



Newsletter – Friday 20th October 2023

Firstly, I'd like to thank the parents who have taken the time to contact school to offer their support and their positive feelings about Shawlands during what has been a difficult week for various reasons. Often when we make a decision, some parents will feel it is the wrong one, which is unavoidable in a complex organisation like a school with children from 3 to 11 years old, but it is good to know that the vast majority of parents understand that we make decisions in good faith, based on what we feel is the right thing to do. One thing we have learned from the past is that the only thing worse than making an unpopular decision, is making a decision and then reversing it, so our decision regarding full-face masks and weapons for the Halloween day stands (hopefully the weather on Halloween itself will be good enough to allow the children to enjoy wearing their full costumes then).

Sadly, this week, we have had a number of children using racially abusive language towards and about other pupils, which as you can imagine, has a profound effect on the children who are victim to this, as well as to their parents who do not expect this to happen in what should be a safe and inclusive environment. Whenever this occurs, we follow our Anti-Racism policy - informing the parents of both the victim and the aggressor, carrying out restorative work over a number of playtimes with the aggressor, and recording the incident as a racially-motivated incident on CPOMS. For those not familiar with CPOMS, this is an online recording system used for behaviour and safeguarding records, which are shared with the child's next school when they move on. Needless to say, these incidents have upset the children involved and their families, but also the school staff as it is against everything we stand for at Shawlands.

In more positive news, we had a lovely staff meeting this week training staff on Charanga - an online music resource - which left staff eager to get more music happening in the classrooms (the glockenspiels won't know what's hit them after half-term!) Next week we are really looking forward to having a workshop from Barnsley Youth Choir for Year 3 to Year 5, and Miss Butterwood is then meeting with the BYC staff to look at what we can do with them in the future.

The flu vaccinations also took place this week in school and we received some positive feedback from the Vaccination Team about Shawlands which we wanted to share with you;-

I just wanted to write a little thank you email for all the help and support that your school gives us each year in the flu immunisation programme of your pupils. The school staff were incredible and very supportive to not only the pupils, but also to our team. We felt very welcomed as soon as we arrived and then exceptionally supported throughout the session. The pupils were well behaved and polite which is a recognition to the school. Your school has one of the highest uptakes for the immunisation in the borough and I credit the school staff for helping us with weekly reminders to parents. Once again, a massive thank you it really is very much appreciated.



Christmas cards

You will have received, or will be receiving today, a sample of the Christmas card your child designed and an order form in case you would like to order any cards, mugs, coasters or gift tags. There is a fast turnaround due to a tight deadline for delivery in time for Christmas. We would need your order to be paid for on the School Gateway and order form returned to school by **Thursday 26th October at 9am**. We need to have an order form to know exactly what you would like ordered (the Gateway only shows the total amount paid, not what you have ordered) The orders will be input onto their system and submitted that morning and unfortunately once the school order is submitted we are unable to add any more items. Please check your child's name and class details on the card for any errors - if you need to amend any details, please put them in the amendment box on the order form.

School will not be able to accept cash for any orders but if you are unable to pay via the school gateway please contact the office and we can print off a PayPoint Voucher for your child's order. This voucher can then be taken to any shop which has the PayPoint symbol outside and you can pay inside with shop with cash or by card and it will go straight on to your child's order.

Halloween Menu and Disco – Thursday 26th October

The Halloween themed school lunch will be taking place next Thursday (the last day before we break up for half term). If your child would like a school lunch on this day, please order through the school gateway so that the kitchen can have an idea of numbers. Children can order in class on the day but any orders that can be made in advance will help the kitchen plan. Children in Reception to Year 2 receive universal free school meals and for children in Years 3 through to Year 6 meals cost £2.40.

There's also the Halloween discos taking place in school that day for all children. We've set up a payment request on the school gateway for any donations towards snacks and drinks for the children's Halloween Discos and any contribution you can make towards this would be gratefully received. As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, children can come to school in their costumes if they wish but they can also wear non uniform that day instead. Please note that **no knives/weapon accessories are to be brought in with costumes and no full-face masks please**. Also bear in mind when choosing a costume that children will still be going outside at lunch and breaktimes.

SEND Raffle tickets

Tickets are still available able to purchase (£1 per strip of 5 tickets) for our SEND raffle and there are many prizes available including a Stan plus Stan Boudoir Gift Experience, free tickets for Gulliver's, a luxury hamper from Tesco along with many other exciting prizes.



Tickets can be purchased at the Tuck Shop or via the School Gateway app - where you can pay £1 for each strip of tickets you would like to buy and then **we will send the raffle tickets home over the next half-term.**

The raffle will be drawn at the next Coffee Afternoon event being run by our SEND PTA parents on 24th November at 2pm. If you would like to send any cakes/buns in for this event as well we always appreciate any contributions. We will remind you of this event nearer the time as well.

Finally, a quick reminder that next Friday (27th October) is an INSET day for staff; we will be training on Writing and online safety in the morning, and then in the afternoon subject leaders will be working on what is next for their subject, while a team of TAs will be blitzing the library to make it a more inviting and engaging space, with high quality books presented nicely. Any books we remove will be made available during the first week back for anyone to take home, unless they are in such a poor state that they have to be recycled.

As always if you have any questions, or worries, please don't hesitate to contact us or chat to us on the gate before or after school.