

Newsletter

No. 7 – 23rd October 2026



Dear Parent/Carers,

I can't believe we have already reached half-term and when we return to school it will be November! With autumn feeling very much present this week, we are starting to look forward to all the magical December events such as our Christingle Service, the visiting pantomime and of course 'Once upon a Nativity'; there is no better place to be in December than a primary school if you love Christmas!



We are really proud of how the children have started this new academic year, in too many ways to mention them all, but they include: how well our new Reception children have settled in and how the older children have encouraged and welcomed them. How Ash and Sycamores classes have adapted to moving around for their maths lessons and are so engaged with our new mastery curriculum, as well as, how we observe the children living out our vision of 'Living life in all its fullness' John 10:10, embracing every aspect of school life.

We look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 2nd November.

I hope you have a lovely half-term break.

Kind regards,

Catherine Brooks

Although the weather is now much cooler, please can your child bring in a water bottle each day as staying hydrated is such an important part of keeping our brains and bodies functioning well.



We will be selling paper poppies, pins, brooches, snap bands and more, after half-term. Each purchase supports the Royal British Legion and helps the Armed Forces community.



Once Upon A Nativity - *Open the book to the greatest story ever told in this adventure of a nativity*

Those children with speaking parts should have come home with their scripts. Please support your children to learn their lines as rehearsals will begin after half term.

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Each week, in both a whole school collective and a class worship, we look at a different picture to spark discussion and reflection. Picture News connects our Collective Worship with what's happening in the world, and reflects values in action.

The children are always really engaged in the thought-provoking questions about current events.

These are some of the pictures and events we have explored this half-term.

Homelessness:
Do we all have a part to play in helping those in need?



Prime Minister Andy Burnham pledged to offer everyone sleeping rough in England a safe place to stay by Christmas. Children thought about times when people need the help of others, what that help might look like, and why asking for help and telling a safe adult when we are worried about someone can matter.

School Lunches:
Who should decide what we have for school lunch?



News of healthier changes to school dinner rules was the focus of this resource. Children thought about how decisions are made, discussing personal choice and shared responsibility, and the factors schools consider when providing meals.

AI:
Do we need AI wherever we go?



The announcement of the new Meta Muse Charm led to thought-provoking conversations in schools about whether AI is useful and when might we be better off without it. Children discussed AI's potential and limits, and how much technology should play a part in our lives.



Reading rewards

	Ruby 10 reads	Emerald 25 reads	Amethyst 50 reads	Diamond 75 reads	Wormery 100 reads
Willows		Esme Monty Rollo			
Ash		Isla C			
Sycamore	Westley				



Golden book

When a child demonstrates one of our values,
we like to celebrate it in Friday's assembly!

Respect Compassion Joy
Perseverance Forgiveness Truthfulness

Willows

Xander, for always being so keen, especially with his reading and sharing all of his amazing maths facts.
Albie, for trying his hardest with his teddy wanted poster. It looks incredible.

Ash

Rose & Meghan, for a fantastic attitude to learning, in particular their writing, showing lots of care and perseverance in their work.

Sycamores

Cleo, for a joyful frog-inspired cupcake and for making a fabulous sloth out of clay.
Alanna, for a fantastic rainforest cake where she showed great perseverance making a river and soil out of chocolate.

Diary dates

New dates are in **bold**

October

Half-term

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

November

Tuesday 10th November

8.55 Ash Class Assembly

Thursday 12th November

8.55 Sycamores Class Assembly

Friday 13th November

Children in Need (Children are welcome to wear PJs or their own clothes for a donation to the charity)

Thursday 19th November

8.55 Willows Class Assembly

December

Wednesday 9th December

9.15 Nativity performance

Thursday 10th December

6pm Nativity performance

Friday 11th December

2pm Nativity performance

Thursday 17th December

2 pm Christingle Service at St Mary's Church

Friday 18th December

Last day of term

January

Monday 4th January

INSET day

Tuesday 5th January

First day of term for the children

February

Friday 12th February

INSET day

Half-term

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

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Shipley CofE Primary School



New intake Reception 2027



STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

We warmly welcome prospective families to join us for a stay & play session on the 23rd or 26th November, from 2:15-2:45pm.

Come along to explore the Willows classroom and meet the team.

Please contact the office to book your place:
01403 741 298
office@shipley.w-sussex.sch.uk

 [shipleycofeprimaryschool](https://www.facebook.com/shipleycofeprimaryschool) 



Apply online at:
westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Was your child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?

If so they are eligible to start school in September 2027

Apply online!
It's simple, convenient and time-saving. If your application is received after the deadline, your chance of securing a place at one of your preference schools could be seriously affected.

You can apply online from **Monday 5 October 2026**. If you would like further advice or information, phone: **03330 142 903**.

Deadline: Friday 15 January 2027

Free Internet access to apply online is available at all West Sussex libraries.



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