



Newsletter

Friday 25th September

As we enter the final weeks of September, I am delighted to reflect on how smoothly our school year has begun. The start of a new academic year is always a significant milestone, and I am pleased to report that our pupils have settled into their new classes remarkably well.

The transition to new year groups and new classrooms is an important time for any young learner. It involves adjusting to different teachers, new routines, and often new peers. I have been impressed by the resilience and enthusiasm our pupils have demonstrated throughout this period. They have approached their new environments with a positive attitude, and this has made the settling-in process considerably smoother for everyone involved.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to establish clear routines and expectations, which provide the structure and security that pupils need to thrive. Whether it is learning where to line up, understanding our behaviour expectations, or becoming familiar with new classroom procedures, our pupils have engaged with these new routines thoughtfully and cooperatively. This foundation is essential as we move forward into the year, and I am confident it will support their continued progress and development.

What has been particularly heartening to witness is how much our pupils are enjoying school. The energy and enthusiasm I see in our corridors and classrooms is genuinely wonderful. Pupils are engaging with their learning, building friendships, and beginning to feel a sense of belonging within their new classes. This positive start sets the tone for the year ahead and creates an environment where learning can flourish.

I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the standard of smart uniform we have seen across the school. Our pupils have presented themselves beautifully, and this reflects the care and consideration that families have shown in supporting our uniform expectations. Smart uniform contributes to our school identity and helps to create a sense of pride in our community. It is pleasing to see this standard maintained so consistently, and I am grateful for the partnership between home and school in upholding this expectation.

As we continue through the autumn term, I am confident that our pupils will continue to build on this positive start. The combination of their enthusiasm, our staff's commitment, and the support of families creates a strong foundation for a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Mrs J Elam



Parent, Teachers, Friends Association (PTFA)

Could you help keep our PTFA going?

The PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm at school, when the current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will all be stepping down. For the PTFA to continue, new volunteers are urgently needed to take on these roles.



Without a new committee, future PTFA events and fundraising may not be able to continue, meaning the school and its children will lose the valuable funds and opportunities the PTFA provides.

Please take a few minutes to read the information below to find out more about the PTFA and the roles available. No previous experience is needed and a full handover and support will be provided.

Could you be part of the PTFA's future? Please come along to the AGM - we'd really love to see you there.

COULD YOU HELP KEEP OUR PTFA GOING?

Together we can do amazing things for our school!

Our PTFA plays a huge part in bringing our school community together and raising valuable funds for the children.

From discos and fairs to special treats and extras, everything we do helps support the school and its pupils.

At the end of the school year, several current committee members - including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be stepping down.

To keep the PTFA running and events taking place, we'll need new volunteers to step into these roles and help lead future activities.

WE NEED YOU!

WHY IT MATTERS

- School events like discos, fairs and fundraisers may not be able to go ahead
- Valuable funds for resources, treats and extras could be lost
- Opportunities to bring our school community together would be reduced

This would be a huge loss for our children and school.

THE ROLES WE NEED

CHAIR	SECRETARY	TREASURER
Provides overall guidance and keeps things on track.	Supports communication - meetings, messages and keeping everyone informed.	Looks after the money - tracking what's raised and ensuring everything is recorded clearly.

YOU DON'T NEED ANY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE - just a willingness to help and be part of a team. We'll help you get started.

INTERESTED? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Speak to a member of the PTFA

Email ptfa@shelf.calderdale.sch.uk

Message Shelf J&I PTFA Parents/Carers Group

HELP KEEP THE PTFA GOING FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN!

PTFA OFFICER ROLES: WHAT'S INVOLVED?

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer help keep the PTFA running - but they don't have to do everything alone.

CHAIR	SECRETARY	TREASURER
Leads and Coordinates The Chair helps guide the PTFA and keeps things moving.	Keeps things organised The Secretary helps keep clear records and support communication.	Looks after the money The Treasurer keeps track of PTFA income, spending and donations.
- Chairs meetings - Works with school on plans and priorities - Helps agree the fundraising calendar - Encourages volunteers and shares out tasks - Makes sure decisions are discussed and agreed	- Prepares agenda with the Chair - Takes minutes at meetings - Records decisions and actions - Keeps copies of key documents - Helps with paperwork and notices - Supports parent communications	- Records income and expenditure - Keeps receipts and payment records - Banks cash and manages payments - Gives financial updates at meetings - Tracks donations made to school
GOOD FOR SOMEONE WHO IS: Organised, approachable and happy to lead conversations.	GOOD FOR SOMEONE WHO IS: Reliable, organised and happy with admin.	GOOD FOR SOMEONE WHO IS: Careful, organised and comfortable with numbers.

