

Newsletter

Friday 26th September



Welcome back to a new academic year at Shelf Junior and Infant School.

I am delighted to share that everyone has settled into their new classes exceptionally well. Our pupils have arrived in correct uniform and are ready to start the year with enthusiasm and purpose.

I have some wonderful pieces of news to share with our school community. First, I would like to celebrate two personal milestones for our staff. Mrs Priestley (nee Miss Smith) got married during the summer holidays, and we extend our warmest congratulations to her. Additionally, Mrs Sutcliffe is expecting a baby and will be leaving at half term to begin her maternity leave.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful parent and carer community for your incredible support at today's MacMillan Coffee Morning. The event was a tremendous success, with approximately four times the number of people we initially expected. Your patience and understanding were remarkable, and I am proud to announce that we raised a massive amount for this important charity.

These moments of community spirit and celebration are what make our school such a special place and make us SHINE!. We look forward to continuing to work together to support our pupils' learning and development.

Mrs J Elam



Parent, Teachers, Friends Association (PTFA)

Welcome back from the PTFA!

A big welcome back too all our pupils, parents and carers - and a special hello to those joining our school community for the first time!



We're the PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association) and we work together with the school to raise funds, run fun events and support our children's experiences at school.

Next meeting date - Wednesday 15th October

We'll be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October, where we'll review last year's achievements and set plans for the year ahead. It's also chance to meet the team and find out how you can get involved. We'll be meeting at the Duke of York pub in Shelf, on Wednesday 15th October at 6.30pm.

We can't run certain events without volunteers, so if you're able to occasionally help out and are happy to be added to our PTFA What'sApp volunteer group to be kept informed, please:

- Contact the school office
- Reach out via our Facebook page: Shelf J&I PTFA Parents/Carers Group (please join if you haven't already!)
- Or email us at ptfa@shelf.calderdale.sch.uk

You can help as little or as often as you like - any offer of help would make a huge difference!

Upcoming event: Halloween Monster Mash Disco - Tuesday 4th November

Our first event is our spooktacular Halloween Monster Mash Disco, with separate sessions scheduled for KS1 and KS2 on Tuesday 4th November - watch out for letters coming home next week!



In the lead up to this, the Eco-Warriors will be collecting pre-loved Halloween outfits that no longer fit your ghouls and witches and will be selling them in exchange for a small donation on **Monday 20th October** - a great way to recycle and save on costs!

Fundraising Calendar

Finally, below is a copy of a fundraising calendar we have drafted in collaboration with school that outlines upcoming events and donation requests. These dates are provisional and may change, but we hope it'll help you plan ahead!

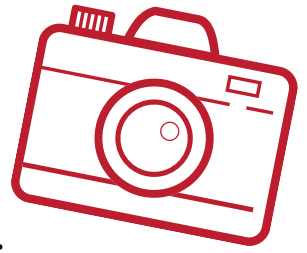
We're excited for another fantastic year and really appreciate your support!

SHELF J&I SCHOOL & PTFA FUNDRAISING CALENDAR 2025 - 2026		
 September  26 MacMillan Coffee Morning w/c 29 Halloween Outfit Collection	 October  15 PTFA AGM 23 End of Term Dress Down	 November  4 Halloween Monster Mash Disco w/c 10 Halloween Outfit Collection w/c 10 Christmas Jumper Collection 14 Children in Need
 November  28 Dress Down for Chocolate Donation (Christmas Fayre) 28 Teddy/Soft Toy Collection (Christmas Fayre) 28 Rainbow Hamper Donations (Christmas Fayre) 28 Decorate Bethel Chapel Christmas Tree	 December  5 Christmas Jumper (over school uniform) Dress Down 5 Christmas Raffle Tickets Deadline (Christmas Fayre) 5 Christmas Fayre 6 Last Day of Bethel Chapel Christmas Tree Festival	 December  16 Pantomime 19 End of Term Dress Down
 February  13 End of Term Dress Down	 March  9 Spring Disco 27 Dress Down for Themed Hamper Raffle Donations	 January 
 April  TBC Themed Hamper Raffle	 May  4 - 8 Teacher Appreciation Week 21 Dress Down for Sweets Donation (Shelf Gala)	 June  12 Playground Fun Hour/Sponge the Teacher 26 Penalty Shoot Out Fundraising
 July  TBC Sports Day 4 Shelf Gala 17 End of Term Dress Down	 August  HOLIDAY TIME!	

