

Dear Parents and Carers

Monday 20th September 2021

Thank you to all parents and carers who have joined us in school at the Meet The Teacher sessions, and we look forward to welcoming the family members of our younger children over the next fortnight. Hopefully, the sessions are useful to find out what your child will be learning in school over the coming year, what the government expectations are for key year groups and the kind of support you can give at home to help your child make maximum progress after the disruptions to their education caused by the pandemic.

Go Read

This school year our Home Reading Records are digital and accessible online. This is an exciting step for us as a school, as the record will stay with your child to document their reading journey throughout their whole time at Sharlston. Go Read is an award winning App, which parents in other schools have rated highly for its ease of use, and we hope all our parents will also find it a useful and easy way to record reading at home. In school, older children will be shown how to log in to their Go Read Record at home, log what, and when, they have read at home and also how to write a short review of what they have read. Reading, completing books and writing reviews all reward children with gems too. Go Read can be used to record any reading done at home, not just school books, as we encourage children to read as widely as possible; even reading comics and magazines counts! Parents will receive letters personalised to their child, with details of what to do to get the app, and both a school code (07218), and a unique pin code just for their child. The app can be downloaded free from both Apple App store, or Google Play. Just search for Go Read and it is part of the Go Apps group. The App works on any internet enabled device such as laptops, computers, mobiles or tablets.



Information for parents explaining what to do and how the app works, can be found on the video on the GoRead website <https://go-read.co.uk/parents>. We will also provide support for any parents who may require help to get this set up. Over the next couple of weeks we will ask parents about how we can best offer support so that every family is using Go Read to record and celebrate home reading. Once you receive your letter, and have set up your own account to link to your child's Reading log, school is keen for you to start logging your child's home reading journey straightaway, and hopefully they will be eager to start to earn points as they read.

Electric Scooters

Following some enquiries regarding the use of electric scooters as transport to school, we would like to draw your attention to the following statement from the "Ask the Police" website (www.askthe.police.uk)

"Electric scooters/bikes, quads, go-peds, mini-motos, hoverboards and Segways are all examples of vehicles that cannot legally be used on the pavement or on public roads; in fact the only place they can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission."

For safeguarding reasons, as the use of electric scooters is therefore illegal on the pavements and roads around the school grounds, the school requests that children not be allowed to use these as a way to get to and from school.

Water Bottles

A wonderfully high number of children are now bringing water to drink throughout the school day, which provides them with lots of health benefits. The Hydration Award stickers have definitely encouraged more children to have a go at trying water instead of juice – and for those that are still reluctant, a small slice of orange or lemon could be added to their water bottles to add a little flavour, which is kinder to children’s teeth than sipping juice throughout the day.

School Uniform

Thank you for sending your children so smartly dressed, in line with our school uniform policy (found on our website here <https://sharlstonschool.org/uniform/>). It is vital that all clothing and items brought into school are named, as it is virtually impossible to locate missing items, or return lost property, if not named. Children naturally take off their jumpers in class when it is warm and, despite staff reminding them to place items on their pegs, jumpers easily end up on another child’s peg or chair. If items are named, it is easy for us to find them. All unnamed items are placed in our lost property bin, which parents can access this via the school office. Already there are several, hardly worn jumpers with no names in, so please ask at the office if your child is missing anything.

Breakfast Club Reminder

Our new Breakfast Club has now started and places can be pre-booked by completing the form on our website: www.sharlstonschool.org and sending to SCSbreakfastclub@watertonacademytrust.org Places cost £2.50 per session and children can be handed over to the adult at the main office from 7:45 am. Payment can be made by cash or Parentmail daily, or by the end of each week (regular non payment will end up in places being refused, in line with our Breakfast Club Policy). Fees can also be paid in advance for the half term. The club is based in our large hall where the two supervising adults serve the children with a choice of healthy breakfast foods/drinks and then provide them with a range of games and activities until school begins.

Children’s University

Our children in Year 5 are invited to join a trial that school have signed up to with the Children’s University. If you have a child in Year 5 then please look out for a Parentmail which will give you more information, and a link to a short survey to give permission for your child to take part.

Sharlston Scarecrow Trail

You may have noticed our school Scarecrow in the KS1 shelter. We are delighted to be taking part in the village Scarecrow Trail this year, organised by Sharlston Together, which runs until the 2nd October. Maps for the trail can be purchased for £1 from Polly’s Mixtures, Becky’s Sandwich Hut and The White Horse Pub. You can have a go at solving the Scarecrow’s Secret and return your form to be entered into a prize draw, and also vote on facebook for your favourite scarecrow! They are popping up all over the village!

Please let us know if there is anything we can improve in school. Mrs Murray (Deputy head) and I are usually on the playground most days for a chat, and are also contactable via a phone call. Support staff and class teachers may not always be available before school due to lessons starting straightaway. However, they are usually available after school, or you could ring the school office and they will call you back at a mutually convenient time. Our aim is to work together with all our parents to make Sharlston School the best place for your children to learn.

Kind regards

Mrs Dunderdale

Mrs J Dunderdale
Headteacher