



Newsletter

Dear Families,

It is a real privilege to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Shalford Infant & Nursery School. Although I am new to Shalford, I already feel incredibly fortunate to be joining such a warm, welcoming and special school community. From my first visits, I have been struck by the relationships between the children and staff, the care that runs through the school and, most importantly, the genuine joy that children have in learning.



My first priority is simple: to get to know our children, our families and our staff, and to understand what makes Shalford such a special place. I want to listen, learn and build on the many strengths that already exist here.

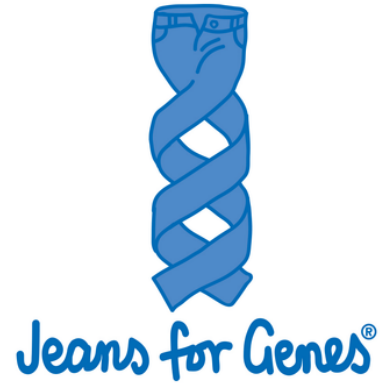
Our school vision, Enjoying Learning Together, captures something that I believe is really important. Children should feel happy, safe, valued and excited to come to school – while also being challenged to achieve more than they thought possible. We can have high expectations and high standards while never losing sight of the warmth, curiosity and enjoyment that make the early years of education so important.

I am very excited about the journey ahead and about working alongside you to ensure that every child at Shalford gets the very best possible start to their education. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming weeks. Please do come and say hello – I am very much looking forward to becoming part of the Shalford community.

Ben Stevenson
Headteacher

Jeans for Genes day

On Friday 25th September we will be raising awareness and money for Jeans for Genes Day. Individually, genetic disorders are rare but together they affect 1 in 25 children born in the UK – that's more than 30,000 babies each year. We are inviting all children and adults to pay £1 to wear their jeans on that day. School children will need to wear their school polo shirt, jumper and normal school shoes.



School Council Elections

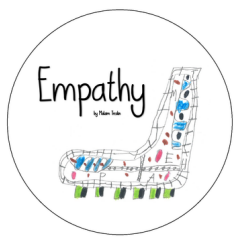
Friday 25th September is Election Day!

Our School Council is made up of four representatives from Ash and Pine Classes. Next week we will talk to the children about what the school councillor's role is and what they need to do if they would like to be a school councillor.

The candidates all have to give 'election speeches' to their fellow class members before election takes place, just like in a real election. Candidates are also invited to make posters/badges/rosettes etc. to persuade their fellow classmates to vote for them.

Key skills in being a school councillor include the ability to listen to others, accept that your idea might not be the one finally chosen and also to have the confidence to talk in a group and share ideas.

A new School Council is formed during the autumn term every year. The elected members then have the job of representing the views of their classes at our meetings. An election will be held in Oak Class in the spring term, once the class have got to know each other a bit better.



Shalford Values



Our values are right at the heart of who we are, driving what we do and how we do it here at Shalford. We pride ourselves on being a caring school with a positive atmosphere, something many visitors to the school have remarked upon. We explicitly teach the children 11 values (5 in Nursery) across the school year, focusing on one value each month. In school, children have a values assembly where they listen to stories and discuss what each value means, alongside special values lessons in their classrooms for smaller group discussion.

September: Resilience

October: Respect

November: Kindness

December: Gratitude

January: Cooperation

February: Empathy

March: Tolerance

April: Honesty

May: Courage

June: Responsibility

July: Achievement

Our values are not just something we talk about in school — we want to see them lived out by our children every day, both in school and at home.

In the foyer of the main school entrance, you will find values leaves for parents and carers to take home. If you notice your child demonstrating one of our school values, please fill in a leaf, telling us which value they demonstrated and what they did.

Return the leaf to school and, each Friday, we will celebrate some of these examples in assembly and add them to our Values Tree. It is a lovely way to recognise the wonderful things our children are doing outside the classroom too.

This is currently for our KS1 children. Our EYFS children have Proud Clouds in their classrooms, which work slightly differently.

So, please do take a leaf home and fill one in! We would love to hear about the moments when you see our Shalford values shining through at home.

To strengthen the link between home and school, we will also send home a monthly Values Newsletter linked to that month's value.

Each newsletter will explain how we are teaching and encouraging the value in school, along with simple ideas and suggestions for exploring and developing it at home.

We hope these newsletters will give you a useful insight into our values work and provide opportunities to talk about the value together, spot it in everyday life and encourage your child to put it into practice.

By working together, we can help our children understand that our values aren't just something we learn about at school — they are qualities we can all demonstrate every day.

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

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

It's that time of year again and on Thursday 15th October, we will be holding our special Harvest Assembly for the children led by Rev Helen May. Harvest is a wonderful time for us to come together as a school community, to reflect on the importance of food, where it comes from, and how fortunate we are to have enough to eat. It is also a chance to remind ourselves that not everyone is as fortunate, and part of our tradition is to support those in need.

This year, we will once again be collecting food donations to support the Chilworth Foodbank, which helps families in our local area. Over 2.5 million people across the UK have had to rely on foodbanks in the past year. Your generous donations can make a huge difference in the lives of those who are struggling to put food on the table.

We will be collecting donations from Monday 5th October, and all contributions—no matter how big or small—will go directly to support local families. The foodbank has told us that items currently in high demand include toiletries such as shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant, as well as everyday cleaning products like washing-up liquid, antibacterial spray, and toilet roll. Long-life milk, pasta, microwaveable rice, tinned fish or meat, baked beans, and family cereals are also very much appreciated. Donations can be sent in with children or dropped off at the main office.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to celebrating this special time with your children.



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

