
Headteacher: Anna Jones

16 September 2016

Newsletter Issue 2

Wow! The end of another fabulous week at Shamblehurst .

Welcome to our new Year R intake and to their parents. They have all settled really well, even attending singing assembly on day 2!

Throughout the school the children have been working really hard and I was really impressed by this week's Learners of the Week in Celebration Assembly.

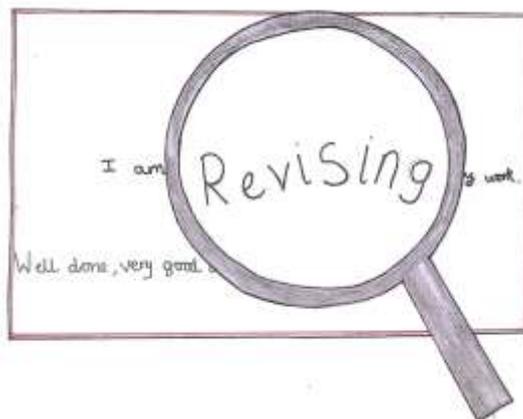
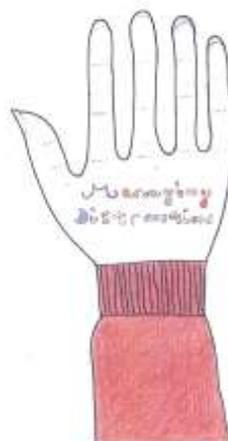
This week these children have been chosen by their teachers for flexing their learning muscles!

- Summer in Caterpillars who has flexed her 'independence' muscle.
- Noah in Dragonflies for flexing his 'independence' muscle.
- Regan in Zebras. Regan has been flexing his 'perseverance' muscle in all his tasks, especially maths!
- Lee in Lions for flexing his 'independence' muscle.
- Luca in Giraffes. Luca flexed his 'perseverance' muscle whilst completing a really tricky maths task.
- Lara in Dolphins for flexing her 'perseverance' muscle.
- Daisy in Seahorses for flexing her 'perseverance' muscle.
- Bethany in Turtles for flexing her 'independence' muscle.
- Cody in 3HR for flexing his 'managing distractions' muscle.
- Georgie in 3KE for flexing her 'perseverance' muscle.
- Austin in 4LM for flexing his 'making links' muscle.
- TJ in 4RP for flexing his 'imagining' muscle.
- Lily in 5LC for flexing her 'perseverance' muscle.
- Alfie in 5JH for flexing his 'reasoning' muscle.
- Aliyah in 6JG for flexing her 'perseverance' muscle.
- Toby in 6KS has been flexing his 'perseverance' muscle.



I need to thank Year 6 who have created superb illustrations to go with our learning muscles. These will be used throughout the school and will be instrumental in embedding a common language for learning at Shamblehurst. Thank you Year 6 for an exceptionally professional job!

Here are some of their awesome designs - I will include more next week.



I have been amazed by some of the learning this week - Year 4 have been writing some really high level metaphorical poems. I have included an example below. All the poems were really powerful so look out for them at the classroom drop ins! They are about the children's feelings as they return to school and re-start their learning journeys in Year 4.

The Journey of an Amazing Volcano

It's time to start our journey,
Bubbling, boiling lava,
I'm nearly ready, nearly there.
Excited,
Tense,
But ready to burst into life.

As weeks pass I slowly begin to rise,
I twist and turn like snakes,
Sometimes another extra path appears.
Tired,
Exhausted,
But much wiser than I was.

After what seemed like endless hard work,
I see daylight ahead,
I'm ready to burn like sizzling fire.
Proud,
Happy,
But very nervous.

Suddenly I explode,
Smoke billowing everywhere,
Lava leaping out in every direction.
Fire.
Explosions,
But it's not ended yet.

As my journey begins to wind down,
I reflect on where I have come from,
As the start of a new adventure has begun.
Slow down,
Evaluate,
Adventure.

Olivia Year 4



The children will be given their House Teams on Monday and we have planned House assemblies so that each team can meet with their staff representatives.

The start of the day is running really smoothly. Thank you for bearing with us. Learning commences straight away and children and staff are eager to 'get going!' Children are really positive about the changes too. I spoke with some of our Year 6 children who had the following to say:

"I have noticed when we get into school we start learning quicker than we used to."
Max

"When we get into school there is already a morning learning task and we quickly get on with things." Amelia

Jerin commented, "When we get into school there are new working walls to help us learn stuff and if you need help you can look at it."

Mia, Jerin, Max and Amelia in Year 6 also spoke very positively about the changes to our behaviour policy. They thought the system was better 'because when you got your name on orange before you could easily have got a tick and that would mean you wouldn't get a Governors' Award at the end of the year.'

Thanks to Mia, Jerin, Max and Amelia for your time and comments.

*Anna Jones
Headteacher*



Year 1

Governors

What an exciting start to the new school year! We have a brand new Headteacher and lots of fresh ideas to help the vision of the school, which is to give all of our children at Shamblehurst the best possible education and to make it exciting as well, so that they want to learn. I have been into the school with other governors speaking to staff, parents and the children and there is a genuine excitement that I have not seen in my 9 years at Shamblehurst as a parent and then as a governor and it is very refreshing!

We understand that changes can cause some issues and uncertainty but change can also be very beneficial to both the staff and children. I have noticed (and I am sure that the children would have told you) the start to the day is more defined, as now all the children enter at the same time and start the learning together, on time and without the early morning disruption that had become evident in previous years.

