



SHERDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



## A note from Mr Gawne ...

Dear Families,

Welcome back after the half-term break. I hope you all managed to enjoy a well-earned rest. After what always feels like the long start to any new year, it's hard to believe that we've already reached the midpoint of the school year. As ever, the new half term has begun at pace, with lots happening across school.

Thank you to our Year 6 parents who joined us this week for the SATs Information Workshops. We appreciate you taking the time to attend and hope you found the session helpful. For anyone who was unable to make it, a copy of the presentation will be available on the Reach App, and staff are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

This week also saw our Year 4 football team take part in a competition at The Sutton Academy. The children performed brilliantly and represented the school with pride, narrowly missing out on third place. We are incredibly proud of them.

**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*

**CONTINUED...**



**Family**

## A note from Mr Gawne ... Continued

Over the coming weeks, we have several exciting opportunities ahead, including further sports competitions, Year 5's involvement in The Panto Project at The Sutton Academy, and a group of our Year 6 pupils attending a live debate at St Helens Town Hall following the success of their workshops earlier this year.

Within this newsletter, you will also find a few dates for your diary, including our World Book Day celebrations next Thursday and 40's upcoming Class Assembly.

A gentle reminder to all parents about respectful parking around school and our uniform expectations. Our Uniform Policy is available on the school website, and we kindly ask that multicoloured hair accessories and non-uniform PE tops or clothing are not worn. You may have noticed enforcement officers visiting earlier this week, and we have been informed that further unannounced visits will take place in response to concerns raised by local residents.

Finally, today we say a very sad goodbye to Mrs Cummins in our school office. She has been a valued member of our admin team and will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in her new ventures. Mrs Cummins out of the main office is leaving Sherdley today - we send her our best wishes for the future.



**THANK YOU!**



As you will appreciate, the school office will get busier than usual now with only one staff member in there so, can I please ask that parents bare this in mind when contacting school. If you can use the app or school email for any non-urgent queries, this would be much appreciated. This may also impact some telephone calls being picked up instantly during busier periods.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

# Children's Mental Health Week

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

This year the theme for Child Mental Health week was- **This is my place**. The aim was to encourage a sense of belonging in friendships, school, and communities to support mental well-being.

During the week, we discussed our Mental Health in an age appropriate way. We participated in a whole-school art project reflecting on ourselves and our place in the world we live.

We hope you found the shared information and tips for parents / carers useful.

We ended the week in our pjs, which was fun as well as a bit strange. This activity was 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 provided 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 was 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.



# BEANO

Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

## WHAT IS BELONGING?

Belonging means being part of something. It makes you feel good, confident, and tougher when things get tricky.

Not feeling like you belong can feel rubbish, so for Children's Mental Health Week and using the theme 'THIS IS MY PLACE', we asked Place2Be for help.

## WHERE DO I BELONG?

At home. My family know my quirks and still like me. Result.

Inside yourself. You're already great. Accept it.

With my friends. They make me laugh and stick around when things go wrong.

At school. My ideas get heard and teachers believe in me.

In clubs and activity groups. Some interests = instant connection.

## THINGS THAT HELP US FEEL WE BELONG

Playing games with friends

Try make friends!

It can be awkward - but it's worth it.

Doing stuff we actually enjoy.

Having a grown-up to talk to when things aren't great.

Talking about feelings instead of bottling them up.

Being kind, trying new things, meeting new people.

Hanging out with people you like being with.

## BELONGING BASICS

### BE YOURSELF.

Trying to fit in is exhausting. Being you works better.

### LIKE WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT.

Your strengths and quirks are not a problem. They're the point.

### FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS.

Clubs and groups are where people who like the same things hang out.

### LISTEN TO YOUR FEELINGS.

Feeling lonely? That's your brain asking for more connection. Belonging isn't about changing who you are. It's about finding where you already fit.





