

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic first full week together as a whole SJS community! We continue to be incredibly impressed by how well all of our children have settled into their new classes and routines and we have already been wowed by the fantastic learning they have produced.

Across the school, our children have continued to explore a range of emotions through creative activities. It has been wonderful to read some thoughtful poetry and see some inspiring artwork. All of our corridors and classrooms are beginning to be filled with displays which celebrate our children's learning. We cannot wait to see what they accomplish next!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Davie Headteacher

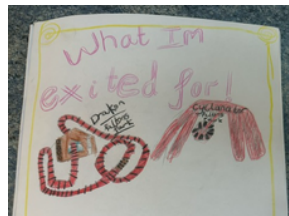
School Community News Second Hand Uniform Shop

We would love to have the uniform shop open a couple of times each week and we need your help to do this.

Please contact the PTFA if you could put your name down for the rota one morning or afternoon:

pta@shirleyschools.co.uk

School Community Messages



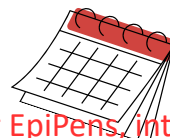
This week, all of our children have been developing their journaling skills and have fully embraced the opportunity to express themselves. Check out some of their amazing journal pages and celebrate their wonderful achievements with us!

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.



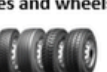


OPAL- Outdoor Play and Learning

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:

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.

Why do we need a Celebration Backpack?

When we celebrate **ourselves** and **others**, our brain releases a chemical called **dopamine** - this makes us feel **happy**. Celebrating ourselves can build our **self-esteem** and our **resilience** when we are faced with a **challenge**. Celebrating others **strengthens** our **relationships** and sense of **belonging**. If we celebrate **regularly**, it can make us more **motivated** to **succeed**!



Share My Learning



At Shirley Junior School, we believe that celebrating our children's achievements is an important part of their learning journey.

Throughout the year, we invite parents and carers into our classrooms for our 'Share My Learning' events. These special opportunities allow you to spend time with your child, explore their books, read their proudest pieces of work and talk together about the progress they have made.

Share My Learning events take place after school, with upcoming dates shared in our weekly newsletters and our annual calendar, which will be sent out soon.

Our first 'Share My Learning' event is on **Wednesday 16th September**

How does Share My Learning work?

- Children will leave school as usual at the end of the day.
- Parents and carers who would like to attend should then re-enter the school building with their child and visit their classroom.
- Children and teachers will have carefully selected a range of books and learning to share.
- Take some time to sit together, look through their work and celebrate their achievements.
- When you are ready to leave, usually after around 10-15 minutes, simply leave the school building with your child.

We look forward to welcoming many of you throughout the year and sharing in the wonderful achievements, progress and successes of our children together! 🌟📚🎉