



SHERDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



## A note from Mr Gawne ...

As we finally come to the end of January – it's felt like a year in itself! – I just want to take the time to thank all our parents and families who joined us for Parents' Evening earlier this month. It was wonderful to hear about the many positive conversations you had with class teachers and to see how proud the children were to share the fantastic progress they are making across the year.

At the start of term, I spoke to the children about our school's New Year resolutions, including aiming high with the presentation in their books, their handwriting, and their behaviour around school. It has been a joy to celebrate their efforts, and many children are already rising to the challenge. You may spot a 'Headteacher's Award' appearing in some of their books as we continue to recognise those who are going above and beyond. Getting the basics right and securing strong foundational knowledge remains a key priority for us, and I have once again been impressed by the quality of work happening across all classes and subjects.

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the seasons and sharing their learning in a brilliant class assembly, while Year 5 impressed us all with their knowledge of the Vikings. Our Year 6 pupils have been working incredibly hard on their recent practice assessments in preparation for the summer term, and we are very proud of their determination and resilience.

*CONTINUED...*

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

**96%**

**Sherdley's Whole School Attendance since returning in September:**

**94.6%**

**ATTENDANCE HERO**  
**Here, Every day, Ready, On time**



## A note from Mr Gawne ... Continued



This month, we are shining a spotlight on our Aspirations Week. It has been another tremendous success, and we are extremely grateful to the visitors, parents, carers, and even staff family members who generously gave their time to support us. The children asked thoughtful questions and loved discovering the wide range of roles and careers that exist in our ever-changing world. A special thank you to Mrs Bennett for her hard work behind the scenes in coordinating such a valuable week of experiences.

Last week, we also shared our Parent Survey, and I am delighted that we received over 130 responses. Thank you for taking the time to share your views. For the vast majority of questions, over 95% of families reported positive experiences, which is incredibly encouraging. I will share the results more formally soon and will be in touch with some families to gather further insight on how we can continue to improve or support. We are a team, and working together is essential to getting things right for our children.

In school, we have been developing our teaching and learning strategies, including the launch of our work on visual modelling. All teachers now have access to visualisers to support live modelling, editing, and feedback in lessons, and we are excited to see the impact this will have on learning across the curriculum.



### A few reminders:



- We have once again received messages from some of our neighbours regarding parking around the school site. Please ensure that driveways are not blocked and that parking remains safe, legal, and considerate during drop-off and pick-up times.
- We have also noticed an increasing number of toys being brought into school. These should remain at home, as we cannot take responsibility for items that become lost or damaged.

Finally, we have several events coming up, including Children's Mental Health Week during the last week of the half term and our Chinese New Year celebrations when we return from the break, so please remember to keep an eye on the 'Termly Events' page and the calendar on the app. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mr Gawne



# Children's Mental Health Week

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

We will be supporting Place2be's theme - **This is my place**. To encourage a sense of belonging in friendships, school, and communities to support mental well-being.

During the week, children will learn about their Mental Health in an age appropriate way. Some will take part in an art project reflecting on themselves and their place in the world they live.

Information will be shared with parents and carers via the school app. We consider Mental Health to be a really important and crucial element to our whole school offer.

As part of our commitment to supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing, the school will mark the end of Children's Mental Health Week with a Pyjama Day.

This activity has been chosen as a simple way to promote comfort, emotional safety, and inclusion, all of which are recognised as important factors in supporting children's mental health. It also provides a natural opportunity for staff to talk with pupils about the importance of rest, sleep, self-care, and feeling safe – key themes explored during the week.

The day is designed to make discussions around wellbeing accessible, age-appropriate, and positive. Whole-school activities such as this help to foster a sense of community and signal to pupils that their wellbeing is valued alongside their academic learning.



# Children's Mental Health Week

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February



### Support for Parents / Carers:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.sthelensmind.org.uk/>

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



## New Years' Resoultions

### New Year's Resolutions

**New Year's Day is on January 1st and is often seen as a fresh start. Many people like to make new year resolutions which are personal goals that they aim to work on throughout the year.**

Anyone can make a new year resolution and some make more than one!

Have you made any resolutions? What are they?

Is there anything that you would like to do better this year?

Is there anything that you may like to give up?

