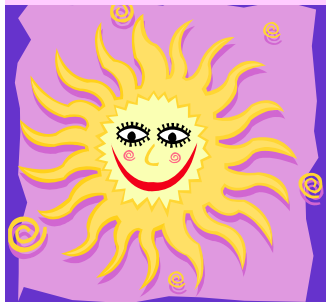


Walmley Ash Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B76 1HY  
Tel: 0121 351 1582  
Fax: 0121 351 1124

Info@shrubbery.bham.sch.co.uk



THE SHRUBBERY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

## May - Half-Term Newsletter

### Merit Assembly Friday 26th May 2017

Our half term Merit Assembly was held on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>, which was also Elmer Day so everyone looked very bright and cheerful for the last day of the half term. Merits are awarded for hard work, attitude and social behaviour in school and Courtesy badges are given to children who have outstanding manners. This half term the following children received that extra praise:

Nursery:	Harlow Ansah Joseph Davison Nicholas Lawrence	Y5B/B	Sammie Wakefield Hajra Bilal
Reception A	Sania Mir Freya Desai	Y5S/A	Romi Chahal Anam Basheer
Reception AC	Alfie Fulton Aryan Sheikh	Y6M	Verity Hull Sam Freer
Reception L	Arham Junaid Finlay Lines	Y6F	Faheem Hussain Harriett Semens-Flanagan
Y1J	Ibrahim Akbar	IT	Romi Sagoo, Irha Shazad Moosa Rehan, Ayan Das
Y1W	Jack Grice Haadi Amin	Mrs Hodgetts	Deniz Cinkir, Charlie Adkins
Y1P	Cole Banning-Price Emily Finnigan	Courtesy Badge	Zayna Wahid
Y2R	Indira Smith Isabel Presas Ellis		
Y2J/D	Isabella Lowe Nuha Maryam		
Y3V/E	Zaynah Ahmed Alfie Donaghue		
Y3R	Isabelle Slater Taurae Buffong		
Y4H/L	Jenson Harrold Samra Basha		
Y4H	Oliver Robinson Aman Mehrzad		
Y5B/B	Sammie Wakefield Hajra Bilal  Hajra Bilal		

Well done

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### **New website**

Finally our new website is going 'live'. Please come back to it to see what is happening in school. You will be able to download current letters and keep up to date with activities.

### **Junior House Points**

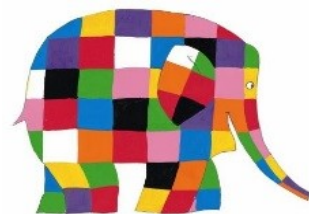
The half-termly house point league ended with victory for Blythe with 243 points, Cole were second with 223 points and Avon were third with 163 house points  
Well done to all Juniors for their hard work this half term

### **Elmer Day Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>**

This year there will be hundreds of Elmer Day events happening across the country in bookshops, schools and nurseries turning the whole nation patchwork!

Children are familiar with the story of Elmer the Patchwork elephant with his bright colours that made him stand out from the other elephants.

Our Elmer Day Assembly and dressing up was to show that at The Shrubbery, it is absolutely fine to be unique and different from other people and we will all be treated fairly and equally. Each year group read an Elmer Book in class with an accompanying activity.



### **Unicef Day for Small Change Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Following a school assembly and a class lesson, we asked children to bring in small change to try and cover our Golden Mile course.

Taking part in Day for Change was a great opportunity to learn about how nutritious food can change children's lives as well as helping to raise vital funds, helping make sure malnourished children can grow up healthy and strong.

The money that our school raised will be matched pound for pound by 'The Power of Nutrition', a charitable foundation - meaning the impact of our fundraising will be even greater.

The theme of the event, helping children in danger, linked to one of the United Nations Rights Respecting articles we have looked at- every child has the right to be safe and another that states every child has the right to nutritious food.

Thank you for your small change, the children enjoyed watching our money path grow!

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### My Favourite Parts At The Butterfly farm<sup>1</sup> By Freya Thornton-Baker

My favourite part at the Butterfly Farm was when we went into a room with leafcutter ants walking above you on ropes. These ropes were connected to different tanks which were in the same room. There was one big tank which was the main one where all the ants came from. There was another one with water in, which was the smallest tank. The last one had thousands of leaves in, which ants take to their nest and then eat. There were also different types of spiders in there and I saw a Tarantula, which I thought was big and furry. Tarantulas live in 70-75 degrees Fahrenheit.