**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)**

**[www.qwell.io](http://www.qwell.io)**

**[www.nspcc.co.uk](http://www.nspcc.co.uk)**

**Any staff member at school or**

**Mrs Bennett – Lead for whole school Mental Health**

**Mrs Stroud, Mrs Eccleston, Mrs Bridge – Pastoral Support**

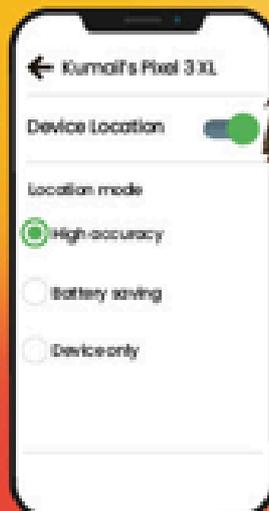
All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe that all adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



# How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for PRIVACY on an Android Phone



The settings on an Android device allow you to set certain rules to help safeguard your child's privacy when they are using it. For example, you can turn off location services to keep their whereabouts private; prevent third-party apps and sites from viewing their information; and stop apps from accessing other functions of the phone (like the camera or microphone, for example). We've produced step-by-step guides on how to tighten up an Android phone's privacy settings.



## How to manage location services

- 1 Open the Google Family Link app
- 2 Select your child's account
- 3 On the 'Settings' card, tap 'Manage'
- 4 Tap 'Location'
- 5 On the card with the correct device's name, tap 'Settings'
- 6 Tap 'Location Settings'
- 7 Turn 'Device location' to off
- 8 To reactivate location services in future, repeat these steps and turn 'Device location' back on

## How to control access for third-party apps and sites

- 1 Sign in to your Google Families account
- 2 Under 'Members', select your child's name
- 3 Select 'Account info' and then 'More'
- 4 Select 'Third-party apps with account access'
- 5 Turn 'Allow third-party apps to access XX account' to off by toggling the switch

## How to manage app permissions

- 1 Open the Google Family Link app
- 2 Select your child's account
- 3 On the 'Device' card, tap 'Settings'
- 4 Tap 'App permissions' then choose a permission
- 5 Below your child's device, switch the permission off
- 6 On the 'Apps installed' card, tap 'More'
- 7 On the 'Allowed' list, tap the app you want to change the permissions for
- 8 Tap 'App permissions'
- 9 Switch the permission off



Source: <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

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# How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for PRIVACY iPhone

The privacy settings on your child's Apple device give you control over the information stored on it. This allows you to select which apps can access features and information on your child's device: for example, you might wish to block a social networking app from connecting to the camera reel, or specify which apps can use the device's location data.

## How to make changes to privacy settings

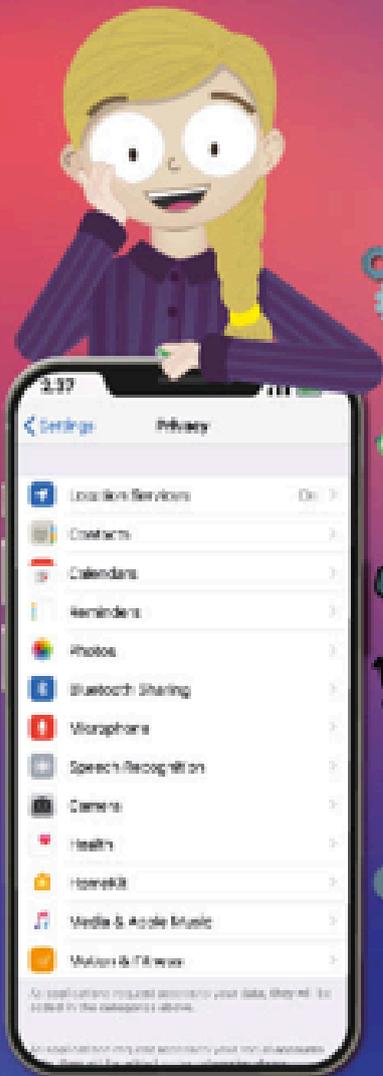
You can block certain apps from obtaining information from your child's device. You can also prevent your child (or anyone other than you) from altering these settings.

- 1 Open 'Settings'
- 2 Tap 'Screen Time'
- 3 Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
- 4 Scroll to 'Privacy'
- 5 Choose the settings you wish to restrict
- 6 After you've made any changes, select 'Use Screen Time Passcode' to lock your changes with a PIN

## How to prevent changes to other settings/features

You can also stop changes being made to the iPhone's other settings or features by anyone but you. For example, you can prevent your child from altering their passcode, accounts or mobile data settings.