### New Year Re-Set at Sherdley



**Improving our behaviour to be even better and having high expectations of our work in class.**

## Sherdley Expectations

### What does excellent presentation look like?

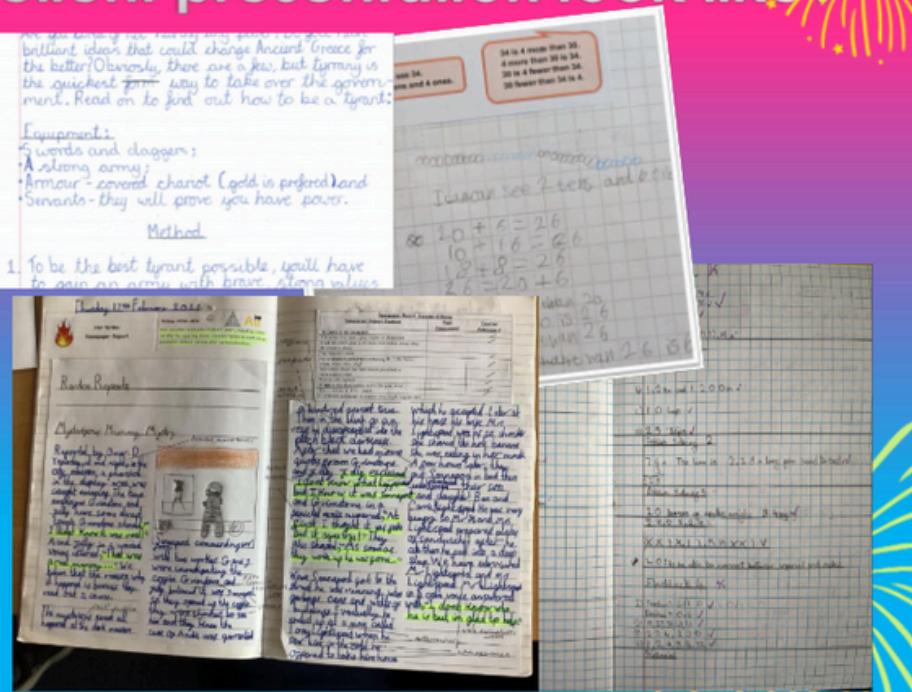


Are you looking for writing tips? Do you have brilliant ideas that could change Ancient Greece for the better? Or, are there a few, but tyrannous, ways to take over the government? Read on to find out how to be a tyrant:

**Equipment:**  
 5 words and dagger;  
 A strong army;  
 Armour-covered chariot (gold is preferred) and  
 Servants - they will prove you have power.

#### Method

1. To be the best tyrant possible, you'll have to gain an army with brave, strong values.



### What does good behaviour look like?

BEING RESPECTFUL TO ALL ADULTS IN SCHOOL

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM ADULTS IN SCHOOL

BEING A GOOD LISTENER

WORKING YOUR HARDEST IN ALL LESSONS

HAVING GOOD MANNERS

BEING TRUSTED TO MOVE AROUND SCHOOL CORRECTLY  
AND CALMLY

WEARING CORRECT UNIFORM AND PE KITS

## Spotlight on Pre-school

The new year has been exciting in preschool as we welcomed new children into our setting. They have settled in so well and are loving to explore what we have on offer in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. We have a new focus book called We are Going on a Bear Hunt, and the children have loved getting involved in lots of bear themed activities. Here in preschool, we learn through play and often don't realise we are learning, so here are a few of the activities we like to do for our physical development...

Fun in the snow is a great gross motor activity that uses lots of our muscles as we make snowmen, try and break ice we have found and make snow angels.



**"Look at my  
snow angel, it was  
so  
much fun!"**



Our outdoor classroom provides so many great opportunities for physical development from balancing on obstacle courses we have made to digging in the mud kitchen, playing ball games and practicing our balancing skills on the bikes.



**I like playing  
hide and seek  
with my  
friends.**

## Spotlight on Pre-school

I go outside.  
I like the mud  
and the  
dinosaurs



Indoors we have lots of activities to develop the fine motor skills which are crucial to build our small hand and finger muscles, as well as give us the coordination needed to enable us to write, get dressed and control small movements we make. Some of our favourite activities are playdough, craft activities, mark making, building with blocks and playing with characters in our small world area.

I like drawing.

I like to play with  
playdough. I make  
cupcakes.