I have had some feedback from parents about the new entry arrangements and we will work as a school to ensure the issues raised are addressed as they are important. However, after seeing for myself the benefits and order that the organised entry gives to the classes, it will be hugely beneficial to your children's learning to ensure that this class structure is maintained going forwards.

As you can appreciate, the start of the school year is very busy with lots of things to organise and children to settle into new classes and our Year R's into school life and we all want to know about after school clubs and school trips and events. I understand that these are hot topics within the school and also important for you as parents to plan into your budgets, so the school is working over the next 2 to 3 weeks to finalise these plans so that you can all be kept up to date as soon as possible.

I attended some of the Meet the Headteacher drop in sessions and the feedback and involvement of parents was excellent and has given the school some focused areas to work on so, to those parents, thank you. There will be more and more opportunities for more parents to be involved and as governors we would actively encourage you to participate to help develop the school for the good of our school community.

As a Governing Body we are delighted with the atmosphere in the school and, with your continued support, the staff can provide the quality of education that all of our children deserve.



Mr Paul Hatia-Black
Chair of Governors

Events

Christmas

- I just wanted to give you a little bit more information about our Christmas productions/ Nativities.
- Unfortunately we could not secure a booking at The Berry Theatre this year.
- We will use our school hall but there will be separate Year R, 1 and 2 performances. We hope this way all children have a chance to 'shine' and that all parents and grandparents will be able to see them 'shine'. With 90 children in Years 1 and 2 it would have meant 240 children performing at the same time.
- Historically, Key Stage 2 has not had a Christmas celebration but we felt that this was something we would like to change! The format of this will be a retelling of the Nativity through readings and songs....there is a twist but it is secret at the moment! This could be a real squeeze in our hall and we hope to liaise with other venues to see if we can find somewhere more suitable. I will keep you posted. It is likely that there will only be two tickets available per family.

Parents

Thank you for the parents that attended Monday's drop in. We have had some great suggestions and feedback. The next meeting is **2.45pm on Tuesday 11th October.**

Don't forget the Open Afternoons on **Wednesday 28th** and **Thursday 29th September at 2.45pm.** Mrs Mohamed and myself will be in Year R on those afternoons to hopefully meet our new parents.

Reading Workshops - Wednesday 28th September

We will be hosting two reading workshops for Key Stage 1 parents on **Wednesday 28th September.**

This will show you how we teach children in school and how best to support them at home.

There is a **9.00am** session and a second session at **2.15pm**, just before classroom drop ins.

There will be a Key Stage 2 reading workshop on **Wednesday 5th October at 9am.**

These will be held in the hall.

Curriculum - drop ins

SATS Parent Information for Year 6 Parents - Friday 23rd September, 3.20pm

Our Year 6 staff will share Year 6 expectations, how children can be supported at home and give you a flavour of the tests that the children will face in May.

This will be held in the Discovery Centre.

Pink Shirt Day – Friday 7 October 2016

Reminder: On 7th October we are supporting Pink Shirt Day to help Breast Cancer Haven, a local charity, raise money. Children are asked to swap their normal clothes and wear a pink shirt; if not a shirt it can be anything pink, such as pink socks or a wig, in exchange for a £1 donation.



Junior Road Safety Officers

I would like to introduce this year's Junior Road Safety Officers:

Jess in Year 6, Izzy in Year 6 , Ben in Year 5 and Micha in Year 5

I met with them today to talk about their roles and their ideas for the future.

They are presenting two whole school assemblies on the 17th October and would very much like your support on **Thursday 20th October** when we will be asking the children to wear bright or florescent clothes to launch their Be Bright, Be Seen campaign.

Homework:

You should have received a letter about Homework. We have taken on board the suggestions that parents have made at our drop ins and hope that the alterations to the children's homework are useful and clarify the expectations of the school.



We had a really positive meeting with FOSSA this morning where we confirmed some dates for the year ahead. We are going to be using some FOSSA money to be improving our school grounds, most particularly in Year R and Year 1, as well as supporting our maths resources by purchasing Numicon resources.

Thank you all for supporting these events.

Additional dates:

Friday 14 October

AGM for FOSSA in the Discovery Centre. The team are hoping to recruit a treasurer and other new committee members. Please come for their Annual General Meeting and bring a friend!

Thursday 10 November



School Disco
KS1 - 5 -6.15pm
KS2 - 6.30 -7.45pm

Friday 25 November, 6-8pm

Film Night. Year groups to be announced.

Saturday 3 December, 11am -2pm

Christmas Fayre



Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs will now be opening their Breakfast Club from 7.30am. There are available spaces so if you would like to book please contact Dina directly on 07962 992004
Or by email on; dinawilson@hedgehogchildcare.co.uk

Website

We are currently updating our website and experiencing some technical issues - please bear with us.

Complaint from one of our neighbours....

Unfortunately we have received a complaint from one of our neighbours who backs on to the trees on the far side of our field.

A few children have been playing in the wooded area and have been throwing logs over into a garden. This happens after the children have been released from the end of the school day. We have spoken with the children in assembly so hopefully this will now stop but if you are able to keep a close eye on children at the end of the day I would be grateful.

Staff News

SENCo

Mrs Helen Adams is working one day a week as our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) before Mrs Burrell returns in the new year. She works every Thursday and will happily meet with any parents to discuss their child. Please contact the office should need to make an appointment.



*Anna Jones
Headteacher*