- 1 Open 'Settings'
- 2 Tap 'Screen Time'
- 3 Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
- 4 Scroll to 'Allow Changes'
- 5 Select 'Allow' or 'Don't Allow' on the settings for which you wish to enable or disable changes



<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/10281048-6848-6848-restrictions>

# Safeguarding

Our school is part of Operation Encompass, that helps us support children who may have been affected by domestic abuse. Police inform our Designated of Operation Encompass, a national scheme Safeguarding Lead before the start of the next school day if they have attended an incident involving one of our pupils. This allows us to offer timely, sensitive care and understanding.

OPERATION  
ENCOMPASS



## We are an Operation Encompass School

For further information, please come and see us.



For further information speak to Mrs Bennett or Mrs Eccleston

### Designated Safeguarding Leads



MRS BENNETT



MRS ECCLESTON

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

## SEND Support



We are proud to host a

# Coffee Morning

for parents to attend and learn about the services and support that ADDvanced Solutions have on offer in St Helens.



TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

TIME - 9:00AM - 9:45AM

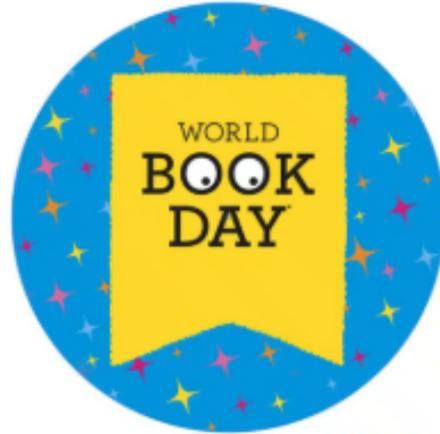
WHERE - SHERDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



**ADDvanced Solutions**  
Community Network  
Supporting you to find the answers

## Dressing up and down days

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
**World Book Day.**  
**Children are invited**  
**to dress up as a**  
**book character for**  
**the day. We will also**  
**book swap – more**  
**info to follow.**



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Non-Uniform Day – Donate an Easter item for our Easter Raffle. Eggs, chocolate, teddies, colouring books, all welcome.**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Dress up silly (or with a splash of Red) – Donations can be made on School Money.**

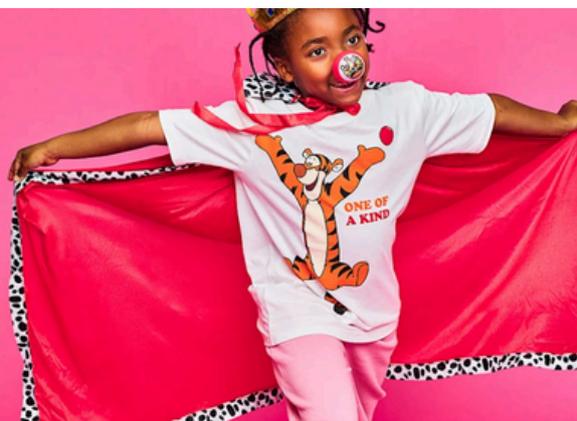
**We will not be selling Red Noses.**



### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

This Red Nose Day, it's time to take things a bit less seriously. To lighten up a little and laugh loudly, proudly and together- at ourselves. Because, it's good to laugh, for everyone.

