



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Happy New Year! The teaching staff have hit the ground running already and have been busy arranging trips and special activities for the term ahead. Attendance at sporting events has already begun as we hope to build on our successes from events held last term.

We have also taken time to review our lunchtime arrangements in school to try to make the dining experience a calmer and more pleasurable experience for everyone. Changes include spacing the year groups out in order to reduce the number of children eating in the hall, ensuring all children can sit at the table with their friends (children with packed lunches can sit together with school dinners) and we are allowing more time so children don't feel rushed. Children have told me that they feel these changes are a great idea!

I would like to remind parents about the Barnardos ADHD Coffee Morning which is delivered by Mandy Appleyard, taking place next Wednesday morning from 9am in our Dance Studio. We will be offering refreshments as well as a chance to hear about strategies for supporting children with this neurodevelopmental condition. Our SENCO and Home School Link Worker will also be on hand to chat to any parent about a range of other topics, so this session is open to all.

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Just a reminder that Shottermill Juniors is a nut free school and therefore no snacks or packed lunches containing nuts must be brought into school. We do have children with nut allergies so it is really important all children and parents adhere to these rules.



THANK YOU!

We are delighted that the Reindeer Run on the last day raised over **£4,000** for the school. It was an excellent event organised by the PTFA and enjoyed by all – especially Mr Henley who ran along with the children as Father Christmas! Thank you so much for your donations and sponsorship. The winning class was 5H, who all enjoyed a movie and popcorn treat.

THREADWORMS

We have had a few reports of threadworms, and would like to remind parents to be vigilant. If you think your child may have threadworms, please treat the whole household at the same time, even if not everyone has symptoms. Treatments are readily available from pharmacies but children must also be encouraged to always wash their hands. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community healthy.

Respect Trust Love of Learning Communication Creativity Excellence

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A GUIDE FOR PARENTS FOR MANAGING A DIGITAL LIFE

We have been asked to circulate the below from the Children's Commissioner regarding digital safety:

Dear Headteacher,

I am writing to inform you that I have recently published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#).

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

The last time I published a guide like this, The things I wish my parents had known: Young people's advice on talking to your child about online sexual harassment, in December 2021, it was to help parents and carers navigate difficult conversations about sexual harassment online. This guide is different in scope, in recognition of the complex, rapidly evolving landscape in which children – and parents – are navigating. It focuses on the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits.

This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England. It is a reflection of their views. My office visited schools to speak to teenagers, and spoke to my Youth Ambassadors and Youth Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel to get their expertise on what works and what doesn't work between parents or carers and children in the 21st Century.

When I speak to children about what they would do differently when it comes to being online, with the benefit of hindsight, I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own teenager? Almost unanimously, they tell me no. They want to be protected from it as long as possible.

As educators and leaders, you play a vital role in supporting parents and carers to navigate these challenges. Responses to my recent school survey show just how concerned school leaders are about their children's safety online, despite most already taking steps to limit or ban devices from the classroom. Children are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have concerns about the content they are accessing online.

As parents, carers, and educators, our job must begin and end with our children's care and safety. It's what they expect and what they want from you. As one young person told me: "Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried [that] your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting the behaviour, just take it that you know best – they don't."

I hope this guide will be a useful resource for your school community, and I encourage you to share it with staff and parents where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner

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UNIFORM

We have noticed quite a few children wearing trainers on non-PE days, and PE kit that is not the school kit (i.e. the yellow branded t-shirt). Please may we ask parents to send their children to school in the correct uniform going forwards. If anyone is struggling with purchasing school uniform please contact the School Office who can put you in touch with Katharine Bourne our Home School Link Worker. The School Office will be calling parents if children are in the wrong uniform. Please see below for a link to our uniform policy: [Shottermill Junior School - School Uniform](#)

ATTENDANCE

In each newsletter we will be congratulating the three classes with the highest attendance figures. Although we do appreciate all children from time to time do get poorly and this cannot be helped, we feel it is important to celebrate the classes who have the highest attendance.

4ZH – 97.7%

4M – 97.5%

6H – 97.2%

WELL DONE

A big well done to Kyra in Year 5 for passing her Grade 1 violin exam, with merit. Wonderful news Kyra, and well done!



On Thursday 11th December some of the children who attend Shottermill Juniors were featured in the Haslemere Herald following a record breaking 550 residents attending the Haslemere Museum carol concert. The event featured performances from Haslemere Rock Choir and the Haslemere Town Band! Even Father Christmas made an experience!

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SHOTTERMILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 8 16.01.2026



DIARY DATES FOR 2025 - 2026

January	
Monday 5 th January	Start of the Spring Term
Monday 19 th January	PTFA uniform sale: 3.10pm
Wednesday 21 st January	Barnardos ADHD coffee morning: 9am in the Dance Studio
Friday 30 th January	Choral Poetry Competition: 1.30pm
February	
Monday 2 nd February	Year 6 Workshop: 2.15pm – parents welcome
Tuesday 3 rd February	Governors Meeting: 6pm
Thursday 12 th February	PTFA Movie Night (further details soon)
Friday 13 th February	Year 5 Assembly: 9.15am – parents welcome
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Half-Term
Monday 23 rd February	Year 5 Wonderdome
Friday 27 th February	5H PTFA treat sale after school
March	
Wednesday 4 th March	Parents Consultation Evening: 1.30pm-8pm
Friday 6 th March	Year 3 Sleepover Let Girls Play Football event
Tuesday 10 th March	Year 4 Maths Workshop: 2.15pm – parents welcome Governors: 6pm
Thursday 12 th March	Science Day
Monday 16 th March	Year 4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace
Thursday 19 th March	4ZH DT Day
Friday 20 th March	Year 3 Assembly: 9.15am – parents welcome
Friday 20 th March	3C PTFA treat sale after school
Monday 23 rd March	4M DT Day
Wednesday 25 th March	Super School Council meeting
Friday 27 th March	End of Spring Term: 1.30pm finish

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Penalty Notices - Just to remind parents/carers that if you take your child out of school without authority, you will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable is £80.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £160.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive four penalty notices. Please note if you have received a penalty notice fine since 19th August 2024 the second penalty notice will be a flat fee of £160.00 – there is no reduction in fee regardless of how quickly payment is received. If you incur two penalty notices within three years you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996. Our full Attendance Policy is available to view on our website.

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