

# Shere CE Infant School & Nursery

Roots to grow...Wings to fly

Our Vision: A first class education in a small village school.

Friday 18th January 2019

Gomshall Lane, Shere, Guildford, Surrey, GU59HB  
01483202198 [www.shere.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.shere.surrey.sch.uk)

## February

7th

Owls Spectrum Athletics  
Children will return to  
school at 3.30pm

14th

Natural History Museum in  
London Trip

15th

INSET Day

WB 18th

Half Term

25th

INSET Day

## March

6th

PTA meeting

7th

Hedgehogs Spectrum  
Athletics

12th

Parent Consultation  
Evening

13th

Parent Consultation  
Evening

21st

Foxes Spectrum Athletics

## April

5th

Last day of term.

### Dear Families,

This week I have spent a great deal of time climbing across my office in an attempt to navigate the vast piles of bring and buy merchandise collected by our very entrepreneurial School Council. They have done such a super job and as ever have organised everything themselves with very little need for adult support. My highlights of this process have been hearing Beth ask Mrs Snowden to send a parentmail for her and listening to Dolly whisper how important she felt as she counted all the proceeds. Pupil Voice is alive and well at Shere School.

Thank you to all who have supported this project; you have made a group of determined young people very happy and very proud of themselves – and rightly so.

### Gomshall Lane Speeding and Parking:

As our school continues to grow so do our traffic concerns, particularly in the morning. Please can I remind everyone about courteous parking with particular regard to our neighbours access to their properties and the use of the disabled space outside the school.

Can I also remind people that the speed limit along Gomshall Lane is 20mph. I would advise that at drop off and pick up times it would be sensible to reduce this speed to take account of increased traffic and pedestrians. The rate at which some cars come down the lane is scary, and we are fearful that someone will be seriously hurt. Children can be unpredictable near roads and some of our Fox Cubs are just two years old. Please take extra care and reduce your speed.

### Tablets and Games Consoles:

I have been approached by several parents recently about my views on the use of tablets and similar games consoles by infant age children.

I don't pretend to be an expert in this area and nor do I wish to be judgemental, goodness knows parenting is enough of a challenge! However, I can share what I observe about this generation of children and the challenges they face.

I don't see any harm in controlled access to age appropriate content online. There is much to be learnt about the big wide world and the internet can certainly provide opportunities and experiences that we would find impossible to replicate in 'real life'.

My concerns are the amount of screen time children are accessing and what opportunities they are missing out on because so much of their day is spent in this way. As parents I think we feel the pressure to entertain children each minute of the day, however being bored and finding creative ways to solve this are an

essential part of childhood. When we fill our children's lives they don't learn to invent, create and find ways to entertain themselves – vital skills, I think.

Further I worry about the content children access. It can be hard to offer complete protection and our children can stumble across sites and games that are inappropriate and very difficult for them to process. In addition, games with age restrictions such as Fortnite are often played by much younger children because to us they seem harmless. I think we underestimate the impact of such games on young minds - they are age restricted for a reason. Listening to a child describe the number of 'kills' they got doesn't sit quite right with me.

Finally, my main concern is the loss of childhood experiences. Playing in the garden, building dens, climbing trees, mud pies, sticks, rivers, jam jars on strings, the sea, fresh air and play are, to my mind, the stuff of a blessed childhood and these simply cannot be replicated in the synthetic world of the screen.

## Parents Social Club!

A huge thank you to so many of you who attended the PTA meeting last week. It was encouraging to see so much support for the school and a commitment to fundraising for this and future cohorts. We now have a friendly bunch of volunteers who together will organise two events per term, these are likely to include Quiz Nights, Cinema Evenings, Children's Discos and an Easter Trail. Please find an update from the new team below:

Dear Family and Friends of Shere,

The **Parents Social Club** (PSC, formerly the PTA) is working to bring a calendar of events to fundraise for the school during 2019. To do this, we want the PSC to be an organization that everyone can take part, in his or her own way. We encourage parents, grandparents, carers, friends, and members of the community to all pitch in to keep *our* school thriving.

Our second aim is to open a clearer communication pathway. To do this we have established, through the school, a new email address [pta@shere.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:pta@shere.surrey.sch.uk) for you to reach out to *your* PSC. We want to hear from you; do you want to lead an event, join a committee, support an event, or maybe you know someone who has just the right talent for one of our events! Let us know. Put the event in the subject line to help keep us organized and get back to you quickly. Please don't hold back, let us know! Looking ahead, the next newsletter will have an updated events list with coordinators and additional information. In addition, the PSC will continue to publicise and support additional activities (for example the canvas bags).

**None of this would be possible without the fantastic leaders and supporters who have all worked tirelessly to fundraise in the past.** To put their hard work and experience to good use, our final goal for this year is to create a database with all the details about the events to help things run increasingly smoothly year on year. So please share any information, either by email or at the next PSC pub night. Mark your calendars, the next PSC pub night will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at the White Horse in Shere @7pm.

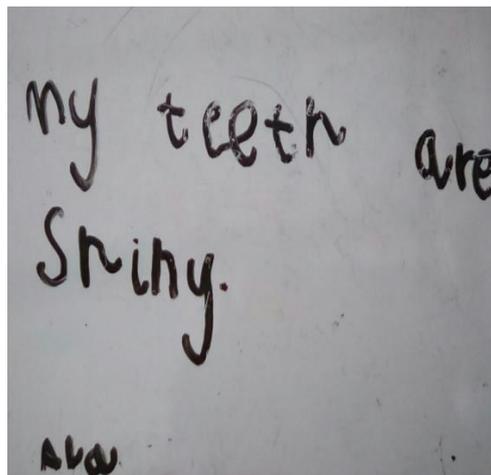
Sincerely,  
The PSC Secretariat

**Loving Learning:**

This week I have spent time reviewing our assessment information, this has included evaluating the observations we make of children whilst they play. To be honest I probably spent a little too much time on this, but they make addictive viewing and reading. The observations provide such a clear picture of the wonderful curriculum they are exposed to each and every day. I just had to share with you...

**Stars of the Week:**  
Matilda Davison  
Ted Anstead

**Citizens of the Week:**  
Sasha Conseil  
Edmund Graham  
All School  
Councillors in Owls



Best Wishes

Vicky Voller  
Headteacher