Individual & Sibling photographs:

Ross Photography will visit school on Wednesday 8th October to take individual and sibling photographs.

If your child has a sibling who is currently not at school but you would like a photograph, please could you arrive at school for approximately 8am as the photographer will do these shots first.



Please note: if your child usually has PE on a Wednesday, they must come to school in their school uniform **not PE kit**.

Pantomime:

On Tuesday 16th December, we're really excited to be taking a whole school trip to see Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime at The Bradford Playhouse



We will be sending more information out to parents next week.

Macmillan Coffee Morning:

Wow! We had a fantastic turnout this morning — thank you to everyone who came along! We hope you enjoyed some cake and a cuppa. Apologies for any delays, we were blown away by how many of you joined us!

A big thank you as well to everyone who donated cakes and bakes — your generosity was truly appreciated.



Children whose parents couldn't attend also enjoyed juice and a sweet treat, kindly provided by our wonderful PTFA — thank you!

So far, we've raised over £400 for Macmillan which is amazing!
If you'd still like to donate, you can do so via MCAS > Products.

Learning:

What a Fantastic Start to Reception!

We're so proud of how well the children have settled into Reception. It's been wonderful to see them coming in each day with big smiles, full of enthusiasm and ready to learn.



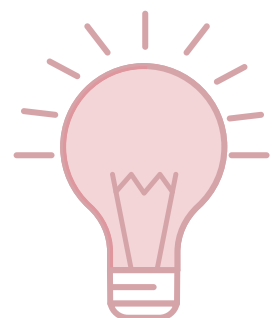
In just a few short weeks, they've already picked up so many new skills. They're growing more independent by the day - hanging up their coats, looking after their belongings, and following the daily routines with confidence. It's also been lovely to see new friendships forming, with the children playing kindly, sharing and working together so well.

In Phonics, they're starting to learn their letter sounds and are beginning to blend them to read simple words. Their love for books and stories is really shining through story time!

In Maths, they've been busy counting, recognising numbers and comparing groups of objects through play. It's been great to see them using their maths skills in everyday activities without even realising they're learning.

We're so excited for the term ahead and can't wait to see how much more the children will grow and achieve.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support - it's made the start of Reception such a positive and happy experience!



Learning:

Forest School - Reception group

The first group of Reception children started their school journey. These children will attend forest school every Wednesday up until Christmas. After Christmas, a new group of children will start. Please make sure children always have a forest school kit available in school. Consisting of wellies, waterproofs, gloves, hat, scarf etc. please also bring a spare pair of socks just in case they get wet.



Children had fun painting sunflowers.



They have also started learning whittling skills. We started by peeling carrots, they were amazing!



Learning:

Forest School - KS1 & KS2 groups

It was a wet start for the junior children, but it didn't phase them! We still enjoyed lighting fires and making smores!



Now it's officially Autumn, we celebrated by making conker friends - the children really enjoyed making them and naming them!



Forest School - After-school club

After-school club have solidified their skills on fire lighting by lighting fires independently. They also used tools to create holes in the body of their conker friends, we had some great creations!



Learning:

Author Visit - Jenny York

On Monday, we were happy to welcome back author Jenny York to school!

The children absolutely loved the interactive assemblies, where Jenny brought her stories to life and inspired lots of enthusiasm for reading and writing. It was wonderful to see how engaged the children were — from asking thoughtful questions to joining in with the activities.

There was also a fantastic response to her books, with many children excited to purchase their own signed copies to take home.

Don't forget, Jenny has kindly provided access to a free e-book, giving all children the opportunity to enjoy her stories further so please take a look.

A huge thank you to Jenny for such a fun and inspiring visit!



Online safety: what parents & carers need to know

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS
ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The
National
College

Updates:

Harvest Festival supporting Happy Days



This term, we've launched our annual Harvest Festival!