I also liked the Discovery Zone. There were different fruit and vegetables like chillies, bananas and pineapples. There were also caterpillars on the leaves of the plants. Cocoons were hanging from different branches and this huge box which had different type of chrysalis inside. Sometimes butterflies can make their whole chrysalis gold or silver. They can't fly straight away they need the sun to dry their wings then they can fly. It normally takes a chrysalis 7 to 10 days to hatch into a butterfly. It can take a cocoon 4 to 10 days to hatch into a moth. The butterflies mostly live for 12 months.



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## **Attendance**

Here at The Shrubbery School we are working in partnership with parents to improve school attendance. **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.**

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education.

Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve as well as they could in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work?

**You may be aware that Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional. If your child takes leave that has not been authorised by the Head Teacher, it will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised.** The procedure for notifying absence is a phone call on the first day of illness followed by a letter to the class teacher upon return. Where possible medical appointments should be made outside of school hours or if this is unavoidable please send in a letter in advance or a copy of your child's appointment letter. Any considerations for absence due to exceptional circumstances should be put in writing for the attention of Mrs Atkins.

If your child's level of absence is of concern you will receive a letter advising you about improving attendance.

Please remember that parental illness, going shopping, visiting family, not wanting to go to school are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence, including if your child arrives at school after the close of registration.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at school, friendship with peers and support from staff can provide children with stability. The routine of school offers a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty.

### **How does your child compare?**

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	18 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	27 days	5 weeks	125 lessons
80%	36 days	7 weeks	175 lessons

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

Again, we would like to thank those parents who make sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.

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### Jungle Book Monday May 15th

We welcomed The Image Musical Theatre Company into school for what has become an annual visit. This year's production for children from Reception to Year 6 was 'Jungle Book'. Set in the vibrant and lush tropical jungle of India and adapted from the original Rudyard Kipling story, we followed the journey to maturity of Mowgli the man cub. With loving care from his adopted wolf family and much advice from Bagheera the panther and Baloo the bear, Mowgli stood firm against the manipulation of Shere Khan the tiger.

The show required the participation of the whole audience as the chorus and ten children were chosen by the actors to play small parts in the play.

The Shrubbery children joined in with great gusto and apart from the educational focus of looking at how a play is performed, the performance was a treat after tests in school.

### The Shrubbery School Swimming Gala 2017

Can we extend a big thank you to all the children, parents and staff who gave up their Saturday evening for our Inter-House Swimming Gala on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> at Stechford Cascades. We have three Houses, Avon, Blythe and Cole and Junior children were invited to compete for their houses after initial trials in lessons. Children from Year 2, who have lessons in school, were also able to take part in events and have a taster of the experience ahead of next year.

As usual the event was smoothly run by Mrs K Wilde and her team of Shrubbery swimming staff and the children behaved impeccably. Every child competing gained a house point for his/her house.

After fought hard races the final scores were

Avon	87
Blythe	143
Cole	125

Shields are awarded to the boy and girl in Year 6 who are the highest scorers in their events at the Gala. Well done to this year's highest Y6 scorers : Tiasha Dey-Krishnan and Harry Bleasedale. The swimming staff also award Achievement Trophies to children in Year 6 who have made an outstanding contribution to the sport. This year's recipients were Siya Dubb and Harry Bleasedale. Well done to the two of you.



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Y6 Trip to Jones' Wood  
By  
Sam Freer and Harry Bleasdale

On Wednesday 10th May Year 6 went to Jones' Wood. A lot of us were surprised that such an amazing place was so close to our school. We walked to the wood and were met by the beautiful sight of bluebells. We were split into groups with an iPad to take photos of the wildlife. Mr Griffin blew a white whistle when we needed to be back in the middle.

We then played a game, one class against the other. We had lots of fun and walked back to school talking.

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Piano Report

I would like to congratulate the following children on their recent musical achievements.

Haider Rafiq - who passed Grade One piano with good all round scores.  
Marie-Anne Shalaby and Lauren Ward - who both received very encouraging Reports in their Piano Prep Test examinations.

Well done to them all.

Mrs Pauline Hall



**Well done**

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Junior Swimming

Swimming after the holiday is for  
Year 4 commencing Monday 12th June  
and Year 6 commencing Thursday 15th June

Infant Swimming

Lessons will start w/c Monday 12th June  
Please help your child by ensuring school kit is worn including swim hats  
and all items including towels are named.

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## **Sports News**

### **TOPYA**

The Shrubbery School is the one and only primary school in the UK to be piloting the TOPYA app. Along with 9 senior schools The Shrubbery have been working with The Youth Sports Trust, School Games and TOPYA to find a way to engage with children outside of school to keep them active.

