams or face to face</i>

19th – 23rd

HALF TERM

26th – 1st

Book Week – more details to follow!

27th – 29th

Parent Consultations for Nursery and Reception

Telephone/Teams or face to face

March

19 th	7.30pm Governing Body Meeting
6 th and 7 th	Scooter training for Year 3
6 th	4:00pm – 5:00pm Spring Concert ; KS2 choir, instrumentalists
7 th	4:00pm – 5:00pm Spring Concert ; KS1 choir, recorders, instrumentalists
20 th	FOSS Easter Bake
28 th	End of Term

Class Assemblies

Thursday 25 th January	Class EMa	11:05am Lower Hall
	Class MA	10:35am Upper Hall
Thursday 1 st February	Class AJ	10:35am Upper Hall
	Class LM/AC	11:05am Lower Hall
Thursday 8 th February	Class EMc	10:35am Upper Hall
	Class TW	11:05am Lower Hall
Thursday 7 th March	Class CD/LC	10:50am Lower Hall
	Class LO	11:45am Upper Hall
Thursday 14 th March	Class AM	10:50am Lower Hall
	Class CN	11:45am Upper Hall
Thursday 21 st March	Class EJ	10:50am Lower Hall
	Class NH	10:35am Upper Hall
Thursday 28 th March	Class GT	10:50am Lower Hall
	Class KW	11:05am Upper Hall

Clubs

Clubs start again in the week beginning 15th January.

We will be using existing club lists for participants, unless the age group for the club 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 email admin@sheredesprimary.herts.sch.uk

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 on our website, and the schoolcomms sent on the 5th January.

Children's studies

Activities will be adapted for home/remote learning.

The Nursery

Our children are studying the topics of **Fantasy**, and **Travel**, over the term. All our Nursery parents receive a copy of each topic web to take home. **Please also see the copies available to open on Tapestry.**

Classes CN, LO

Children will be studying the topic of **Fantasy** in the first half term. As part of this topic children's scientific studies will focus on day and night. This will include **a visit from WonderDome** on Tuesday 6th February. In history children will develop an understanding of the timeline for space exploration. In computing children will be using iPads to navigate software and will safely explore the internet with age appropriate search engines. They will use software to create imaginative pictures.

In the second half term, children will be studying the topic of **Travel**. Their scientific studies will focus on forces. In design and technology, children will be making model trains from reclaimed materials. In geography, the children will be developing their ability to create simple routes using symbols. Children will also be introduced to a range of poetry on the theme of transport, for example **You Can't Take an Elephant on the Bus by Patricia Cleveland-Peck**.

Over the term in RE children will be identifying special people in their family and community; in history, children will study selected famous people from the past. In personal, social and emotional development, children will be learning how to help and care for friends, taught the rules on how to keep safe, and be identifying and dealing with feelings positively. In music they will sing familiar songs and be introduced to new ones, as well as playing percussion instruments and exploring sound patterns. In art they will be focusing on the artist Vincent van Gogh and his painting of The Starry Night.

Classes NH, EM

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 will be 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. They will also learn about the religious symbols of the Christian church. Their studies will be enriched by **a visit to a local church, St. Catherines and St. Pauls**. In art children will be investigating the qualities of a variety of natural and man-made 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 Malindi, in Kenya, with Hoddesdon**. In music children will be exploring pitch. In Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship (PSHE&C) children will further their learning about how to keep healthy and safe, including road safety.

Classes MA, AJ

In English children will be focusing on the poems of **Allan Ahlberg**. 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 life cycles and how offspring grow into adults**. They will also look at how to live a healthy lifestyle, and what plants need to grow healthily. In history children will be exploring the lives of famous people, focusing on **Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell**. To enrich their studies, they will be taking part in **a History Off the Page Day, on the 2nd February**. In music children will study ways music can be presented, by exploring graphic scores. They will also study Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev and will compose their own piece of music based on this. In religious education children will be studying beliefs and practices in Buddhism and Judaism, as well as studying Easter in Christianity. 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. In PSHE&C children will be focusing on how to build and maintain healthy relationships with friends and family members.

Classes EJ, GT

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 will be further developing their written addition and subtraction methods, and focus on decimals. 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 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. **Their studies will be enriched by a visit to St. Albans cathedral on the 15th February**. In geography children will be studying **a Greek locality**. In PSHE&C, children will continue to develop their knowledge of building positive relationships and how democracy works in the United Kingdom.

Classes CD/LC, AM

Children's English studies will focus on stories from a range of cultures, information and explanation texts. **Children's poetry studies will focus on kennings and clerihews.** 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 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**. These studies will be enriched by a **visit to the Verulamium Museum, St. Albans, on the 28th March**. Children will be producing class information booklets about aspects of Roman times. In art children will be designing and creating mosaic patterns. In religious education children will continue their studies on Christianity and Islam. In PSHE&C children's learning will relate to the themes of friendship and emotions, and they will further their understanding of celebrating difference. In computing children will be introduced to coding, and in music children will continue to learn how to play a stringed instrument.

Classes TW, KW

Children's English studies will focus on discussion, narrative which creates suspense and play scripts. The play script studies will focus on **Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'**. They will also focus on the **poems of Benjamin Zephaniah**. Children's scientific studies are focusing on **forces, and the Earth and Space**. In music, children will be studying 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst. They will appraise his work and create their own compositions. In geography children will be studying rivers, including those in the local area. As part of their studies, a visit is planned on the 8th March to **Epping Forest** with the Field Studies Council, to investigate local rivers, including the River Lea. Their art studies will focus on landscapes, including the landscape art works of L. S. Lowry and David Hockney 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. Work in PSHE&C will continue to focus on the British Values of Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect.

Classes LM/AC, EMA

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 construct non-chronological reports and explanation texts, linked to their scientific studies. Children's fiction studies will cover writing from alternative perspectives, and developing character depth and atmosphere, including the use of a range of suspense techniques, 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, and the circulatory system**. In geography, children will be studying **biomes and current global environmental issues caused by man-made and natural changes**. In computing, children will be exploring how the internet is used for communication and collaboration. In art, they will design and create a sculpture to enhance an environment. In design and technology children will be making cushions. In music, children will be continuing their learning of music notation, and constructing and composing chord patterns. In religious education they will be continuing their studies on Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Humanism. Work in PSHE&C will relate to the themes of celebrating differences, and dreams and goals for the future. A visit to the **Houses of Parliament** on 27th March will further children's understanding of democracy. This trip will also include a visit to the London Eye and a river cruise, to enrich their geographical studies.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Mary Childs
Headteacher