



FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

www.sherdleyprimaryschool.co.uk

SHERDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



A note from Mr Gawne ...

Happy Easter to all of our Sherdley families! The brighter days have started to arrive and before long, we'll be heading into the final term of this academic year.

Even though this has been a slightly shorter half term in school, it certainly hasn't been without its special moments. Our Comic Relief biscuit sale was a huge hit, Year 2 threw themselves into their Great Fire of London workshop with real enthusiasm, a group of our Year 6 children participated in the St Helens Primary School Debating Workshop (We are very proud of you!) and our Easter Raffle—brilliantly organised by the School Council—brought plenty of excitement. Mrs Bennett had the honour of drawing the winners yesterday morning, and the winners took home a bundle of Easter Eggs for them and their families to enjoy.

Behind the scenes, we've continued to push forward with our school improvement priorities too. We were proud to welcome a team of school improvement professionals into Sherdley recently, and it was wonderful to see them identify lots of the positive learning taking place across school. We remain firmly on our journey to raise aspirations and outcomes for every child, and it's encouraging to see that reflected in the progress being made. We continue to be a school on an improvement journey and I thank the staff, children, families and wider community for the part you all play in this.

Attendance has also been a real highlight this half term, with some of our highest-attended days so far. Thank you for your continued support with this—it makes such a difference. As we move into the summer term, we'll be launching an exciting incentive for pupils with excellent attendance as we work together towards our 96% target.



CONTINUED...



Sherdley's Whole School Attendance Target for this Academic Year:

96%

Sherdley's Whole School Attendance since returning in September:

95%

ATTENDANCE HERO
Here, Every day, Ready, On time

Family

A note from Mr Gawne ... Continued



Staffing Update

One of our longest serving Midday Supervisors retired this month after working here for 26 years – Kath Crombleholme – fondly known as Mrs C to pupils and staff – we wish her a happy and healthy retirement. Over the Easter break, we also wish our congratulations to Miss McDonald who is getting married – we wish her and her partner lots of happiness on their special day.

School Uniform

As the weather warms up, I'd also like to ask for your support in keeping our uniform standards high. Children should continue to arrive in full uniform, including ties, and on PE days they should be in the correct school-coloured kit. If this becomes a challenge, we may need to review whether children return to wearing full uniform every day and change in school for PE. If we reach temperatures where a more relaxed approach is appropriate, we'll let families know. Our uniform policy is available on the school website if you need a reminder.

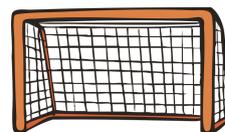


Morning Handovers

I'd also like to gently ask for your help with morning handovers. We absolutely welcome those quick, helpful conversations at the classroom door—they're an important part of keeping communication flowing. However, if you need to discuss something in more detail or something that requires time and attention, please contact the school office to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. This helps us keep the start of the school day calm, safe, and punctual for all children and allows you the opportunity to have the time you need to discuss whatever it is we may be able to support with.

Playground Updates

We're also delighted to share that the Local Authority has confirmed our planned playground improvements can go ahead once drainage work on the school field is completed over the summer. This is a big milestone for us and will mean the field can be used for more of the year. Once the ground has settled, we'll be adding new astroturf paths and play equipment across the KS1 area. Funds from last year's Colour Run have also been allocated to repairing our existing wooden play equipment, and we've set aside further budget for continued improvements next year.



On behalf of all staff and governors, thank you for your support throughout this Spring Term. It's a privilege to work with such a fantastic school community. **We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April for the start of the Summer Term.** Bright and early!

Wishing you all a restful break and a very Happy Easter.

Office Ninjas

Since January, we have created a new role for our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils - Office Ninjas. At 2:30 each day, a different pupil comes to the office to support Mrs Tilley. Jobs include: taking messages to teachers, taking belongings to children, returning first aid books, collecting photocopying and any 'office tasks' that may be required. The role actively develops and reflects the key values at the heart of Sherdley Primary School.

Respect: This helps them understand that respect is shown not only in the classroom but in how we support our community.

- Using good manners and clear communication
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Representing the school's ethos to others

Responsibility: By being trusted with these tasks, pupils experience what it means to take responsibility and follow things through independently. The role gives pupils real, meaningful responsibilities, such as:

- Delivering messages
- Organising resources
- Helping prepare materials for learning
- Supporting office routines safely and sensibly



Resilience: it builds a sense of "I can do this," which is central to nurturing resilience. Pupils are encouraged to:

- Step outside their comfort zone
- Problem-solve
- Learn from mistakes
- Develop confidence

Community: The Office Ninja scheme strengthens Sherdley's sense of community by:

- Encouraging pupils to contribute beyond their classroom
- Helping them understand how different parts of the school work together
- Building teamwork between pupils and staff

Kindness

Office Ninjas show kindness by being helpful, supportive and positive in their interactions.



