



Newsletter



Dear Families,

It has been another really enjoyable week at Shalford, and I am beginning to get a much better sense of what makes our school such a special place. I have spent more time in classrooms this week, and it has been wonderful to see the quality of teaching and learning taking place across the school. I have seen strong foundations being built, with children developing excellent learning behaviours, showing curiosity and engaging enthusiastically in their learning. It has been a real pleasure to see.



I have also had the opportunity to meet with our PTA and hear more about the fantastic work they do to bring our school community together, as well as raising important funds for the school. There is clearly lots of exciting work already underway, and we will be sharing the dates for this year's PTA events with you very soon. I know these events are always a wonderful opportunity for families to come together and have fun, so I hope many of you will be able to support them.

A few reminders for the week ahead:

Reception Coffee Morning – Wednesday 30 September

A reminder to all our Reception families that we are holding our coffee morning next Wednesday from 8:40–9:30am. It will be a lovely opportunity to meet other Reception parents and get to know one another, so please do come along if you can.

Harvest Collection – from Monday

We will begin collecting donations for our Harvest collection from Monday. Donations can be brought into school and placed directly in the hall. Thank you in advance for your generosity – the donations will be going to a great local cause.



Bikes and scooters

A reminder that children should not cycle or scoot on the school grounds. Please ensure that bikes and scooters are walked and pushed once you enter the school site. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe, particularly at our busy drop-off and collection times.

Collection times

A reminder for our Acorn families that collection is at 3:00pm. For all families, the school gates will close again once all children have been collected, and by 3:20pm at the latest. Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you, as always, for the warm welcome you have continued to give me. I am really enjoying getting to know the children, staff and families at Shalford, and I am looking forward to seeing even more of you over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Ben Stevenson
Headteacher

Welcome Wednesday

Our first Welcome Wednesday of the year will take place on 14th October at 2.55pm. This is an opportunity for you to come into the classrooms of Oak, Ash and Pine Classes and look through your children's books, look at the classroom displays and talk about your child's learning with your child. These sessions take place on the last Wednesday of every half term (except for December as the last week of term is very busy!). Please note that your child's teacher will not be available to talk to, but if you would like to speak to them you are free to make an appointment for another time.

School Council Elections

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our School Council elections this week!

The children have been learning about democracy as part of our assemblies on British Values, and it has been fantastic to see them putting this learning into practice. Our candidates prepared and delivered their election speeches, shared their ideas with their classmates and then took part in a democratic vote.

We are delighted to announce that our new School Council representatives are:

☀ Ash Class: Poppy and Orson

☀ Pine Class: Isabelle, Harper Young, Buster and Fin

Congratulations to all of our new councillors! They now have the important job of listening to the views and ideas of their classmates and representing these at School Council meetings.

A special well done also goes to every child who stood for election. Standing in front of your classmates to share your ideas takes confidence and courage, and learning how to listen to others, accept different opinions and understand that we don't always get the outcome we hoped for are all important parts of becoming responsible members of our school community.

We are looking forward to seeing what our new School Council achieves this year!

Reception Parents Coffee Morning

We would love to invite all Reception parents and carers to join us for a Reception Coffee Morning on Wednesday 30th September, from 8:40–9:30am. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet other Reception parents, as well as Mrs Dickson and Mr Stevenson, and to find out a little more about life at Shalford. Most importantly, it's a chance to begin building supportive friendships and networks with other families as your children start their journey together. We hope you can join us for a coffee and a chat!

Harvest 2026

Our Harvest Assembly is getting closer, and we are looking forward to coming together with Rev Helen May on Thursday 15th October to celebrate Harvest with the children. The teachers have been busy choosing some Harvest bangers for the children to learn and sing together during our assemblies! We are looking forward to hearing the children's voices filling the hall as we celebrate together.

A reminder that our Harvest Collection starts on Monday. Donations can be brought into school and placed directly in the hall. We are collecting for the Chilworth Foodbank, so please do contribute if you are able. Every donation, however small, will help support local families.

Thank you for your continued generosity — we are looking forward to celebrating Harvest together.

Mrs Thorne

We would also like to wish Mrs Thorne all the very best as she begins her maternity leave.

Mrs Thorne has been such a valued member of the Shalford team, and we are incredibly grateful for all of her hard work, care and commitment to the children and our school community. She will certainly be missed!

We are very excited to hear the news when Baby Thorne arrives and, of course, look forward to meeting the newest member of the Shalford family in due course.

Wishing Mrs Thorne and her partner a wonderful, exciting and very special time together as they get ready to welcome their new arrival. We hope you enjoy every moment!



Upcoming Events

Important dates:

~~23rd Sept: 7.30pm: PTA AGM in the Oasis~~

~~25th Sept: Jeans for Genes Day~~

~~25th Sept: School Council Elections~~

30th Sept: 8:40 – 9:30: Coffee morning for reception parents

5th Oct: Donations for local foodbank welcomed in lead up to harvest assembly

8th Oct: – Individual school photo day

14th Oct: 2.55 – 3:10pm: Welcome Wednesday

15th Oct: Harvest assembly with Rev Helen May

16th Oct: INSET DAY

19th – 30th Oct: Half term holiday

11th + 12th Nov: Parent/Teacher Consultations – booking available soon

18th Dec: Term finishes at 1pm