Register to fundraise



## Easter Raffle



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March  
2026**

**Non-uniform day  
Bring an Easter donation  
for our Easter Raffle**

**Easter Eggs**

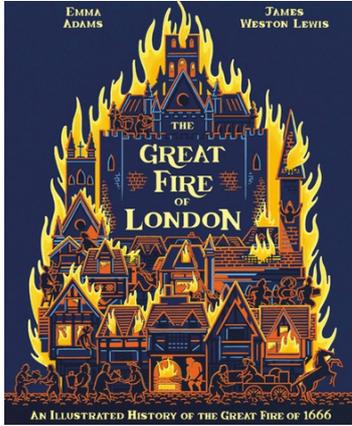
**Easter Gifts**

**Easter Toys**

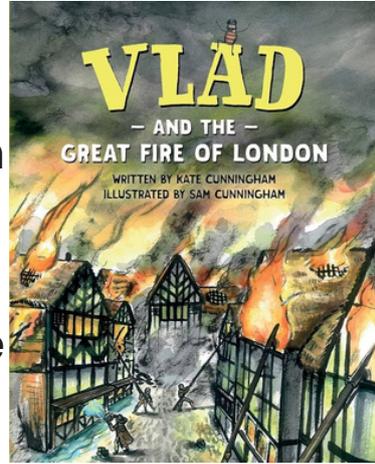
**Easter Raffle will take place on  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Tickets on sale from  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
£1 per strip**



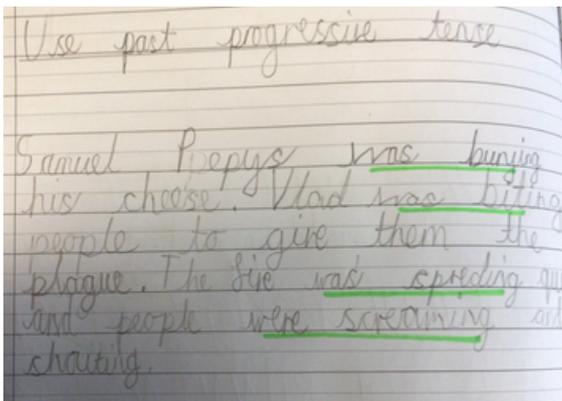
## Spotlight on Year 2



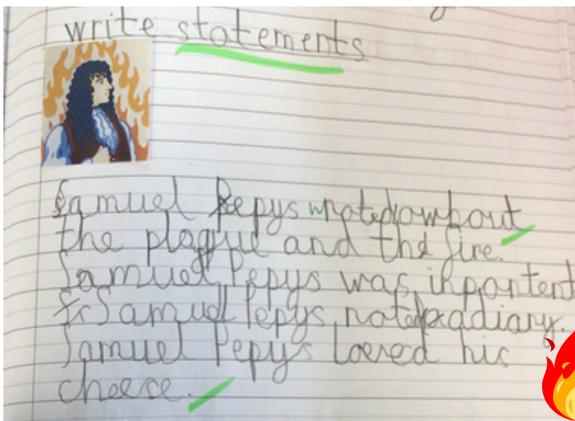
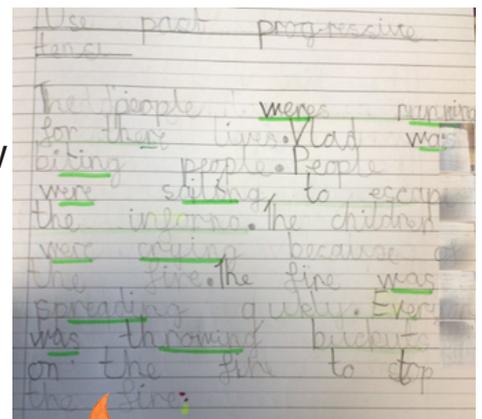
Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We have read 2 books in our English lessons: 'The Great Fire of London' by Emma Adams and 'Vlad and the Great Fire of London' by Kate Cunningham.



We used these books to help us with our writing.



We learnt lots of things including how to use past progressive tense and writing statements about Samuel Pepys.



Our final piece of writing was a diary where we imagined that we were there during the Great Fire of London.

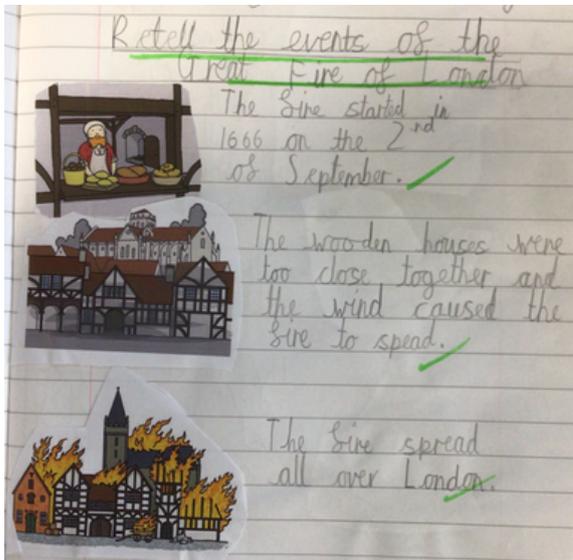


The Great Fire of London started in Pudding Lane in Thomas Farriner's bakery.