Holiday Fun

FREE

HOLIDAY

FUN

& FOOD!

Families in receipt of Free School Meals or have an EHCP

Fun activities and free meals for kids!

across St Helens Borough!



30 March - 11 April 2026

sthelens.gov.uk/holidayfun

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

#LoveStHelens

Families and children 4-18 years in receipt of free school meals
Programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE)

Fundraising



The School Council helped Mrs Bennett to make over 40 hampers.

Total money raised was £1130!



Wider Support

Red Nose Day

**Pupils wore their own clothes and something red to mark Comic relief Red Nose Day on Friday 20th March - through contributions and half of the proceeds from the cake sale school raised £225 -
thank you for your continued support**

World Down's Syndrome Day fell on a Saturday this year, so we showed our support in school on Monday 23rd March by wearing odd socks.

SAVE THE DATE - potentially

**Colour Run 2026
Thursday 21st May from 1pm**



Spotlight on Year 4

In Science, we have been experimenting with circuits and making bulbs light up! We know that adding more bulbs makes them all glow weaker. We are using this knowledge to create circuits that make fairground rides move in DT as well!



This half term, we have been reading Princess and the Pea by Lauren Child. We designed origami dresses and wrote detailed descriptions about royal clothing. You'll find our writing on display in the Year 4 area after Easter.



Our football team came 4th out of 16 schools at a local competition! It was a great experience - the team worked amazingly well together and supported each other through every game.



Spotlight on Year 4



In our music lessons, we have been learning to play the ukulele. We've learned the notes for each string, how to play certain notes on the instrument, and are putting this together to play one of Beethoven's symphonies! Look out for our performance at SherdleyFest this Summer!



One of our PE topics this term has been basketball. We've worked on dribbling, shooting and passing between our teammates. Ending the term with some competitive games has been a real highlight which we've all enjoyed.



We enjoyed dressing in red for Red Nose Day 2026! We spent the day creating some Red Nose crafts and learning about some charities supported by Comic Relief.

Safeguarding

Help and Support from the NSPCC for parents and carers. More information can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

Is my child ready for a phone?

Before giving your child a phone, consider their emotional and social maturity.

It's helpful to ask yourself whether they can follow rules and boundaries – and if they understand what's safe and unsafe online.

Consider, too, whether they are able to talk to you if something worries them, and if they show responsibility in other areas of their life.



Together with Vodafone, we developed a [decision tool](#) with 8 questions to help you decide when is the right time for your family. We also have [advice on access to technology for different ages](#) to help guide your decision.

While phones can be helpful, they also come with challenges:

Screen time: Without limits, children may spend too much time on their devices.

Inappropriate content: The internet isn't always child-friendly, and children may come across upsetting or harmful material.

Social media pressures: Children can feel anxious or pressured by likes, comments, and unrealistic content on social platforms.

Harmful online interactions: Social media and messaging apps can expose children to bullying, peer pressure, or contact from people they don't know.

Privacy concerns: Sharing personal details or location online can expose children to identity theft or unwanted contact.

Unwanted or inappropriate contact: Children may be approached by individuals with harmful intentions, including grooming. This can happen through messaging apps, gaming platforms, or social media.

Safeguarding

Six top tips to help you manage the risks

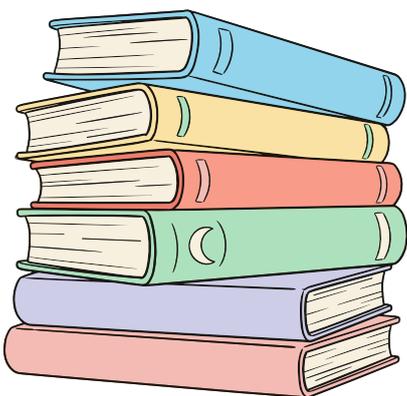
- 1. Talk regularly about how your children uses their phone**
- 2. Help children understand their right to feel safe online**
- 3. Use safety and wellbeing tools together**
- 4. Offer calm support when challenges arise**
- 5. Keep the conversation going as they grow**
- 6. Use the TRUST toolkit to guide safe sharing**

