

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new school year, it has been wonderful to welcome our whole school community back to Shirley Junior School. There was a real buzz of excitement throughout our school as children eagerly visited their new classrooms, reconnected with friends and got to know the adults who will be supporting them this year. This first week has been all about building positive relationships, reconnecting with one another and creating a strong foundation for the year ahead. Inspired by the book *The Hotel of Emotions*, children have been exploring and discussing their emotions, while also learning about their classroom routines, learning behaviours and strategies that will help them to be successful learners. We are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Davie Headteacher

School Community News SJS Library Competition

You can still enter our SJS Library Competition! We are looking forward to seeing all of the creative and inspiring entries from our children. The closing date for entries is Friday 25th September, so there is still plenty of time to get involved. Please refer to the competition flyer in the newsletter for full details. Good luck!

School Community Messages



Check out how our amazing staff team transformed our school over the summer holidays! From inspiring classrooms to refreshed shared spaces, lots of hard work has gone into preparing for the new school year. Take a look at these photos to see some of the fantastic changes!



Upcoming Events

16th September - Share my learning - after school

Please bring any emergency medication, such as inhalers or EpiPens, into school as soon as possible.

Please check and update your child's dietary and allergy information on SchoolGrid to help us keep our records accurate and up to date.



KINDNESS.
RESPECT.
INTEGRITY.





OPAL- Outdoor Play and Learning

We are very excited to next year be launching a new play project to make our playtimes even better, following a programme called OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). Through this approach, we aim to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through high-quality teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time is as good as possible. There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out OPAL, such as more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

To facilitate this project, we have already invested in many new resources, we are planning to move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. With the summer holidays approaching, we wanted to share a list of resources that would be incredibly useful for our pupils. If you're planning a clear-out at home, please consider setting aside any of the following items for us- we would be very grateful for your support:

 Laundry basket	 Cable Spools	 Wooden spoons	 Wheelbarrow	 Plastic crates
 Dress up items	 Cars	 Tyres and wheels	 Pans	 Containers
 Lego	 Small balls	 Scooter	 Plastic tubes	 Tarpaulin
 Beach spades	 Buckets	 Trowels	 Skateboard	 Ropes
 Guttering	 Wooden planks	 Helmet	 Aprons	 Chalk

We will be holding a collection week of these items beginning **Monday 28th September**. Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are really large, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

We will send out more information about the OPAL programme after the summer break, as well as inviting you to a parent session later in the year when you will be invited to come and play alongside your children! We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtimes for all children.