We used this painting and thought about what it told us about the past.

What can you see that tells you about what happened in 1666?

## Spotlight on Year 2

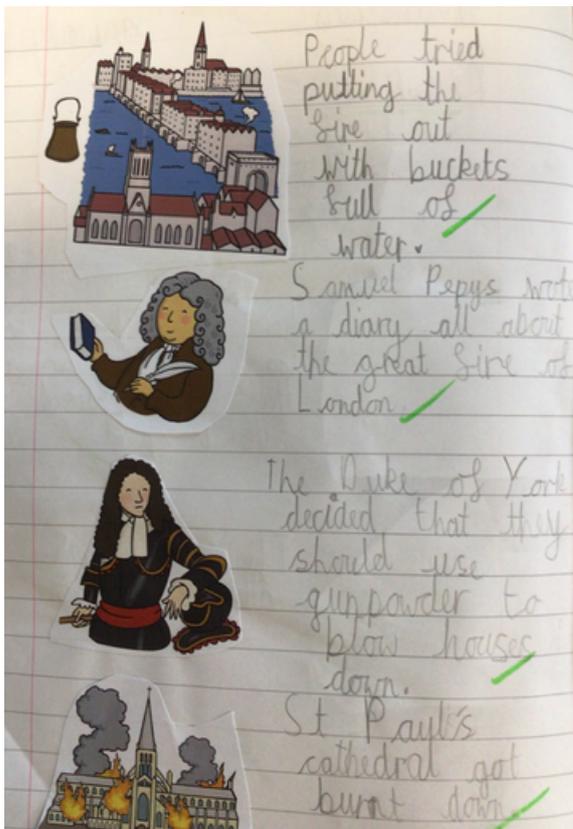


In our History lessons, we retold the events of the Great Fire of London using pictures to help us.



We also compared what London was like in 1666 and what it is like today.

|         | London in 1666                           | London Today                       |
|---------|--|------------------------------------|
| Houses  | dirty, disgusting, narrow, un nice, wood | cleaner, nicer, spaced out, bricks |
| Streets | un nice, narrow, unhygienic              | wider, spaced out                  |
| Tools   | fire hooks, leather buckets              | ladders, fire engine               |



Our artist this term is Irina Sztukowski. She creates art work using the colours of fire. We have created collages of her artwork so that we can use it as inspiration when we make our own 'fire' pictures.



Year 2 are looking forward to their Great Fire of London experience day on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** where they will get to dress up and re-enact the events from 1666.



## Attendance at Sherdley

Sherdley is working with our families to reduce the number of children who are persistently absent from school. Children who have an attendance of less than 90% are recorded by the DfE as being Persistently Absent. We are really proud of the progress we are making to reduce our whole school PA percentage. Ours is decreasing over time compared to the local authority which is increasing.

| Month          | Sherdley | Local - St Helens |
|----------------|----------|-------------------|
| September 2025 | 17.4%    | 12.9%             |
| October        | 17.4%    | 14.3%             |
| November       | 16.4%    | 16.1%             |
| December       | 15.2%    | 16.5%             |
| January 2026   | 13.7%    | 15.7%             |

We will continue to visit random children who are absent on Fridays whether parents have informed school or not. This day is highlighted by the DfE, as a day with particularly low attendance at Sherdley.

Thank you for continuing to support us and the children.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Our whole school  
target





# Events at Sherdley



## Spring Term Events



|   |  |
|---|--|
| School opens for Spring Term                                    | Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January        |
| EYFS Open Evening for September 2026 starters<br>3:30 to 4:30pm | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January        |
| Parents Evening<br>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>    |