The children have been enjoying Harvest songs during their weekly singing assemblies and have been thinking about gratitude, kindness, and how we can help others in our community.

During the week commencing 13th October, we invite families to send in donations of in-date dried, tinned, or non-perishable food items. These can be brought into classrooms each morning.

All donations will be given to Happy Days, a Calderdale-based charity that supports people who are homeless or facing crisis.

We'll be holding a special Harvest Assembly on Monday 20th October, where a representative from Happy Days will speak to the children about the charity's work and accept the donations on behalf of the organisation.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Scholastic Book Fair - 5th & 6th November

We will be holding our next Scholastic book fair on Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th November 8.15am-8.45am & 3.15pm-3.45pm in the school hall - please note we will be 'cashless' so all payments will be made online.



Next week we will be launching a competition called Book Bingo.

Book Bingo is a reading challenge created by Scholastic Book Fairs that encourages children and young people to read a variety of books by setting specific reading goals on a bingo card.

Challenges can include reading books on different genres, reading aloud to others, or reading books by specific authors.

Children will have until w/c 3rd November to complete as many squares on the bingo card as possible - those children who return their card will be put into a prize draw to win a £5 book voucher to spend at the fair.

Updates continued:

Universal Free School Meals - Thursday 2nd October

School census day is next Thursday 2nd October.

This annual exercise is vital for helping education authorities determine what kinds of support a school needs.



It takes a close look at the individual characteristics of a school and helps ensure that the right funding goes to the right places, to support the right outcomes.

On Thursday it's more important than ever that every infant pupil (Yr R-2) is encouraged to take* a school meal as it is worth up to £455 funding per pupil.

*children can order a school meal but have a packed lunch if that is what they're used to as a back up.

If you would like your child to try a school meal next Thursday please email the school office on admin@shelf.calderdale.sch.uk - this would really help us out! :)

As a reminder, Thursday's menu is:

Beef Burger Cheeseburger Southern Fried Quorn Burger

All stacked with crispy lettuce & tomato served in a bun. With a side of BBQ baked beans, Cajun spiced wedges & dipping sauce.

American Pancakes or Waffles
served with chocolate sauce, fruit coulis or
honey

Fresh Fruit



updates continued:

Tesco Stronger Starts - please vote for us!



Earlier this year we put forward a grant application to Tesco Stronger Starts to improve our SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) Inclusion Resources in school.

We're thrilled to share that our application was successful and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores from the **first week in October until mid-January 2026.**

The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive up to £1500, the second placed project will receive £1000 and the third placed project will receive £500.

The list of participating stores are:



Tesco Bradford Peel Centre Superstore BD1 4RB

Tesco Crossflats Bingley Express BD16 2DY

Tesco Northcliffe Shipley Express BD18 3HH

Tesco Bradford Sunbridge Road Express BD1 2AY

Tesco Baildon Otley Road Express BD17 7GA

To vote, you need to make a purchase within one of the stores above of any value. You will receive a token per transaction.

Reminders:

Term-time holidays - Important Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that, in line with Calderdale Council's attendance policy, schools are not permitted to authorise term-time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Taking your child out of school without permission may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued by the local authority - see guidelines below.



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per parent, per child Penalty Notices fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. <u>For example</u> , 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines. Penalty Notices can be issued to any adult who has a duty of care and can therefore include stepparents or partners irrespective of whether they have parental responsibility or appear on the birth certificate. For an unauthorised leave of absence (holiday) they will usually be issued to the adults involved in the absence. For a pattern of poor attendance, they will usually be issued to both parents even if they do not reside together.	5 consecutive days of term time-time leave. Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term-time leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave. No warning will be issued prior to a penalty notice being issued in this respect.
First Offence The first time a Penalty notice is issued for leave in term time or irregular unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of issue.	10 sessions of unauthorised leave in a 10-week period. Penalty notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. A Notice to Improve warning will be issued prior to any Penalty Notice issued in this respect and will be considered when there have been 8 sessions of unauthorised in a preceding 8-week period. This warning will give parents/carers 6 weeks to improve their child's school attendance.
Second Offence The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. There is no reduction for early payment.	
Third Offence and any further offences (within 3 years) The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or regular unauthorised absences by the same parent and the same child a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Under these circumstances each parent can receive a fine of up to £1000 per child. Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can on a parent's future DBS certificate due 'a failure to safeguard a child's right to education'.	