One student in particular, Verity Hull has taken the app by storm, she is the most active user out of the 10,000 currently using it in the UK and 9<sup>th</sup> in the whole world. Verity said "I have really enjoyed using the app and learning loads of new skills while staying active". The TOPYA Active app was developed by TalentKode with a mission to inspire all kids to have fun developing a healthy, life-long talent and passion in any sport or physical activity, at any time...anywhere in the world.

Michael Griffin, Head of PE and Sport, at The Shrubbery School applied to pilot the scheme through the schools partnership with the Youth Sports Trust. Michael said, "We saw this opportunity as a chance to embrace technology at a time when people are blaming it for inactivity within children". The school has a real passion for physical activity and sport and believe the mental and social benefits of this are really important in a child's development.

Verity has now set her sights on becoming the number one user in the world as she continues to accept new challenges and skills.

### **YST Conference**

With the Shrubbery School being the only primary school in the U.K. to be piloting the Level 'O' TOPYA program Mr Griffin was asked to present at the Youth Sports Trust and Your School Games conference in Worcester. The 200 attending school games organisers were very impressed with the engagement of the children in the school and found the findings of the pilot so far really interesting.

### **PE CatalYST School**

We at The Shrubbery School have been recruited as one of The Youth Sports Trusts PE CatalYST schools. A Catalyst School has a PE Practitioner who is able to advocate the impact of physical education on young people and drive such an important core subject within the school curriculum. We are very proud of the achievement and hope we can continue to develop Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport here at the school.

### **Level 1 and 2 Bikeability**

We have, once again, ran the Level 1 and 2 Bikeability programs for Year 4 and 6. As in previous years, many of the children found it a real challenge but it was great to see so many develop their cycling skills over the period of tuition. We now have a whole school program for cycling development with Balance Bike Training taking place in Reception, Level 1 in Year 4 and Level 2 in Year 6. If you wish for your child to progress further you may ask your child's senior school if they offer the Level 3 qualification when that time comes.

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## Golden Mile

The Golden Mile is a safe, simple and measurable health and physical activity initiative accessible to all age groups regardless of ability. We are aiming to inspire and encourage participants with a focus on fun, rewarding personal achievement and creating healthy competition.

Lily Coxon and Charlotte Bricknell have been trained up by Paul Langford from Premier Sports and The Golden Mile team to be ambassadors for the school. Lily and Charlottes role is to run and monitor the children's achievements within the Golden Mile.

We are very lucky to have the opportunity within the school, Year 6 have started using the Golden Mile once a day for 7 minutes and we hope to develop this further down the school as the program develops.

The aim for the children is to complete as many laps as they can in the 7 minutes, each lap is 200m. All the laps are totalled up each time the child completes the run and when they reach certain milestones like 10m and 15 miles they will receive some great prizes. Please keep checking our twitter feed to see how many miles you child has achieved.

## Cricket News

Warwickshire cricket very kindly offered us a free opportunity of an assembly and two free taster sessions for year 1 and year 2 to experience the all new All Stars Cricket. The feedback we received from the children and teachers was excellent and so far we know of 5 children who have signed up to the program.

### **Y5 & Y6 Warwickshire Cricket Tournaments**

We went to the Warwickshire Cricket tournaments once again this year. The year 5 boys tournament was held at Sutton Cricket Club and the Year 6 Boys was held at Four Oaks Saints. We are still awaiting the details for the rear-ranged Girls Tournament that was due to be played at Walmley Cricket Club. This is always a fantastic event for the children and we were really lucky that we were able to take every boy in Year 5 and year 6 to enjoy the event. Everyone involved showed some fantastic skills and were an honour to the school.



## All Stars Cricket

All Stars Cricket is a brand-new initiative from the England and Wales Cricket Board aimed at providing children aged five to eight with a great first experience in cricket.

Programme features:

- For all children aged five to eight
  - Delivered nationwide at over 1,800 centres
  - Eight one-hour sessions, held over eight weeks
  - Emphasis on fun and being active
  - Focus on developing your child's movement skills
  - Great first introduction to cricket
  - Safe and fully accredited
  - Valuable time with your kids - mums and dads are encouraged to take part too
- Easy online registration

Every child that registers will receive a backpack full of goodies including a cricket bat, ball, water bottle, personalised shirt and cap all sent straight to your door.



