



Our Value this month is Fairness
"Value everyone, Value every chance, Value
everyday"

Newsletter

16th May 2025

On Wednesday, Year 3 and 4 visited Bedford for the Faith Tour. We visited a Gurdwara, Mosque and Church. We went on a tour of each of these places and found out all about the religions and what they believe in. Our hosts were very welcoming and allowed us to see some very interesting things and they were very informative. In the Church, we tried to count how many crosses there were but there was too many to count! We also found out the oldest item in the Church was the font, which was over 1000 years old- from Anglo Saxon times! At the Mosque, we were allowed to sit in the mihrab, which is a chair imam sits to deliver daily prayers. While at the Gurdwara, we walked through the building as the scriptures were being recited by a member of the congregation. It sounded like chanting and singing!



80th Anniversary of VE Day

All our lovely children had a special street party style lunch on Friday whilst celebrating VE Day. Thank you to Zoe for decorating the hall and for the delicious cookies. We remembered not to eat the paper!



The children had great fun making our beautiful VE day celebration window displays. We are sure you will agree they look lovely.



Gentle reminders:

Please do read Parentmails when they come through. Often they require a response. If you do not respond your child may miss out. We do not always have the capacity for staff to chase outstanding responses.

With the beautiful weather upon us please remember to send you child to school with a named sunhat, water bottle and sun cream applied.



CHUMS Charity – Supporting Mental Health, Improving Lives

Thank you to everyone at Shillington Lower School for raising a fantastic

£52.00

By taking part in Shine Bright Wear Bright 2025 during Children's Mental Health Week

We are extremely grateful for your support!

CHUMS Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales number: 1179048



Date	Event
Thursday 22nd May	Hedgehogs Mead Open Farm Trip
Friday 23rd May	School Photographs
Wednesday 4th June	Squirrels British Schools Museum Trip
Saturday 7th June	All Saints Church 24 hour Musica-thon

Term Dates 2024– 2025

Autumn Term

Wednesday 4th September—Friday 20th December

(Half Term Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November)

** Inset Day Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September*

Spring Term

Tuesday 7th January—Friday 4th April

(Half Term Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February)

** Inset Day Monday 6th January*

Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April—Friday 18th July

(Half Term Monday 26th May—Friday 30th May)

**Inset Day Monday 7th April and Monday 21st July*



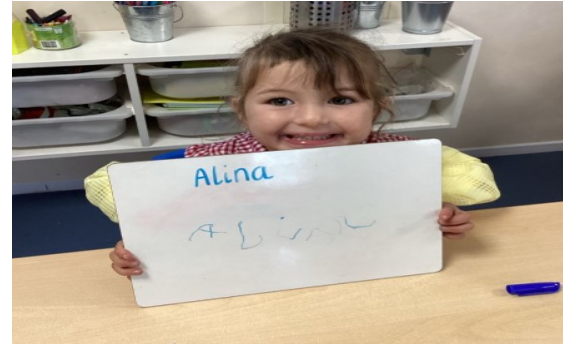
Pixies

In Pixies we have continued to focus on our topic of Spring. This included looking at Mini Beasts. To begin with we learnt about Habitats. We discussed how a habitat is a home for animals. We looked at what creepy crawlies might like to be in their home and then created our own Insect habitat in a tuff tray. We made spider playdough, discussing how many legs our spiders needed and had fun printing different shaped insects in paint!

We celebrated VE day by making our own union jack flag outside using pens and crayons. We ate lunch over in the big school, having a big school picnic!

This week we have been looking at all things that Grow. The children grew their own giant bubble outside using a hula hoop. They used their value of cooperation and patience to create these. We shared our baby photos with our friends and discussed how we have grown. We loved seeing how little we all were.

Our school leavers have been working hard on the school readiness by practising writing their name and being more independent in the classroom. This is a great way to prepare for transition in September.



Hedgehogs

This week in Hedgehogs Class we have participated in Children's Mental Health Week. We enjoyed talking about our '5 ways to wellbeing' and listened to a story called 'The Friendship Bench'. We spent an afternoon exploring the outdoors and collecting a variety of leaves and flowers to create our own nature butterflies.

