



**Shute Primary School
Newsletter
11th September 2020**



Attendance Up to this week 99 %

Target 95%

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It has been a positive start back to school for all the children and staff. We hope that the children are now starting to get used to the routines that we have put in place.

Thank you for arriving on time for morning drop off which is 8.40-8.45 am for KS2 children and their KS1/Early Years siblings and 8.55-9.00 am for KS1/Early Years children. The afternoon pick up is 3.15 pm for KS1/Early Years and their KS2 siblings and 3.25pm for KS2 children. Arriving on time helps to make for a smooth transition for the teachers and children. Please remember that we ask that only one parent drops off or picks up when on the school grounds and that adults remember social distancing guidelines.

We have had major building works over the summer and we are all excited to have had the hall and Squirrels classroom refurbished. The hall has a new floor and a fresh coat of paint and Squirrel's classroom has had a new floor, units and coat of paint. There are still a few follow up jobs to be completed and once finished we will take photos to show you.

We are really pleased to welcome 7 new children in Reception to Year 6 to Shute. We hope they enjoy their time at Shute and all of the staff and children are looking forward to getting to know them better. We also have 11 Pre-schoolers at Shute with 10 of them starting their first day this week along with 9 children starting in Reception. It has been lovely seeing all of the children settling into our school so quickly.

Thank you to everyone for their support this week. You can email admin@shute-primary.org.uk if you have any questions.

Have a nice weekend.

Kind regards,

Parking issue

This morning I have had a phone call from the supervisor of Shute Barton who was upset by a few people who are being inconsiderate as they are parking on the grass or blocking the guests by double parking. The school has a friendly agreement to use their car park if a space is available. Please can I ask that you respect this area as I would hate to lose any privileges we do have. I know the parking situation is a massive challenge, thank you to everyone who is parking sensibly.

Contact details

On Monday, Mrs Haysom will be sending home via your child's class teacher an A4 envelope containing information to be checked and returned, please do this by 21st September at the latest. It is important that we hold up to date contact details for your child.

PTFA

Gemma Benson, who has been our PTFA chairperson is stepping down. I would like to thank Gemma for her hard work and commitment since she has been chairperson. The PTFA will be looking for a new chairperson this year. I would like to encourage as many parents as possible to get involved and support the PTFA. It is a great organisation which raises lots of money to help support important projects throughout the year which benefit the children. When I have further information about the PTFA's plans for organising this year and how that might work because of our current climate, I will let you know.

Curriculum maps and class information

The children in Foxes (Y1/2), Hedgehogs (Y3/4) and Badgers (Y5/6) will be bringing home information about our curriculum this term along with important class information about how things are organised in each class. The parents of the children in Squirrel's class have already had this information. It will be a busy autumn term. Please ask if you are unsure about how anything works in your child's class.

Returning school books

Please have a look to see if your child might have a book at home which was sent home at the end of March as lockdown was beginning. We sent at least two books or more home with every child to use during lockdown and not all of them have been returned yet, thank you.

Before School Club

Mrs Sandman will be running the before school club every morning. If you would like your child to attend for the first time, please contact Mrs Haysom, email admin@shute-primary.org.uk for further details.

Inhalers and other medication:

Please ensure that we have a new medical form for the new school year and in date medication in school, should your child need regular or emergency medication in school. Please see Mrs Haysom to fill out a form. We are only able to give prescribed medicine and selected Over the Counter Medicine to children and all prescribed medicine must come in the container/box it was prescribed in. Green medical forms can be requested from Mrs Haysom, please complete and hand in to her with your child's medicine.

Music Lessons

If your child would like the opportunity to learn an instrument, please email Mrs Haysom admin@shute-primary.org.uk with your permission to pass on your contact details to the relevant teacher.

We currently offer:

- guitar/ukulele with Matt Bowskill
- piano, recorder, flute/woodwind with Louise Elliot
- Vocal tuition with Sarah Ryan Year1 to Year 6

These lessons take place during the school day.

Mindfulness with Jenny Lidster

Mindfulness Club will be starting week commencing 22nd September. Here's a little information from Jenny.

Mindfulness Club is back for another term on Tuesday afternoons, in school time. Sessions are available for KS1 and KS2. Please sign up for this on your ParentPay account. Payment will be made directly to Jenny Lidster on the first session, please send in your child with a names sealed envelope.

