



Sheldwich Primary School

Little Hedgehogs Pre-School



No. 10

www.sheldwich.kent.sch.uk

E-Mail office@sheldwich.kent.sch.uk

30TH January 2026

Important Messages

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We are reaching out to any parents who can spare a little of their time to prepare for pre-loved uniform sales by sorting and hanging garments on hangers and then opening the shed for 20 minutes or so at pick up time (something like 3.15pm to 3.35pm) for parents to look and purchase items. These sales ideally take place a couple of times each term on any day of the week that suits our volunteers.



Perhaps you have been unable to help at the big events that the PTFA organise but feel you could give a little time at the end of a school day, please let us know. Ideally, a few helpers would be great so that a rota could be organised. Every moment volunteered really does help! So if you can offer any of your free time, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Lastly, thank you for donating second hand uniform - please bring items to the school office at any time.

Many thanks,
Mrs Garrett

Trustees' AGM

On behalf of the Members and Board of Trustees of Sheldwich Primary School, I would like to invite you to their AGM on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 4.00pm at the school.

This is normally a short meeting and the agenda will be as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Audited Accounts and Annual Report
3. Q&A session
4. Re-appointment of auditors
5. AOB

The Annual Report and Accounts are available to view on the school website at <https://www.sheldwich.kent.sch.uk/annual-accounts-and-trustees-report/>.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Garrett

100 Club

Congratulations to this month's 100 Club winners:- Mr Mathur, Ms Clarke and Mrs Roberts-Lee.

Roadworks

There will be four way traffic lights at the Lees Court Road/A251 junction from Tuesday 3rd at 9.30am to Thursday 5th February until 2.30pm. We anticipate delays and queues of traffic. Please allow extra time for your journeys to and from school. Perhaps car share where possible. The registers will be kept open for longer to allow for the anticipated delays. The 666 bus to Faversham may not run according to schedule, please consider alternatives for your children this week.

Sheldwich Has a Special Visitor

On Monday 26th January the school was very lucky to be visited by a beautiful Barnacle Goose. He landed in the staff car park just after 9am, it was as though he was waiting for the children to be in school. As he wandered closer to the office window, staff named the handsome fowl 'Barney'. Wild Barnacle Geese only visit the UK in autumn and winter,



migrating from Greenland and Svalbard to spend the colder months on coastal wetlands and estuaries in Scotland, northern England and Ireland. Feral birds can be seen year-round, nesting on gravel pits and lakes. We are not sure why he landed but we were concerned as he was only able to fly high enough to get over the fence to Forest School! There he stayed for most of the day oblivious to the children playing nearby on the playground. This was another red flag indicating that something was not right with our new friend. Through contacts at vets and Happy Endings we were put in contact with Columbines Wildlife Care in Teynham. They sent Mark who came out within 45 minutes. He donned a mask and gloves to protect against Avian Flu, which is widespread in Kent at the moment. Mark planned to herd Barney into a corner to catch him. However, the goose just allowed itself to be picked further signifying that something was amiss. As you can see in the photo, Barney allowed himself to be held and did not struggle at all. Mark confirmed that this was not normal behaviour though he was a good weight. Barney will be in quarantine for two weeks in case he has Avian Flu during which time he will be checked over and treated. The staff at school were relieved that he was going somewhere safe where he will be looked after and rehabilitated ready for release back to the wild.



This gorgeous Barnacle Goose was rescued by Mark from a local primary school today .

There are many legends and folklore as to how the Barnacle goose got its name . Having spotted this black and white goose as an adult without observing offspring our ancestors concluded that they once grew as Barnacles as they resembled their markings and could also be found drifting at sea 🌊

<https://www.countrylife.co.uk/nature/barnacle-geese-the-curious-tale-of-the-bird-which-people-believed-grew-on-trees-and-even-linnaeus-bought-into-the-legend-236035>



We are very grateful to Columbines Wildlife Care for coming out to rescue Barney. The school has made a donation to the charity to cover their call out costs. If you would like to as well, you can do so via their website <https://columbineswildlifecare.co.uk/>



This article is from Columbines' social media page which interestingly tells the story of how the geese got their name.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 3

Fri 6 th Feb	9.10am – Class R assembly for parents
Weds 11 th Feb	Classes 5 & 6 - Trip to Dreamland, Margate. 2pm - Little Hedgehogs Crafternoon Reverend Peter to visit Class 4
Thurs 12 th Feb	9.10am – Class 4 assembly for parents
Fri 13 th Feb	Last day of Term 3 Mid-year reports sent home

