



Message from the Head



Just as we thought we could get through to the end of term without the pandemic having a significant impact on the schools, we were sadly reminded that nothing can be taken for granted! As a result I have to again start this newsletter with a massive THANKYOU to you as parents and carers for your ongoing support and patience as we have had to ask you to keep children at home and support them to take part in remote learning sessions.

Despite the challenges of the last couple of weeks we have had an amazing half term overall. Students have been able to get back to normal with curriculum trips and other off site enrichment activities.

Of note, the school had a surprise visit from OFSTED on the 6th and 7th of October. Unfortunately we were unable to share the outcome of the report until now. The inspection was unannounced and conducted by two of Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI). They looked specifically at safeguarding practices and systems across the two school sites. After two days of intensive staff interviews, working through incident reports, looking at policies and conducting practice observations in classrooms, it was determined that Safeguarding across the school is EFFECTIVE. This is a 'one measure' outcome, which links directly to leadership and management, quality of education, behaviour and attitudes and personal development. If Effective isn't achieved then the school would automatically drop its overall grade. This is an excellent result given the level of scrutiny observed across the area and must be hugely reassuring for yourselves as parents and carers to know. The full report is now on the school website as well as the Ofsted inspections page.

On behalf of the Governors, the Trust and everyone here at Shenstone Lodge have a very Merry Christmas!



REMINDER :

The Brades Lodge and Shenstone Lodge Schools will be closing for the Christmas Break at 1pm on Friday 17th of December.



For your benefit and peace of mind, we will be sending additional Lateral Flow Testing kits home with the students for the Christmas break. We would highly recommend that as a minimum your child is tested the day before they return to school on the 4th January 2022.

If your child tests positive with a LFT or suffers from a persistent new cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell they must self-isolate and you should immediately book a PCR test.

Good to Know... Working with Families In Sandwell

<p>Up-to-date local information on COVID-19 restrictions can be found on the Council's website</p>	<p>https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/coronavirus</p>
<p>Funded through Public Health England's 'Better Mental Health', we are pleased to announce that we now have online and face to face Changes Sessions available for Sandwell families to attend. If you know a family who you think would benefit from attending a FREE Changes programme, then please encourage them to book onto a 6 week course or taster session.</p>	<p>https://bookwhen.com/book4changes</p> <p>More dates and times will be added soon, so keep checking the booking page.</p>
<p><u>Shoppers will be able to park for free at Sandwell Council's town centre car parks on the two Saturdays before Christmas (11th and 18th December).</u></p>	<p>https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/news/article/6274/free_parking_on_two_saturdays_before_christmas_at_sandwell_council_town_centre_car_parks</p>
<p><u>This year, there is the biggest ever Christmas experience in Sandwell. Take a look at the magical line up of seasonal events to suit all members of the family.</u></p>	<p>https://www.discover sandwell.co.uk/whatson/</p>

RESIDENTIAL ..

It's been a really interesting half term, learning about remembrance day and why we use poppies to commemorate those who lost their lives. We have also supported the National Anti-Bullying week from the 15th November and doing some amazing arts and crafts off the back of it.



As the Covid measures have relaxed, we have been going offsite more and the kids are loving it! In the last few weeks we have been to soft play centres, parks and swimming locally. All being well we will be celebrating Christmas, playing in the snow and maybe getting to see Father Christmas. Mark Smith (Deputy Head of Care)



Shenstone Lodge has raised its profile as a forward thinking centre of excellence, by again hosting its Midlands SEMH School conference at the Walsall Arena and Arts Centre. The day was a fantastic opportunity for the staff teams to network with colleagues and professionals from other SEMH schools in the region. Amongst others, Shenstone staff led workshops sharing best practice. The headline speaker was Richard McCann who delivered an immensely powerful story. He shared how he has overcome extreme adversity to become a successful professional, author and advocate for positivity and maintaining a 'can do' attitude!





Who Turned The Lights Out !

After a challenging few weeks at The Brades Lodge managing a Covid outbreak the school was all set to fully re open on Friday 10th December only to be faced with a significant electrical failure as the school opened its early morning doors for the site staff.

Other than a small pocket of power in one section of the building, electricity was off, affecting the phones, lights, WiFi, fridges, heating, alarms and sockets. As a result the school team were again ringing round to cancel taxis and inform, the ever patient, parents and carers that the doors would be shut.

Through Friday and over the weekend engineers were on site to establish and fix the problem.

After 20m of the drive was unearthed a break in the circuit was located and duly addressed. Over the next few days the groundworks will be made good and hopefully we can get through to the end of the term without a further hitch !

Parent Survey 2021

Its that time again when we seek your views about our schools. Before the end of term we will be sending you an electronic questionnaire which will take no more than a couple of minutes to complete. The feedback will be anonymised unless you specifically mention your name in a written response and wish to be contacted by the school to address any specific concerns you may have.