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/family/childs-first-phone>

Dressing up and down days



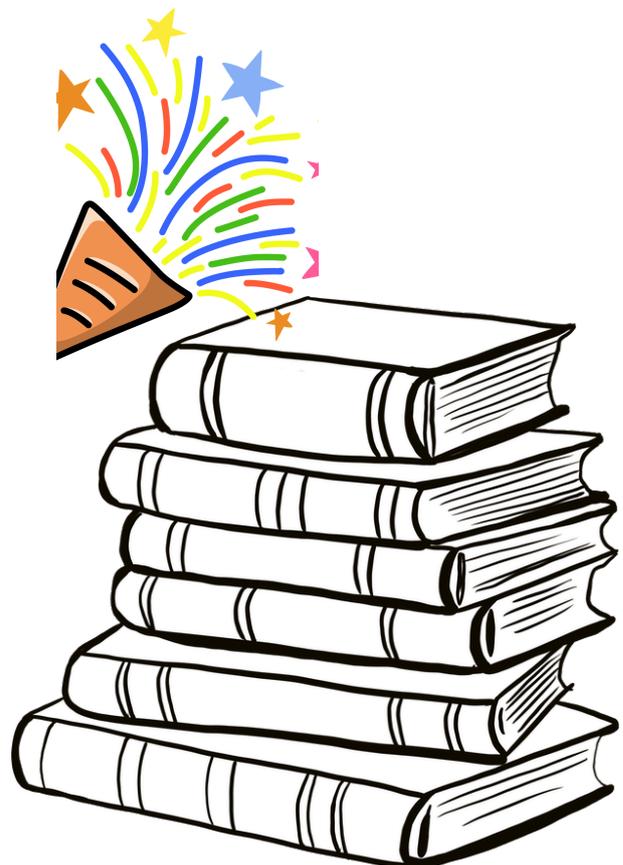
Thank you for supporting World Book Day.
The children looked amazing! We hope they are happy with their traded books.



BASH

This half term, Year 5 have taken part in BASH with the St Helens Library service. As part of the process, children across 8 schools were tasked to read selected books and complete a book review. This was presented as a competition in which the winner would receive a certificate and a prize.

As a year group, year 5 decided to read one of the selected books as our class novel (*I Am Rebel* by Ross Montgomery) and each child completed a book review. We have amazing news to share that it was Nathaniel, who won out of the 8 schools! The feedback given was that they particularly loved his honesty!





Attendance at Sherdley

Absence and First Day Response Procedures

If your child is absent, you must:

- Contact school before 8:30am or as soon as possible, on the first day of absence. This should be done using the school APP which means the information can instantly be added onto the registers and often means further contact is not required.
- This can also be done via a phone call to school 01744 678683.
- Make contact with school **every day** either by the school APP or telephone to keep us updated.
- Alternatively, you can call into school and report the reason for absence to the school reception team.
- THIS IS ONE OF OUR WHOLE SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES – TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN ARE SAFE IF THEY ARE NOT IN SCHOOL

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

If your child is absent, we will:

- Update our register with the information you have provided for us, and if necessary, follow up to ascertain further details so that we use the accurate coding.
- Review and monitor returns to school, including amending any codes on the register – for example authorising an absence for illness if a child returns with antibiotics, or unauthorising an absence if we have reason to believe that a holiday has been taken in term time without seeking the relevant permission.
- In the case where a reason for absence has not been provided by the parent/carer and the explanation cannot be ascertained by school, we will initiate safeguarding procedures and the DSL/DDSL will decide on the best course of action to ensure the safety of the pupil. This could result in communication with siblings' school, a home visit and/or advice from social care where appropriate.
- Contact with Social Worker – Where a pupil has an allocated social worker, school will notify them of any unexplained absences or emerging patterns of concern, in line with statutory safeguarding expectations.

At 9.10am the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if a child arrives after that time, they will receive a 'U' mark that shows them to be on-site, but does not count as a present mark and it will result in an unauthorised absence. This may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice if the problem persists and specific thresholds are met.

After Easter, you will notice a 'Sherdley Blue' Clothing Bin positioned near to KS1 playground. Help us to fill the bin and raise money for school every month. The company accepts lots of clothes, however they do not accept badged uniform. We are more than happy to accept good condition, badged uniform.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING



Help the School raise funds by bringing all your unwanted, gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, hats and handbags!

Every item helps support the school's fundraising efforts!

This is a fantastic opportunity to raise eco-friendly awareness amongst children. Everyone can take part, so spread the word and let's get fundraising! We're already working with Wargrave C of E and Knowsley Primary School. Join us today!



Clothes Collect **£600**
WILL PAY US:

FOR EVERY TONNE OF UNWANTED GOOD QUALITY CLOTHING!

The more clothing donated, the more funds the school will raise!

WHAT WE TAKE:

- Clean, gently used clothing ✓
- Pairs of shoes, boots, and sandals
- Hats, scarves, and gloves
- Bags, backpacks, and belts

WHAT WE DO NOT TAKE

- Broken/damaged items ✗
- Dirty clothing
- Pillows or duvets
- General rubbish or household waste
- Paper/Metal or sharp objects
- Hazardous items (e.g., chemicals, batteries, etc.)



More Info:

01727 807444

0-19 School Nurse Support



Download our School Nurse
Service information leaflet



**Support children from Reception to 19th
Birthday (25 for young people with SEND)**