



Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden – Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year’s Challenge is called Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors.

The challenge will run from **Friday 18th July until Saturday 6th September.**

The Challenge:

- Children must be members of the library service. Join the library here or go to your local brary.
- The challenge invites children to read any six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our Libby and BorrowBox apps.

More about e-resources

- Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer, from Friday 18th July.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books; there are also some other prizes to collect along the way!
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £50 voucher for The Works, to buy arts, crafts and books.

Struggle with reading?

We can help!

- For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- The Libby app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and font size, we also have children’s large print books available in some of our libraries.
- Picture books aren’t just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of older picture books for young readers.
- Get hooked on graphic novels (comic style books).
- Select from beginning to read (green spots) or short chapter books (red spots).
- Booklists with lots of ideas available on our Virtual Library Books and Reading - Children and Teenagers Pages



All Saints Church 24 Hour Rock Around the Clock Event

Our school choir are excited to be supporting this event. Our singing slot starts at 10am. Please come along and support this event and our children. If you can not make it and wish to enjoy it, the event is being live streamed. The link is below



<http://twitch.tv/friendsofallsaints>



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Saturday 7th June	All Saints Church 24 hour Rock Around the Clock Event
Friday 13th June 9.15am—11am	School Sports Day
Thursday 19th June	Hedgehogs Stay & Play Sessions
Friday July 4th	School Move Up Day

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*





We have some exciting vacancies over at Shillington Lower School. Please see links below to our website and My New Term where you can apply for the vacancies.

Our website https://www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk/web/current_vacancies/617510

Cleaner Supervisor - <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109480/EDV-2025-SLS-21917>

Teaching Assistant - <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109480/EDV-2025-SLS-01446>

Part Time Teacher - <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109480/EDV-2025-SLS-90938>

Join the Shillington Lower School PTA!

Shillington Lower School PTA is dedicated to enhancing our school community by fostering collaboration between parents, teachers, and the school administration. Our PTA organises events, fundraisers, and activities that benefit our students and create a sense of belonging.

Why Join?

- **Voice Your Ideas:** Contribute to school programs and events
- **Support and Advocate:** Help address student needs and improve resources.
- **Build Community:** Connect with other parents and educators.
- **Make an Impact:** Fundraise to support and enrich your child's education.
- **Set an Example:** Show the importance of community involvement to your children.

Get Involved! Contact us at ptfashillington@gmail.com Every contribution counts!

Pixies

In Pixies, we have been looking at being healthy. We discussed in carpet time what we could do to keep our bodies healthy. The children spoke about how we can eat fruit, vegetables, and exercise. We then had a go at washing our fruit and vegetables and tried tasting different vegetables. The pixies were amazing at trying foods that they had not tried before. We focused on learning our ABAB pattern making using fruit cut outs. The children continued the adult patterns and then had a go at creating their own. We had a focused day on learning about Oral Health, looking at how we look after our teeth to make them grow big and strong. This week we have had a focus on School readiness. The children all practiced their name writing and identifying their names. They showed great pencil control in tracing their names. We practiced open buttons on toys and doing zips up, we then practiced this with our own coats. The children all showed their value of perseverance to try their hardest to do this skill on their own. For P.E this week we have been practicing our running to get ready for our big toddler race next week. All the children showed great listening skills to follow the adults' instructions and showed great teamwork to encourage their peers to run as fast as they could.



Hedgehogs

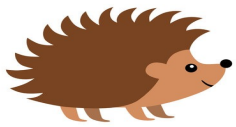
A highlight of our Summer Term so far definitely has to be our trip to Mead Open Farm! We had the best day seeing the animals, grooming the ponies and stroking the rabbits. We had lots of fun on the bouncy pillow and adventure playground to finish the day.



In Art with Mrs Webster this week the children created some amazing Picasso style self-portraits. Reception used a variety of shapes and colours to cut out and stick to create a face. Whilst Year 1 used pastels to draw half of their face, matched to a photograph of the over half of their face.

Reception have now started to learn their phase five sounds in phonics, including ay, ou, ie and ea. Whilst Year 1 have been completing lots of reading activities (real and alien words) to prepare them for their phonics screening next week.

We have also been practicing the egg and spoon race and our class relay race using batons in PE. We are excited for Sports Day next week!



Rabbits

In English, we have started a new book called 'Flotsam'. It is a very interesting book as he has no words in it! We have been doing lots of inferring and predicting to work out what is going on in the story. We are also reading a new book in reading called 'Africa Amazing Africa.' It is a non-fiction book all about the countries in Africa. We cannot wait to find out more.

This week, in PE, we have started practicing our athletics skills. In particular, we have worked on our sprinting technique thinking about using big strides. We used these skills to take part in some relay races ready for Sports Day.

In history, we have been learning about the last Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt, Cleopatra. We discovered that historians couldn't agree what she looks like and until they find her mummy we probably never will know all about her life for certain. We thought about some of the important event in her life and ordered them on a timeline.

Finally, in computing, we are revisiting coding and how to use loops in our algorithms. This week, we revisited Scratch and reminded ourselves of the different parts of a program and how to make a simple code.



Squirrels

What a great week in Squirrels!

In maths we have been learning about unit fractions and non-unit fractions, the children have been finding $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a shape and number as well as looking at equivalent fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$.

On Wednesday, we had a amazing trip to the British School Museum in Hitchin, the children were so engaged and enthusiastic throughout the trip and it was lovely to see them asking questions and sharing their knowledge. We had fun in the Victorian classroom, where we got to write on slate, practice our handwriting with feather pens and learn how Victorian children would learn. The children especially enjoyed one of us getting the cane and the dunce hat. Next we visited the head masters house where we learnt all about how they would live during that time period. The children were really well behaved and had a brilliant time! :)

In PE, we have been practicing the egg and spoon race and our class relay race using batons ready for Sports Day next week!



Barn Owls

When we were reading the text 'Tar Beach' we learnt how to set out a script correctly focusing on scene changes, correct tense, stage directions and the correct punctuation. This knowledge learnt has enabled us to know how to read and understand scripts. We are using this to develop our drama and acting skills rehearsing for our end of year show, which is coming along nicely!

In Maths we are learning about 'Time' this subject is challenging. We have learnt how a year can be represented on a calendar, which shows the number of days in each month. Use multiplicative reasoning and related number facts to convert and compare times recorded in hours, minutes and seconds. A secure understanding of the 6 times-table has helped children find related number facts linked to time.

This is a very busy half term for Barn Owl Class, with lots of changes so we thought it would be an ideal time to make a worry monster to help support us through. So in DT we have developing our sewing skills by creating our own Worry monster. We had to create a design, cut out a template, choose a stitch we felt best suited our design and then sewed it together. We are looking forward to filling our monsters with wading and evaluating it next week.



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