In Maths this week, Reception have learnt how to move, turn, flip and rotate shapes to copy and create pictures. Year 1 have started their fractions topic and have been recognising and finding a half of an object, quantity or shape.

In English, we have started our new text 'The Odd Egg'. We have loved describing a variety of different eggs using adjectives and predicting which animals they think they belong to. We also discussed how the different birds in the story could be feeling and why this could be. Everyone in Hedgehogs Class has been working hard on their independent writing and we are very happy to see the children using their phonics knowledge to support this.



Over the last few weeks we have been learning a new song called 'Your Imagination'. It has been a challenge to sing this in two groups but with lots of practice it is sounding fantastic! We are looking forward to sharing this with you after some more practice.

Squirrels

This week we have started our learning on fractions. The children have been learning about parts and whole and find equal and unequal groups. We then began looking at finding half of shapes and numbers. At home maybe you can have a go at finding half of a cake or the squares on a chocolate bar.

In English, we have started a new book called 'The Yeti and the bird'. We have been describing the yeti using adjectives and today we have written a letter to the yeti giving him some advice on how to find some friends in the forest.

In Geography we have been learning about the seas and oceans surrounding the UK before identifying the key physical features of the coastlines.

In science we have been learning about habitats, the children explored our local habitat at school and recorded the different animals and plants they could find.

This week we have also be doing the '5 ways of wellbeing' each day as we participate in Children's Mental Health Week. The children particularly liked our art of 'The Dot' linked to keep learning.



Rabbits

It has been a very busy couple of weeks in Year 3!

In art, we have been learning about collage and looking at how different artists use it. We then collected lots of different materials and created our own collage of The Great Pyramids of Giza. In our collage, we tried to use as many different textures and materials as we could!

We have been very busy in science, investigating magnetism and friction. To investigate magnetism, we tested different materials to see if they were magnetic or not. We found out the only things made from metal are magnetic- but not all metals are! This week, we investigated friction by pushing a car down a ramp. The ramp had different materials on it. The shorter the distance the car went, the more friction there was. We made a prediction before our investigation. Out of wood, carpet, sandpaper and foam, the carpet produced the most friction.



In English, we have been using the Disney short film 'Lava' to create pieces of writing. At the start of the week, we focused on the characters and setting in the film and wrote descriptive pieces of writing. At the moment, we are writing a non-chronological report on volcanoes!

Barn Owls

In our whole class reading lessons we have been reading a book called The Humans: Ancient Civilisations and the Astonishing Things they Taught Us. Spanning all of history's known ancient civilisations, the children will compare achievements, stories, language, myths and more from each era. They will develop their skills of retrieval, inference, summarising and comparing to complete activities, as well asking and answering questions and debating important points like 'what really have been the greatest inventions of all time?' We have been learning about the Nubians and Ancient Egyptians so far and we look forward to delving into the past and discover what humankind accomplished in the centuries and millennia since the first civilisations were formed.

We were giving the fantastic opportunity to learn more about the Muslim, Sikh and Christian faith through visiting their places of worship: Mosque, Church & Gurdwara. The visit gave the children first-hand experience of communities and faith groups, through places that are important to them and people who value them. The trip helped children glimpse a community in which people live alongside each other, recognise difference but celebrate the common life, culture and beliefs that they share.



Are your children eligible for benefits-based free school meals?

Central
Bedfordshire

great
prospects

All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are entitled to free school meals referred to as 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' (UIFSM).

But any child in Reception through to Year 11 that meets the Government criteria listed below is entitled to benefits based free school meals. By claiming this, there are also other benefits available to the child and family such as access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme, providing free activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays.

Do you receive one of the following benefits?

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If so, your children may be entitled to benefits based free school meals. Turn over to find out how to apply.

Find us online



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals

How to apply for free school meals



If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call us on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- your NASS number, if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service

If your child is aged 16-18 and attends a further education or sixth form college, please contact the college for information about free school meals. If your child attends a school sixth form, please contact us to apply.

As soon as we have confirmed that you qualify, we will tell your child's school that their free school meals can start from the date you apply.

Need some more advice or support? Head to your local Children's Centre for help.

Find your local centre by visiting  bit.ly/familyinfodirectory

Find us online  www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals

