



SHEREDES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and very warm wishes to all of you, in these challenging times. We are now successfully combining teaching the children of critical workers and vulnerable children onsite, with remote education for children at home. We have around 85 children joining us daily, in addition to our 42 children in the Nursery, who are all invited to return next week. We are constantly improving our ideas for remote learning for our children at home, and will continue to do so, for example now including pre-recordings of the class teacher storytelling or teaching specific concepts, that children can access at any time for a limited period. Currently our main remote learning platforms are Tapestry for Nursery to Year 1, Purple Mash, including Serial Mash, for Year 2 and Google Classroom for Years 3 to 6.

We have kept the COVID-19 update on the home page of our website, www.sheredesprimary.herts.sch.uk, as a reminder of our staggered start and end times each day, for each year group. **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

19th 7:30pm: Full Governing Body Meeting; *Teams*

February

8th – 12th Consultations Week; *telephone consultations*

15th – 19th

HALF TERM

22nd February – 26th

Book Week – more details to follow!

23rd March

7.30pm Governing Body Meeting

22nd – 26th

Musical performances by our instrumentalists; more details to follow.

26th

End of Term



Children's studies

Activities will be adapted for remote learning.

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. **Please see the copies available to open on Tapestry.**

Classes CN, 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 **handling toys and learning to play games from the past**. 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 Burningham 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, as well as finding solutions and working towards aspirational goals. 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, EJ

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. 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 Shunyi in Beijing, China, with Hoddesdon**. In music children will be exploring pulse and rhythm. 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 LA, AP

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 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 **virtual History Off the Page Day**. 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 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 LMa, JSc

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 multiplication and division 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 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. 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 to keep healthy.

Classes NK, AM

Children's English studies will focus on stories from different 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**. Children will be producing class information booklets about these 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 Book Week they will also study sustainability and equality in relation to Fair Trade. In computing children will be introduced to coding, and in music children will continue to learn how to play a stringed instrument.

Classes SBa, EMa

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 studying 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst. They will appraise his work and create their own composition. In geography children will be studying rivers, in particular those in the local area. 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. Work

in PSHE&C will continue to focus on the British Values of Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect.

Classes NM/NL, AC

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 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 and respiratory systems**. 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 continuing their learning of music notation, and constructing and composing chord patterns. In religious education they will be continuing their studies on Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism. Work in PSHE&C will relate to the themes of celebrating differences, and dreams and goals for the future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Mary Childs

Headteacher