The sessions are fun as well as instructional and include a mixture of breathing and other mindfulness techniques, mindful activities, games and crafts, beautiful books, positive self-esteem boosting exercises, and guided visualisations.

Research studies have shown that Mindfulness can help with:

- *increasing self esteem,*
- *coping with stress,*
- *emotional self-regulation,*
- *compassion,*
- *concentration*
- *increased sense of well-being*

In the sessions the children learn;

- *what mindfulness is and how it can help us,*
- *how to focus on the present moment*
- *what happens when we feel difficult emotions like anger, sadness, frustration and anxiety*
- *positive ways to handle those emotions*
- *techniques to calm our bodies and minds*
- *ways to help them settle themselves at the end of a busy day*
- *increased self compassion and positivity.*

The cost of a 30 minute weekly session is £5 per child.

We have had concerns about G's anxiety levels and his frame of mind and we feel that these sessions have really made a difference not only to his day but also to his general outlook on life. Thank you very much!

- Parent of G

"When I go to Mindfulness it's a gust of happiness and relaxation" Year 4 pupil

My name is Jenny Lidster and I trained to teach mindfulness with the Mindfulness in Schools Project and Mindful Schools.

If you'd like to take a look at the sort of things we get up to (although I've admittedly not updated it for a while) there are photos on my Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/themindfulway.co/> or if you have any questions or would like further information you can message me via the FB page or drop me an email and I will be happy to help, jennymindfulway@gmail.com

Application Process to apply for Free School Meals

Parents should apply for Free School Meals through the **Citizen Portal** on our [Free School Meals Website](#) parents must show the school confirmation of eligibility. If parents are not online they can to apply by phoning the **Customer Service Centre** on **0345 155 1019** where an up to date application form will be posted out to them.

Schools **cannot** request application forms on behalf of parents.

PUPIL PREMIUM

Do you know anything about Pupil Premium?

- Introduced in 2011, the pupil premium is a sum of money given to school each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children
- The school receives £1320 pounds for each eligible child.
- Often, all of the children in a class will reap some benefit from how the school spends its pupil premium: for example, if the money is used to fund an additional teacher assistant who works across the whole class, rather than providing one-to-one support. But research shows that the fund does help to narrow gaps between disadvantaged children and their peers, particularly in English and Maths.

With budgets being ever stretched, the Pupil Premium funding is extremely valuable to schools, so we want to encourage people to investigate whether they might be eligible. There is absolutely no stigma attached to this- it is there for those who need it so people should be encouraged to access it. Currently, one of the ways our governors have elected to use some of the funding is to provide a bursary of £80 per term, that parents can use to pay for a whole range of items: uniform, trips, music lessons, books from the book fair and educational days out- a family trip to a museum for instance.

If you are interested in finding out more, I have found this link which explains in more detail:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/pupil-premium-explained>

Displaying symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19)

This is the information I sent out earlier in the week from PHE (Public Health England) and I wanted to share it again with you.

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is the appropriate use of testing to help identify people who are positive and subsequently their contacts. We have made testing available throughout the country and anyone with symptoms can book a test online or over the telephone through 119 to get the certainty they need to protect themselves and those around them.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:
- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Sickness

In line with NHS and Department of Education guidelines, children should not come into school for at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

School lunches

Reminder that the cost of school meals for pupils aged 3-4 (In Squirrels FSU) and in Year 3 and above is £2.50 per day. Lunch money should be paid in advance via ParentPay. Orders must be placed the Thursday before the week lunches are required.

Illness and Absence

If your child is absent from school, you are requested to contact the school office before 9.15am. As required by our Safeguarding Policy if the administration team have not heard from you by early morning they will contact you to establish why your child is not in school. If we are unable to establish contact we may have to report this to the School Education Welfare Officer.

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment in school time, please complete the S2 form which can be found on the school website. <https://shuteprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2019/03/S2-October-2018.pdf> or ask Mrs Haysom for one prior to the absence.

If a child is late, he or she must be signed in by a parent or carer, they must follow the instructions in the entrance and use the intercom to alert the office and a member of staff will come and let you in to sign them in.

Persistent lateness has a negative impact on learning and we support families to ensure all children arrive in good time. A letter or email must be sent to school with the child on their return to school and for any planned medical appointments.

Diary Dates:

October	
14.10.20	Flu Vaccinations
22.10.20	Individual Photographs