YOU WON'T BE ON YOUR OWN

Tasks can be shared between committee members. The current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will support handover and share templates, notes and guidance.

INTERESTED OR CURIOUS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Speak to a member of the PTFA

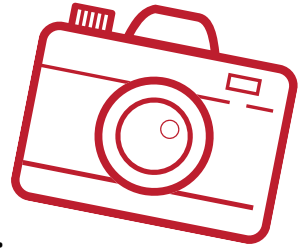
Email ptfa@shelf.calderdale.sch.uk

Message Shelf J&I PTFA Parents/Carers Group

Individual & Sibling photographs:

Ross Photography will visit school on Wednesday 7th 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 15th December, we're really excited to be taking a whole school trip to see The Wizard of Oz Pantomime at The Bradford Playhouse

The cost to attend the pantomime is £14.95 and can be paid via MCAS by Friday 6th November.



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to our families for the wonderful cakes and buns donated for our Macmillan Cancer Support activities today.

Your generosity always astounds us and we are truly grateful for the time taken to bake (or buy) for this event.



This afternoon, children enjoyed a 'charity hour' with their peers in the classrooms with juice and a cake/bun - they were able to consider the cause, in an age appropriate way, and understand why supporting charity is a good thing if we can afford/take time to do so.

As a reminder, we will be holding a bake sale at the end of the day in the back school playground for parents to pick up something sweet, cash only please - all monies will go directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

So far, we've raised approximately £200 for Macmillan which is amazing!
If you'd like to donate online, you can do so via MCAS > Products.

Learning:

What a Fantastic Start to Reception!

Sheeran Class have settled amazingly into Reception and have already begun their phonics learning with great enthusiasm.

The children have quickly established their daily routines, make excellent choices around school, and are enjoying spending time with their new friends.

We especially love our daily dough disco, which is helping strengthen our fine-motor skills in a fun and engaging way.

This week, we have been learning about Funnybones and have enjoyed retelling the story in different ways, showing brilliant creativity and confidence.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are very proud of how well the children have begun their Reception journey.



Learning:

Forest School - Reception group

Reception's first time at Forest School and what a ball we had! Toasted marshmallows and lots of outdoor fun!



Forest School - KS1 & KS2 groups

KS2 children enjoyed the new hammock kindly gifted by Mrs Daly, fire lighting and Sunflower observations. They loved toasting marshmallows on the fires they had lit themselves!



KS1 had lots of fun making pirate ships for Pirate Week! Using corks, rubber bands and cocktail sticks!



Learning:

Forest School continued:

Sunflower week for KS1 and we did some gorgeous watercolours.



Autumn officially started on Wednesday 23rd September. We celebrated by collecting conkers and making conker people!



WakeupWednesday - Parent Guides

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

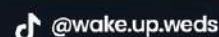
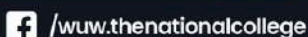
Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



The
National
College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>



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Updates:

Harvest Festival - World Homeless Day

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.

Every year we support a Calderdale-based charity, Happy Days which supports people who are homeless or facing crisis.

On Monday 5th October we will be holding a special assembly where a representative from Happy Days will speak to the children about the charity's work as well as launching a fundraising appeal for **World Homeless Day** (10th October) - in support of this we will be holding a dress down day on Friday 9th October to raise money - £1 = 1 hot meal for someone in need.



NORTHPOINT

Parent / Carer Workshops - Northpoint Mental Health Support Team

Northpoint Mental Health Support Team offer parents/carers training and workshops on a number of topics, see list below (*timings are either 9.30am-10.30am or 6pm-7pm*).