We would appreciate the completion of the form before we break up for Christmas so that we can put any areas for development in place as soon as possible.



Rowse Honey have kindly donated some 'bee bombs' for the Shenstone Lodge site. These wild flower packs will be scattered

around the grounds to give bees, insects and birds a 'food boost' in the Spring and through the Summer. We are looking forward to a spectacular floral show and smelling the new flowers. Thank you Rowse Honey for your donation!



Students at Shenstone Lodge have taken part in the Annual Christmas Tree decorating competition at Lichfield Cathedral. The group

worked hard to dress a tree with an amazing range of school made decorations. It will sit proudly at the Cathedral till the new year with trees from other local schools. Fingers crossed that we win a prize !

Cheer Us Up Mr D !

Mr Daniel at the Brades Lodge is well known in school for telling the odd joke or two to raise a smile in the staff room before a hard day at the 'chalk face' ... Given the current state of the nation he has kindly offered to share a few witty words to keep us all going.. Thanks sir !

*What do Santa's little helpers learn at school ?
The elf-abet.*

What do snowmen call their offspring ? Chill-dren.

What's the most popular Christmas wine ? 'I don't like Brussels sprouts!'

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack ? An abdominal snowman.

What did one snowman say to the other ? Do you smell carrots ?

What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate clauses

Xmas Quiz Corner

1. Can you name the 3 wise men who took gifts to baby Jesus in Bethlehem ?

2. How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in German ?

3. How many new words can you make using the letters in 'Celebration' ?

4. How many doors of an advent calendar should you open ?

5. What is the Scottish tradition of 'first footing' ?

6. What are the main ingredients of Haggis ?

OUTDOOR ACTION

Students at the Shenstone Lodge site have been thrilled to see the installation of new climbing and adventure equipment in the wooded area at the bottom of the main field. The project was funded through the PE premium to encourage outdoor play and team activities. The students were made aware of the budget available and were involved in the selection of the frames and how they would be arranged. A fantastic lesson in budgeting and planning !



Relationship and Sex Education



Since September 2020 all schools have had to integrate a new and wide reaching Relationship and Sex Education curriculum. The focus is to ensure that young people understand what constitutes , and the importance of a healthy relationship and how the modern world with all of its technological and media distractions can sometimes distort this. To support student studies,

Sandwell's School Nurse Team delivered a drop in session at the Brades Lodge to promote sexual health and understanding. In the session, students were able to ask questions as part of the group or privately.

A Very Chilly Day Out ! As part of our new Geography topic, which is studying European countries, Unicorn and Dragons classes had the wonderful opportunity to visit the German Outdoor Market in Birmingham.



We travelled by train to Birmingham New Street Station, explored the German Market and finished with lunch at McDonald's. Children enjoyed looking at the Christmas lights with one child saying that 'they looked like shooting stars.' Mrs Foulkes

A.O.B.

- We are pleased to share that we have recruited two new members to our Local Advisory Board (Governing Body). Gill Simms has taken a community member position and Emma Yardley has joined as the staff representative. We still have a vacancy if you are interested in supporting the school. Please email headteacher@shenstonelodge.co.uk
- As you are aware the school day for those students attending the Shenstone Lodge site changed in September as the Trust rejected the proposal to permanently change the school day. Our appeal to the decision continues to sit with the Trust and we continue to await a formal response .
- The school has now secured the funds to progress with the expansion of the Brades Lodge. This is a significant milestone and allows us to commission the necessary project support teams and the preferred contractor. We are creeping ever closer to the first bricks being

Diary Dates... PLEASE NOTE CORRECTIONS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

Xmas Break 1pm finish on the 17th Dec and return 4th Jan

Half Term 21st - 25th Feb

Easter Break 11th- 22nd April (1pm finish on 8th)

School Data Box 2020/21

Whole School Attendance for 2020 /21 school year : **85.7%**

Attendance for 2021/22 Autumn Term **85.8%**

Days lost to Exclusion

2020/21 Aut Term : 52 2021/22 Aut Term :39

www.skipssafetynet.org

Is a website that provides a large number of easy to access resources to support parents to understand more about how children can get themselves into serious difficulties online, and what they can do about it. The group also provide regular updates about new Apps or online 'Crazes ' for FREE if you subscribe .

STAY SAFE ONLINE

- A Parents Guide to Social Media
- A Parents Guide to Sharing Pictures
- A Parents Guide to Gaming
- A Parents Guide to Live Streaming
- A Parents Guide to Online Grooming
- A Parents Guide to Online Influencers
- A Parents Guide to Fake News
- A Parents Guide to Privacy Settings