



Friday 1st March 2019

Attendance Target: 98%

Actual Attendance: 97%

### Message from Denise Cottam

It is the end of an era, as today we say goodbye to Julie Coulter, our Office Manager. She has been with the school for over 10 years and has supported me when I became the new Head Teacher, in the transition to the new school, in the expansion of the school and with the issues in the Autumn term. Her professionalism and relationship with the Shortstown Community has not gone unrecognised. She leaves us for a totally new role and we wish her every success. We have interviewed for the position and Siobhan Cook was successful.

I know, through the training she has received, she will continue to ensure the office is a welcoming Reception area for all of our visitors and community members. I know you will support her in her new role.

We will be appointing a new Receptionist, Admin Assistant, the advert will be released next week.

There will also be adverts, in the press, next week, for Class Teacher positions. We were fortunate to appoint staff, to work with us, in January. Unfortunately, they will not all be able to stay with us on a permanent basis. We are starting the recruitment process early, to give us time to find the best practitioners for a September start.

**Reminder:** Please do not pack nuts or nut products in the children's packed lunch boxes. We have a number of children and staff with allergies. Thank you.

We are hosting the Level 1 award in an introduction to Early Years Settings. The enrolment takes place here on Wednesday 6th March at 9.30am. The course will run weekly, from 9.15am—3pm, for 9 sessions starting on the Thursday 7th March. For more information, please contact 01234 228847 or email [trainhelp@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:trainhelp@bedford.gov.uk). The course is free if receiving means tested benefits (evidence will be needed) or £155 for learners aged 19 years and above. It is a fun, friendly course and a great opportunity to gain a recognised childcare qualification.

The Friends of St Mary's are putting on a show called 'Cardington's Got Talent' at Cardington Village Hall at 2pm, suitable roughly for over 7's. Tickets sold at the door. Why not go along and have a family afternoon out?

Have a great weekend  
Onwards and Upwards

### IMPORTANT: MOMO Challenge Advice for Parents

*We have recently been sent some information by our E-safety Adviser-*

Currently there is some distressing information going around about the Momo challenge. This challenge, which encourages people to perform dangerous tasks or self harm, has been around for some time (July 2018) and it is nasty and frightening for children if they come across it. The logo used is a scary white face with black eyes. Recently there have been rumours spread around that it is appearing unexpectedly inside social media and You Tube and Fortnite.

**THIS IS A HOAX.** There is no evidence of this ever having happened. It is simply a sensationalised, scary rumour that has spiralled out of control online around the world and the media itself has probably perpetuated the myth. At school today we have advised pupils to tell a parent/carer if they come across it and that nothing nasty will happen to them for ignoring it. The same goes for the recent spate of 'chain mail' style texts that have been going around Bedfordshire.

For further information, please see this website:

<https://www.thatsnonsense.com/is-the-momo-challenge-real-or-an-online-hoax-fact-check/>

### Diary Dates

Monday 4th March—Red Noses on sale at Y2 Rainbow Doors from 3.20pm (£1.25 each)

Thursday 7th March—World Book Day—Parents can read with children 9.00am—9.30am & 3.00pm—3.20pm

Friday 8th March—World Book Day—Parents can read with children 9.00am—9.30am & 3.00pm—3.20pm

Friday 8th March—World Book Day—Children can come to school dressed as book characters—£1 contribution

Thursday 14th March—Last day for Clothing Collection - Any unwanted clothes in bags to school

Monday 18th March—Y1—Y5 Interim Reports to parents (excluding Y3T)

Tuesday 19th March—Y1-Y5 Parent Meetings 1.30pm—6.30pm (excluding Y3T)

Thursday 21st March—Y1-Y5 Parent Meetings 3.30pm—5.00pm (excluding Y3T)

### School Mission Statement

Shortstown is an inclusive school which has a positive impact on children's life long learning and achievement, through high expectations, in a creative and motivating environment.