Places can be booked online by emailing info@mhst@northpoint.org.uk

Understanding Low Mood - Mon 23rd Nov 26 (am) or Mon 15th Mar 27 (pm)

Supporting an Anxious Young Person - Mon 5th Apr 27 (am) or Weds 2nd June 27 (pm)

Understanding Social Media - Thurs 3rd Dec 26 (am) or Tues 2nd Feb 27 (pm)

Supporting Self-Esteem - Tues 2nd Feb 27 (am) or Weds 3rd Mar 27 (pm)

Understanding Difficult Behaviours - Tues 29th Sep 26 (am) or Weds 14th Oct 26 (pm)

Understanding the Teenage Brain - Weds 21st Oct 26 (am) or Weds 14th Apr 27 (pm)

Understanding Sensory Difficulties - Fri 4th Dec 26 (am) or Weds 25th Nov 26 (pm)

Supporting Sleep Difficulties - Fri 25th Sep 26 (am) or Mon 19th Oct 26 (pm)

Understanding Self Harm - Tues 9th Feb 27 (am & pm)

Suicide Awareness - Thurs 5th Nov 26 (am) - Thurs 11th Mar 27 (pm)

Updates continued:

Universal Free School Meals - Thursday 1st October

School census day is next Thursday 1st 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 wedges & dipping sauce.

American Pancake or Waffle served with chocolate sauce or fruit coulis **Fresh Fruit**



Reminders:

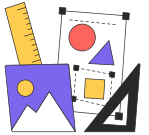


Nasal Flu Immunisation - Thursday 1st October

A reminder that the NHS Immunisation Team will be visiting school next week to administer the nasal flu vaccination to children whose parents/carers have given consent.

The vaccinations will take place in school, so there is no need for children to attend a separate appointment. The team will administer the nasal spray to all children for whom consent has been received.

If you have any questions about the vaccination, please contact the NHS Immunisation Team directly.



Design Technology – Voluntary Contribution

A big thank you to families who have already made a voluntary contribution towards Design Technology activities in school. We really appreciate your support.

A voluntary payment item is available on MCAS for families who would like to contribute. These contributions help us to provide the resources and materials needed for children to take part in a range of practical and creative DT projects throughout the year.

If you haven't yet made a contribution and would like to do so, you can find the payment item on MCAS.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Named uniform

A little reminder to please name all school uniform and belongings. We're now four weeks into the new school year and already have a number of items that have been left around school which we're unable to return to their owners because they aren't named.

Please check that coats, jumpers, cardigans, PE kits, water bottles and other personal belongings have your child's name clearly marked on them.

It makes such a difference when we can quickly return lost items to the right child — and saves our lost property box from getting too full!

Thank you for your help and support.

Reminders continued:

Fidget Toys and Items from Home

A reminder that children should not bring fidget toys, sensory items or other toys/items from home into school.

We appreciate that some children find fidget toys helpful, but they can become a distraction for the child using them and for those around them. Each classroom has a supply of fidget toys available for children to use when needed, so there should be no need for children to bring their own items from home.

Items brought from home can also become lost or broken, and school cannot take responsibility for these belongings.

If children bring these items into school, they will be confiscated and kept safely in the school office for a parent/carer to collect.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep classrooms focused and free from unnecessary distractions.



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.

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.

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 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'.

Reminders continued:

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.

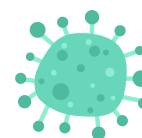
Please note that we do not routinely follow a 48-hour exclusion period after sickness. If a child has been sick once but is otherwise well, eating and drinking normally, and has no further symptoms, they can return to school. If they have had a sickness bug, they should remain at home until they are free from sickness, eating and drinking normally, and well enough to return to school.

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

Dates for the Diary:



Thursday 1st October - Nasal Flu Vaccination



Thursday 1st October - Munch's Trip to the USA

School census day - themed school meal

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



Wednesday 7th October - Individual & Sibling Photographs

no PE kits please



Friday 9th October - Dress Down Day

Suggested donation of £1 for World Homeless Day in conjunction with Happy Days



**Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st October
Year 6 Residential trip to Weardale Adventure Centre**

Friday 23rd October - Teaching Training Day



w/c 26th October - Half Term Holiday



Monday 2nd November - School reopens

Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th November - Parents Evenings

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

