



To all our parents and carers

Happy New Year!

Advent reading challenge

In December Mrs Dumpleton set the children an 'Advent reading challenge' where they were encouraged to take part in a number of reading activities which included reading in front of a Christmas tree or reading to a pet.

Thank you to Seren, Jade, Calix, Harry, Isla, Holly, Bella, Daniel, Seraphine and Molly for taking part in the challenge.



Here is some of the fun our children were involved in the run up to Christmas



Please can we remind all parents that smoking and vaping in or around the school grounds is prohibited. If you wish to smoke or vape please do this away from school premises. Thank you.

Introducing the new Chair of Governors

I wanted to take the opportunity to virtually introduce myself to those members of the school community I have not yet had the chance to meet. I am Kirsty Whitehead, a solicitor by profession, and have lived (with my family) in Shillington for the last 8 years.

I took over as Chair of the Federation's Governing Board in September, having been a co-opted governor for Shillington & Stondon since January 2019, part of the Resource and Planning Committee and the Equality Governor.

In my role as Chair, I am working with the Governing Board, and the headteacher, to ensure a strong focus on core strategic functions: to make sure the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the schools are clearly defined; the headteacher performs her responsibilities for the educational performance of the schools; and safeguard the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

The role is definitely strategic rather than operational (which is the responsibility of the headteacher and her team). However, if anyone has any questions or concerns to raise either with myself or the Governing Board in general, please feel free to contact me via the school office or on email: KWhitehead@shillington.cbeds.co.uk

We currently have 2 vacancies for parent governors on the Board, and one vacancy for a co-opted governor. Parents' voice and input is critical. If anyone would like to learn more about the role, please contact me.



Robins class news

Robins have started our new topic ‘people who help us’. We have been having lots of discussions about the people who can help us such as the police, paramedics, dentist and doctors and we have even spoken about those who help us in other ways such as trusted grownups and our friends. We have started looking at traditional tales and are enjoying reading all of the different stories. We have started to complete story maps of little red riding hood and Goldilocks and the three bears. We have been able to identify the characters in traditional tales and are beginning to create our own characters which we will include in our story writing over the next couple of weeks. In maths we have been looking at numbers 0-5 and looking at the composition of these numbers, one more, one less and how these numbers can be represented in different ways. Our PE focus is dance for this half term and we have created our own dance with basic moves to the song ‘ a sailor went to sea’.



Puffins class news

This week in Puffins class we have had an alien called Beegu in our class-room! Beegu gets very lonely when we’re not in school, so we decided to make her some alien friends out of recycled tubes to keep her company. In our English lessons, we have been describing our aliens using a range of adjectives.

In Maths we have been finding one more and one less than numbers up to 20. We have been using counters and number lines to help us with this.

In Science we have been learning to classify animals into their groups: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. We have been using our understanding of these groups to compare different animals. This week we looked at the similarities and differences between two birds, a robin and a penguin.



Kestrels class news

We have had a fantastic start to the term in Kestrels. In Maths, we have been getting more familiar with money, which has been tricky at times! However, we have persevered. We have compared coins and notes and worked on making the same amount in different ways.

In English, we read the story of Grandad’s Camper by Harry Woodgate. We have explored the themes of memories and adventures. The children have used their senses to describe a setting and shown that they can use exciting verbs in their writing.

During our afternoon lessons Kestrels have had fun perfecting their balances in gymnastics. We also started learning about the country of Kenya in Geography, understanding where in the world it is along with some of the country’s key features.



Toucans class news

After a lovely Christmas break the children have come back ready to learn and take on new challenges! In English we have explored 'Instructions' by Neil Gaiman and used them to create our own magical journeys using Instruction features such as imperative verbs and adverbs. The children have loved this and can't wait to record their journeys in a mysterious voice...

In maths we have been using our times table knowledge to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers by 1 digit! This has really tested our ability to use our growth mindset! In science we have started our discovery of rocks in science linking to our history topic of the Stone Age, the children are super excited to share their knowledge on our trip in march where we will experience life as a Stone Age person!



Hummingbirds class news

We have completed our studies of the Iron man this week and are moving on to pastures new. What an interesting story it was - it did not end the way we expected! We have been busy revising word classes too - can your hummingbird remember what a noun, verb, adjective and adverb are and give you some examples? In Maths we are finishing off our topic on multiplication and division. It has been a rather tricky area but we have persevered and made great strides! Our scores on Times Tables Rockstars are also improving - well done us!

In Science this week, we have been continuing our topic of sound. We now know that not only does sound take time to travel, but we also know it must have matter to travel through! We have carried out some experiments on how sound travels through different states of matter (we particularly enjoyed the cup and string experiment) and how we can make things move with the power of our voices - can your hummingbird tell you all about this experiment?! In computing, we have begun to learn more about coding and are starting to explore 'scratch' - a free website that allows the children to create their own algorithms.

We are really enjoying this! We look forward to seeing what the next few weeks bring!





Winter Clothing

Please make sure your child has with them a coat in school everyday. Hats and gloves are also good for break and lunchtime (please label them!)

Your child is welcome to wear base layers under their uniform if they are feeling chilly!

Term Dates 2024-2025

Spring Term

Monday 7th January- Friday 4th April 2025

Half term: Monday 17th February- Friday 21st February 2025

Inset Days: Monday 6th January

Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April- Friday 18th July 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th- Friday 30th May 2025

Inset Days: Monday 7th April & Monday 21st July 2025

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term

Wednesday 3rd September- Friday 19th December 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th October- Friday 31st November 2025

Inset Days: Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Spring Term

Tuesday 6th January- Friday 27th March 2026

Half term: Monday 16th- Friday 20th February 2026

Inset Days: Monday 5th January 2026

Summer Term

Tuesday 14th April- Friday 17th July 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th- Friday 29th May 2026

Inset Days: Monday 13th April 2026

Requests for term time absence will not be approved unless due to exceptional circumstances.



Don't forget about our pre loved shop. We have lots of



items such as polo shirts, dresses and school jumpers all in great condition. Just ask at the office to have a look.

Welcome to Mrs Lagah who joined us at the start of the year. Mrs Lagah will be teaching Year 2 on Thursdays and Fridays.



Date	Event
Monday 2nd February	Year 4- Young Voices

We have lots of exciting events coming up for the children so please keep a close eye on Parentmail and Seesaw