We ask that families plan holidays during school breaks to avoid disruption to learning.

If you believe you have an exceptional reason for a term-time absence, please contact the school before booking or confirming any travel plans.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting good school attendance.

Attendance

As we move into the colder months, please remember that school is still essential, even if your child is feeling a little under the weather.

Unless they are seriously unwell, we expect children to attend. We'll support them during the day and contact you if they need to go home. Keeping children off for mild illness (like a cough or cold without a temperature) leads to unnecessary lost learning.

For guidance, visit: [Is my child too ill for school? – NHS](#)

Thank you for supporting strong attendance!

Announcements:

Important team update

We have wonderful news to celebrate, Mrs Sutcliffe (Year 3 / 4 teacher in M1) is expecting a baby, and we extend our warmest congratulations to her and her family as they prepare for this exciting new chapter. We are delighted to support her during this special time.



To ensure continuity in our teaching, we are fortunate to have secured Mrs Winder to cover Mrs Sutcliffe's maternity leave. Mrs Winder is not a new face to our school community. She has previously worked in Mackintosh 1 with our Year 4 pupils and is already well-known to many of our children. Her familiarity with our school environment and existing relationships with our Year 3/4 team make her an ideal replacement.

Mrs Winder's prior experience at Shelf School means she understands our ethos, teaching approaches, and the specific needs of our pupils. We are confident that she will provide consistent, high-quality education during Mrs Sutcliffe's absence.

We are particularly pleased that we have been able to secure such an experienced and well-integrated teacher for this important role. This demonstrates our commitment to maintaining educational excellence and supporting our staff through significant life moments.

Governor Spotlight!

My name is Dave Dixon and I am very proud to be the Chair of Governors for our wonderful school, a role I have carried out for nearly 3 years.

I have lived in Shelf for 37 years, and both our boys attended Shelf J&I .



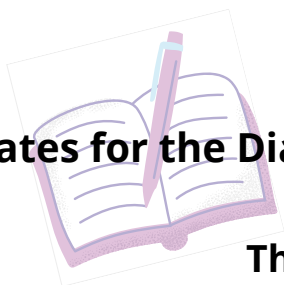
My main role as Chair of Governors is to support (and challenge!) Mrs Elam and the Senior Leadership Team. I also have responsibility for Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Along with my wife, I am a Registered Childminder and Forest School Leader.

I am passionate about the education and welfare of all children, and firmly believe in positive parental engagement, good manners, helping children 'Shine' and become valued and respected members of the wider community.

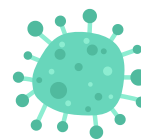
If you see me in the playground come and say hello!

Dates for the Diary:



Thursday 2nd October - Nasal Flu Immunisations

please remember to consent / non-consent via the link that was shared earlier this month



Thursday 2nd October - NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' workshops

Year 2, 5 & 6 only



Monday 6th October - Year 5/6 Bonfire Safety assembly



Wednesday 8th October - Individual & Sibling Photographs

no PE kits please



Monday 20th October - Happy Days Harvest Festival assembly

donations of non-perishable items w/c 13th October



Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd October

Year 6 Residential trip to Weardale Adventure Centre

Thursday 23rd October - Dress Down Day

suggested donation of £1 towards school funds

Friday 24th October - Teaching Training Day

w/c 27th October - Half Term Holiday



Monday 3rd October - School reopens



Tuesday 4th November - PTFA Monster Mash Disco

EYFS/KS1 - 3.15pm - 4pm

KS2 - 4.15pm - 5.15pm



Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th November - Scholastic Book Fair

8.15am - 8.45am & 3.15pm - 3.45pm in the school hall

Tuesday 11th & Thursday 13th November - Parents Evenings

please look out for an invitation to book a face to face appointment