Term 4

Mon 23 rd Feb	Start of Term 4 Lent Assembly – Reverend Peter visiting R.E. Day Ramadan
Tues 25 th Feb	Book Week
w/c 2 nd March	World Book Day – dressing up day
Thurs 5 th Mar	Class 4 - Trip to Leeds Castle
Tues 10 th Mar	Chess tournament – Round 1
Fri 13 th Mar	2pm – Class R Mothers' Day tea SCARF wellbeing workshop Classes 1-4
Mon 16 th Mar	Class 5 – Trip to Chatham Dockyard 2pm – LH Crafternoon
Tues 17 th Mar	Class 3 – Trip to Kent Life
Fri 20 th Mar	9.10am – Class 3 assembly for parents
w/c Mon 23 rd Mar	Last week of clubs
Thurs 26 th Mar	Class 1 – Trip to the Gulbenkian Theatre
Fri 27 th Mar	9.10am – Class 5 assembly for parents
w/c 30 th Mar	Spring Walk Week
Tues 31 st Mar	Parents' evening
Weds 1 st Apr	Parents' evening
Thurs 2 nd Apr	9.30am - Easter service in church/Last day of Term 4

SPORTS NEWS

Sheldwich Enjoy an Afternoon of Badminton

Last Tuesday 12 keen and excited Year five children travelled to Canterbury Academy to take part in a skills-based badminton festival. It was a non-competitive event although there was time at the end to play some matches amongst each other and in some cases against some of the other schools taking part. There were six different challenges for the children to undertake, and it was clear that as the afternoon went on the level of skill shown increased while enthusiasm and smiles and laughter were present the entire time. Those taking part were: Tilly, Primrose, Phoebe, Dolly, Gretel, Eloise, Emily, Zaya, Joey, Rex, Ernie and Joe.



Mr Lee

CLASS NEWS

Little Hedgehogs



We continue to enjoy learning all about Space and Planets. **Last week** we enjoyed the story about Bob the Spaceman, decorated biscuits to look like the Earth, painted textured moons and counted planets. **This week** we have enjoyed the story of the Smeds and the Smoods. This led us to experiment with mixing colours, make pink smoothies and decorate rockets. We have all been amazed at how much Little Hedgehogs are learning and how knowledgeable they are.



Ways to support your child's learning at home:

1. Learn the rhyme of the week – good rhymers make great readers.
2. Share a story every night.

Shiny had an amazing time with Millie, what a lucky bear he is.

Happy Birthday to Arthur. We hope your birthdays are as lovely as you are.

Picture of the week: Arthur and George; Wow! You have been so creative; we love your use of colour.

Headteacher's Certificates: Sacha for exploring sounds with musical instruments. Ruger for using mathematical language in art and craft.

Hedgehogs Mrs Scott and team

Ladybirds

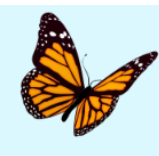


We have had such a fun week in Ladybirds class learning about The Smeds and The Smoos! We ended this learning with a fun Smeds and Smoos tea party with headbands. We made our own brown bread and tried green stew, black tea and pink milk. We have been busy practising some space songs for our Class Assembly next week – we hope to see

you there!

Mrs Minty

Butterflies



Butterflies are really enjoying their Houses and Homes topic, and it is great to hear about the different types of homes they see as they journey to school. We have been delving into the interiors of homes, and the children have been fascinated about how they have changed from the 1940s onwards. Next week we will be going further back in time and finding out about Victorian homes.

Please could each child bring a small/medium size box into school. A cube shaped tissue box/tea bag box would be ideal. Thank you!

Mrs Charman

Dragonflies



We are still feeling dino-tastic in Dragonflies Class! We have been writing a fact file about Mary Anning which we are currently publishing for our 'Big Write'. The class have been so engaged in their learning about the 'Mother of Palaeontology' and I am incredibly proud of the writing they are producing. In Art this week, we looked at 'L'Escargot' or 'the Snail' by Henri Matisse. We looked at the

similarities between the spiral shape of a snail's shell and the shape of ammonites, then we created colourful collages of ammonites inspired by Matisse's famous artwork. It was great fun and the collages are magnificent!