## Healthy Schools

We have signed up with Healthy Schools to continue to raise attainment and achievement by continuing to improve the health and wellbeing of our pupils. We will be using the online schools health check tool to educate our pupils in the following...

- Physical Activity, Physical Education and Sport
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)
- Citizenship, Participation and Sustainability
- School Food, Nutrition and Cooking
- Pupil Voice
- PSHE, including relationship education and drugs, alcohol and tobacco education

Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport is now becoming a really powerful tool to whole child development and we believe that this further development will have a hugely positive impact on our pupils.

### Y6 Boys Rounders - May 21st

The boys rounders is always a fiercely competitive competition. We have historically done really well and this year was no different. We ended up finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> after losing to the eventual champions Deanery in the semi finals. We were very unlucky not to progress to the final after drawing 5.5 to 5.5 after 20 balls and had to go into a 3 ball shootout where Deanery beat us by half a rounder!

### Y5/6 Tennis

The WSAS Tennis tournament was once again held at Sutton Coldfield Hardcourt Tennis Club. We entered 3 teams for both boys and girls. The standard of Tennis on show was just brilliant and our B team went on to play in the finals eventually finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to St Nicholas.



### Y3/4 Tennis

Unfortunately the Y3/4 tennis had to be postponed half way through the event due to heavy rain. The children were a credit as they continued to play and didn't complain about the weather once. Hopefully the event will be rearranged for later in the year.

### Walmley Golf Academy Training

We have formed an excellent relationship with Walmley Golf Club and Golf Academy in which we receive Golf training each year. Sam Stuart who is the Head PGA Teaching professional for the club is delivering 4 sessions to Year 4 this term in preparation for the Your School Games Tri Golf Festival later in the year.

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### Speech and Drama

Congratulations to all the children who took LAMDA exams at the end of last term.

I am pleased to report some excellent results.

Children in Key Stage 1 achieved 22 Distinctions and 8 Merits between them. Special mention to Tayesha David and Tanisha Dey Krishnan from Year 2 who achieved an incredibly high 97 and 98 marks respectively.

Key Stage 2 children also did extremely well with 32 Distinctions and 27 Merits from a tough examiner! Special mention also to Mwansa John (Y3) and Samra Basha (Y4) who achieved an outstanding 93 and 94 marks.

Congratulations to Year 6 who took group acting exams. Each of the three groups performed an extract from a play. They collected 2 Distinctions and 1 High Merit between them and some very pleasing comments from the Examiner. Well done!

Preparations are underway for the end of year showcases. These will be held in the school hall on 12<sup>th</sup> July (Y5/6) 13<sup>th</sup> July (Y3/4) and 14<sup>th</sup> July (Y1/2) Letters have been sent out. If you have not already returned your slip and ticket request please can you do so after half term.

All children must make sure they have practised and learnt their words over half term. Any queries do not hesitate to contact me.

If your child is not already on the waiting list and would like to start lessons in September please contact the school office.

Have a good break  
Jane Pryer-Smith



## Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th June	Back to school
Tuesday 13th June	Nursery Trip to The Botanical Gardens
Wednesday 14th June	Y2 Trip to Plantasia
Friday 16th June	Year 4 Golf
Tuesday 20th June	Y1 Trip to The Museum of Cannock Chase
Wednesday 21st June	Area Sports (Junior Athletic Team)
Thursday 22nd June	Infant Sports Day 9.30am
Friday 23rd June	Junior Sports Day 9.30am
Wednesday 28th June	Year 4 Maths Challenge Team at KES
Friday 30th June	Chess Team at Severne Primary Tournament
Monday 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Day
Tuesday 4th July	Junior Meet The Teacher Evening (parents only)
Wednesday 5th July	Year 4 Sea Life Centre Trip
Wednesday 5th July	Infant Meet The Teacher Evening (parents only)
Thursday 6th July	Children move up to meet new teachers 11am
Sunday 9th July	Run4School
Friday 7th July	Reports out to Parents
Monday 10th/ Tues 11th July	Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 12th July	Last Chess after school
w/c Monday 10th July	Nursery Open Mornings (existing parents)
Wednesday 12th July	Speech and Drama Showcase Y5/Y6 6.30pm
Thursday 13th July	Speech and Drama Showcase Y3/Y4 6.30pm
Friday 14th July	Speech and Drama Showcase Y1/Y2
Thursday 13th July	Last extra tuition for Year 5
Wednesday 19th July	Year 6 Leavers Production
Thursday 20th July	Break up and Effort Assembly
Thursday 20th July	Break up and Effort Assembly