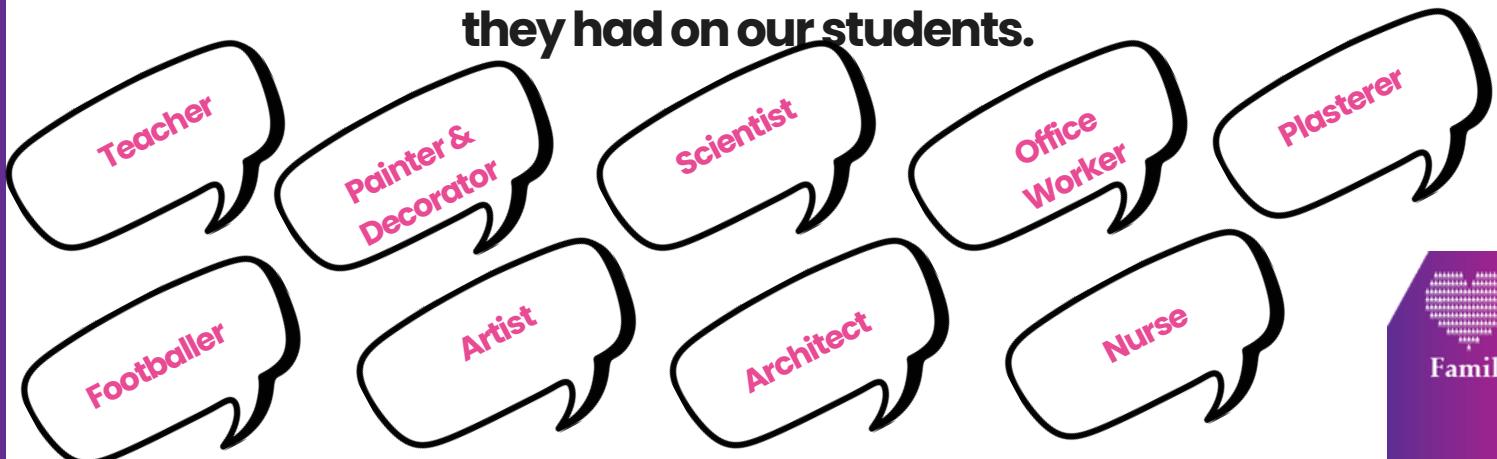
I like playing  
with the  
penguins.

## Spotlight on Aspirations Week

This week we were proud to host our annual Aspirations Week at Sherdley, a key part of our commitment to helping every student believe in their potential and think ambitiously about their future. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to hear first-hand from a wide range of role models, learning about different pathways, careers and life experiences, and gaining a clearer understanding of how effort, resilience and positive choices can shape future success. We believe Aspirations Week is vital in broadening horizons, building confidence and reinforcing that there is no limit to what our students can achieve with ambition and determination.

We were delighted to welcome 23 guest adults, along with four former Sherdley students from Years 11 and 12, who generously gave up their time to support the event. It was particularly special to see our former students return, sharing their journeys and showing our current learners what is possible beyond Sherdley.

Their contributions, alongside our external visitors, strongly reflected our Sherdley values of respect, aspiration, resilience and community, and we are extremely grateful for the positive impact they had on our students.



## Spotlight on Aspirations Week



Vet

Barber

Engineer

Dancer

## Spotlight on Aspirations Week



## Spotlight on our BLAST provision

There have been lots of exciting new toys/games arrive in BLAST this Spring Term which the children are loving playing with. The role play area has been a big hit with all of the children.

We have also bought a number of table top games which the children are enjoying as you can see from the pictures.





## Attendance at Sherdley

**You may have heard in the news recently, that all schools are being led and supported by the Department for Education to improve their overall attendance.**

**The DfE have identified that Attendance on a Friday is a concern at Sherdley.**

**Throughout Spring and Summer, we will be carrying out home visits to children who are absent on Fridays. This will be random visits and will include those who have informed us of their child's absence.**

**If you would like to discuss this, please reach out to Mrs Eccleston or any member of SLT.**

### Every day in school counts...



**and every minute counts...**



## Events at Sherdley



### Spring Term Events



School opens for Spring Term	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
EYFS Open Evening for September 2026 starters 3:30 to 4:30pm	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January
Parents Evening 2 to 6:30pm	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January
1S Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January
5J Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 6 WW2 workshop – all day	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
6C Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
1W Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Children's Mental Health Week	w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Dance Show at The Sutton Academy – 5:30pm	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
Wear Pyjamas to School Day	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Valentine's Bake Sale	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 5 Viking Workshop – all day	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>School closes for half term</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>
School opens	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Year 4 MTC Parent meeting – time tbc	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 6 Parent SATs Meeting – 9am & 3:15pm	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
4O Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
3H Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
RR Class Assembly – 2:40pm	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Class Photographs	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
World Maths Day	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop – all day	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Rocksteady Concert – KS2 Hall – 10am	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>School closes for Spring Break – 1:30pm</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>