Mrs Waller

Squirrels



We have been having lots of fun this week mummifying each other, designing our Canopic jars and investigating different strength magnets. We have also been writing our own versions of Daedalus and Icarus for Big Writing in English. Thank you so much for all the bottles that have been sent in so far – if you have any spares or a bottle still needs to be brought in, could this be sent in ASAP so we can start making Canopic jars for our Egyptian topic. Also, The British Museum in London has an amazing Ancient Egypt exhibit which is well worth a visit!

Mrs Hammond

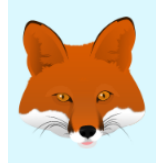
Otters



The children are throwing themselves into their learning about China over the last few weeks, highlights include using chopsticks, making our own version of the Great Wall of China using clay, designing our own calligraphy and doing our own Willow pattern paintings. The children have made amazing gymnastic routines and challenged themselves with a variety of roles and balances. It is brilliant to see each of them pushing themselves to their personal limit; they are also enjoying shooting hoops in basketball! In English, we have started the Firework-Maker's Daughter and the children are relishing the adventure tale.

Mrs Morrison and Mrs Tyler

Foxes



We finished this week with our fabulous Poetry Slam competition, whereby all the children performed, either on their own or in pairs, the poems which they had written and rehearsed in our English lessons. There were some fantastic and entertaining performances which Mrs Lay, Mr Grave and I found difficult to judge. Next in English, we will be learning all about the Titanic and writing diary entries as if

we were on board.

We are also looking forward to starting our Forest School sessions with Ms Caverly which will take place in small groups on Tuesday and Thursday mornings until the end of the term. In Topic, we created pieces of art which showed theme park or fairground rides in motion using a few different techniques and we made flip books about extreme sports!

Mrs Fairs

Badgers



We have had an exciting few weeks in Class 6. Last Tuesday, we were trying to measure and graph the effects of exercise on our own hearts. Either we need to get better at reading our pulses or some of the children have quite superhuman hearts! This week in Science, we examined some lambs' hearts. We felt the weight of them and identified the different blood vessels, before slicing them open to see inside the four chambers and find the valves between the atria and the ventricles. The children were surprising unsqueamish about the whole thing and everyone joined in in some way. In English, having finished our short, scary stories, we are going to be writing balanced argument texts. To get us in the mood, we spent Friday afternoon preparing for some debates which will be held next week. The children proposed the debate topics themselves and we allocated them randomly, so they may be arguing for something they do not agree with.

Mr Burns



AWARDS



Friday 23rd January

<u>Class</u>	<u>Headteacher Awards</u>	<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>
Little		
Hedgehogs	Sacha	
Ladybirds	Pearl and Mia	Isaac
Class 1	Aiden and Polly	Hugo
Class 2	Amelia and Thomas	Lizzie
Class 3	Nala and Joshua	Olivia
Class 4	Rory and Luca	William
Class 5	Roisin and Ernest	Matilda
Class 6	George and Tom	Josh
<u>Weekly Awards</u>		
Class of the week: Dragonflies		Pupil: Anastasia (2)
Extended Schools: Eli (1)		Lunchtime: Broden (1)
Presentation: Otters		Citizen: Katrina, Phoebe and Ava (5)
LSA: Lotty (6)		Attendance Award: Foxes 99%

Friday 30th January

<u>Class</u>	<u>Headteacher Awards</u>	<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>
Little		
Hedgehogs	Ruger	
Ladybirds	Rosalie and George	Noah
Class 1	Taylor and Jasper	Harmony
Class 2	Elsie and Anastasia	Jake
Class 3	Dylan and Edward	Freddy
Class 4	Jacob and Harper	Flora
Class 5	Amelia and Joe	Dexter
Class 6	Eddie and Luke	Hannah

Weekly Awards

Class of the week: Foxes	Pupil: Luke (6)
Extended Schools: Sylvester and Ellis (6)	Lunchtime: George(R)
Presentation: Hugo (1)	LSA award: Margot (6)
Citizen: Theo (1)	Attendance Award: Otters 98%

FAVERSHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

As we are sure you are aware the Faversham Literary Festival is taking place between February 20th and March 1st. We have 10 pairs of tickets to give away for children's author M.G. Leonard's talk on Friday 20th February 1pm – 2pm at the Old Brewery Store. www.mgleonard.com

If you are available on that date and would like a pair of tickets, please email the office to state your interest. We will draw names out of a hat to choose who gets them.