



What a brilliant and busy start to the year it has been!

The children have settled really well, and the Year 6 Buddies are doing a fantastic job of helping our Reception children get used to the school day and routines.

I hope you enjoy reading about what the children have been up to and to check out dates of what is still to come.

### **Macmillan Coffee Event**

Thank you to all those who were able to support, in any way, our Macmillan Coffee Event. A big well done to everyone too - together we raised an amazing £150.00!

It was a super afternoon, and the children did a wonderful job. Comments from some of our visitors included: "Polite and helpful children," "Brilliant job!" and "Fantastic hosts!"

### **School Council Elections**

The Robins' constituency had 6 candidates, whilst Kingfishers had 10 candidates, and the Swallows' constituency had 13 candidates! At the hustings for each constituency, each election candidate tried to present persuasive reasons why they should be elected. Then the secret ballot took place and The School Council was elected! The members have already been busy representing the school and their classes: giving generously of their time to support others and represent the views of all the children.

### **Play Leaders Return! - Serving the School Community**

Giving generously of their time, several children have volunteered to help lead positive play. Being supportive of others, they monitor the 'Buddy Stop' and can help people join in with playtime. They encourage the use of sport and play equipment and have been making playtime fun for all.

## Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Tournament

This week some of our children joined forces with children from Shepeau Stow to represent the Federation at an inter-school rugby tournament. After just one coaching session in school and one joint team training session with Mr Barron, they set off on Wednesday this week with enthusiasm.

The had a marvellous day and came fourth. The team had played well and showed great sportsmanship - they were a real credit to our Federation! Well done to all involved. As soon as we can we'll have photos on the website.

## Clubs

The new school year has heralded the start of six new and exciting afterschool clubs which the children are thoroughly enjoying. They are learning new skills and broadening their horizons while having fun. Very nearly 50% of our children are taking part in one of the clubs and several are participating in more than one!

**Gardening Club** children are preparing the ground to ready to plant broad beans, onions, garlic and possible some bare root fruit trees.

In **Drama Club** the children are joining in with in the build up to preparing a mini 'show' for the rest of school and their parents.

Mrs Ward and the **Board Game Club** children are loving their new games, conquering challenges like Buckaroo and Operation. Their steady hands and careful control are winning the day!

Delicious aromas drift down the corridor when the children are busy baking in **Cookery Club**. They baked the most delicious chocolate brownie for our Macmillan event and have cooked other delicious foods from around the world too.

Fantastic collaborative play and generous teamwork has worked wonders as the children defeat their opponents in **the Battle for Hogwarts**. They've supported each other with great advice and strategies to ultimately beat the game together.

During **Choir** the children are learning to sing in harmony and preparing songs to share with us all.

## Library Time

The children have been enjoying using the library at play and lunchtimes, and we now have newspapers and magazines to enrich the reading diet too.

The Junior Librarians did a brilliant job at yesterday's first Family Library Time, reading to the younger children and helping others to choose books to take home. They are busy devising plans to increase the activities - such as making personalised books marks. Up-dates on this to follow.

For the whole school community - no need to book

3.20pm - 4.00pm

Thursday 10 November 22

Thursday 8 December 22

Thursday 19 January 23

## Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an important part of our school day as we come together to be calm and thoughtful, to be still and reflect, whether we are people of Christian faith or not.

We aim to support the children to lead and take a more active part in Collective Worship as we move forward. However, there will be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

## Diary Dates

Term dates are on the website:

<https://www.shepeaustowschool.co.uk/page/?title=Term+dates&pid=105>

There is a calendar of events on the website too. This can be found through the News and Events tab and under Upcoming Events.

<https://www.shepeaustowschool.co.uk/calendar/?calid=4,5&pid=18&viewid=5>

## Race for Life - Thursday 20 October

We have been notified by Cancer Research Race for Life that they are not running the specific school event this year. However, as we are already signed-up we can continue to use our Just Giving Page and run our event.

Because of the change we are unable to send home individual sponsor sheets, but if you and your family would prefer to donate by sending in cash that would be fine - all contributions are very much appreciated.

We have been sent the medals for the children to mark their support and participation in the event. The children and staff will aim to complete 5Km.

To add to the fun and focus of the event, we would love it if all the children could come to school dressed in pink. This could be hair colour, face paints or clothes; it just needs to be safe and warm for them to wear all day.

This is the link to our Just Giving Page:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/gedney-hill-church-of-england-school>

New dates in the table below have been highlighted in yellow.

14 October	Year 2 Pedestrian Training and Junior Road Safety Training	
17 October	PTFA AGM at Gedney Hill	4.30pm
18 October	School open day for prospective parents	
20 October	Race for Life	
14 November	Federation Assessment Week	
15 November	School Photos	
18 November	Children in Need	
20 November - 23 November	Year 5 and 6 Residential at Aylmerton Field Study Centre	
1 December	Swallows - Christmas Unwrapped at the Baptist Church Details nearer the time	
14 December	Nativity Play at Church of The Holy Trinity	2pm and 5.30pm
26 January	Parent Maths Information Evening	6.30pm
2 March	World Book Day	

6 March	Federation Assessment Week	
31 March	School Spring Fayre (children's enterprise event)	1.30pm
During May	KS1 SATs	
8 May - 12 May	KS2 SATs	
16 May	Early Learners to start	1.30pm - 2.45pm
5 June - 19 June	Year 4 Multiplication Checks	
12 June	Year 1 Phonics Screening	
15 June	Sports Afternoon	
26 June	Federation Assessment Week	

Information, updates, and reply-slips (when needed) for all events will be sent via Parentmail.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mrs Barmby

Head of School

Gedney Hill C of E Primary School