

10.07.26

SHAFTESBURY NEWS

www.shaftesbury.leicester.sch.uk



CHARACTER VALUE OF THE WEEK: PERSEVERANCE

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." — Maya Angelou

School will be closed for the summer break from **Monday 13th July to Tuesday 25th August 2026**. School will re-open on **Wednesday 26th August 2026**.

As another school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part in making it such a successful one.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. The positive relationships we share are invaluable and help us to provide the very best for our children. I would also like to thank you for the many kind cards, gifts and messages of appreciation to our staff in recent weeks. Your thoughtfulness means a great deal and is always deeply appreciated.

To our wonderful staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment, care and hard work, even during multiple heatwaves. Your dedication makes a real difference, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together this year.

As we head into the summer break, I hope you all have the opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy precious time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year, ready for another exciting chapter as we continue to live our school motto: **'We care, we share, for the future we prepare.'**

A Fond Farewell to Our Wonderful Year 6 Pupils

It's time to say goodbye to our lovely Year 6 children. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for all they have achieved during their time at Shaftesbury. We wish them every success and happiness in this exciting new chapter. They will be dearly missed by everyone in our school.



STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to welcome three members of staff who will be joining us in the autumn term. **Miss Rowe, Miss Sweeney and Miss Wale-Ajayi** will all be starting as teaching assistants at Shaftesbury. We wish them all the very best as they settle into their new roles.

Today, we also say farewell to **Mr Tom Bamford**, who has been working at Shaftesbury as a teaching assistant for a year. A big thank you to Mr Bamford for supporting the pupils in Year 5. Wishing him all the very best for the future.

UNWANTED UNIFORM ITEMS

Parents/Carers, if you have any school uniform items in good condition that your child no longer needs, we would be very grateful if you would consider donating them to the school. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

Holiday activities and food programme

The HAF programme offer is now live on families.leicester.gov.uk/haf for summer 2026. This will be available for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Please see the offer list by following this link [HAF summer offer list](#). Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

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Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the **Great British Summer Savings** scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, an attraction finder website has been launched which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

WEEKLY AWARDS AND ATTENDANCE

TABLE OF AWESOMENESS

Children who have shown our character values and received a lunchtime award had their name drawn out of a box to have lunch on the 'table of awesomeness' as a reward.

The following children had their name drawn:

Freya 4K, Etienne 4K, Seth 3J, Zaid 3T, Blessed 4K, Edward 5G, Komail 5G, Oliver 5G

Well done to all!



CLASS ATTENDANCE

3J:	92.4%
3T:	93.3%
4K:	94.7%
4W:	98.6%
5G:	97.1%
5P:	98.6%
6P:	96.8%
6S:	96.3%

Overall Attendance from
28.08.25 - 10.07.26:
96.3%

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Attendance & Punctuality

Parents and carers are required by law to ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education. This means that you are responsible for ensuring that your child attends and stays at school.

We have to keep accurate daily registers of each pupil's attendance by law. If your child is away from school, the absence can be "authorised" or "unauthorised" and the school will decide whether the reason for absence is acceptable. If your child is unable to attend school, please inform us as soon as possible, preferably before 9.00am, by telephone or email, stating the reason for the absence. An automated answering service is available for reporting absences.

Telephone: 0116 254 9203

Email: office@shaftesbury.leicester.sch.uk

Please ensure that your child is on time for school, as late children can disrupt the start of the school day. **The school day begins at 8.40am. School finishes at 3.10pm.**

There will be a member of staff on duty from 3.10pm to 3.20pm.

Penalty Notice Fines for School Absence

Fines are issued in line with the National Framework for Penalty Notices.

This poster explains when a fine can be issued for unauthorised absence that occurs from August 2025 onwards. Fines issued for absence that happened from August 2024 onwards count towards the escalation process.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in **each** parent receiving 3 **separate** fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for:

- term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days
- or 4 days where the absence immediately precedes/includes a 5th day which is a school closure day (e.g. school holiday / INSET / enforced closure) or **any** form of absence
- or for fewer days where this has happened before

10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. (No option to pay at £80 level)

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will usually proceed to the Magistrates' court. Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate and may impact on **job applications and travel abroad**.

Court prosecutions: Penalty Notices will not automatically be issued. Parents are advised that where the LA considers that a Penalty Notice is not appropriate due to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken.

By law, all Penalty Notice payments go to the local authority and not to schools.

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Urgent Action Required: Free School Meals is changing – check your eligibility from today!

From Monday 1 June 2026, the government has changed the free school meals system. More families than ever before will now qualify for free school lunches. Because the rules are changing, all existing transitional protections are ending. **This means that every family must be re-checked before the new school year starts. If you do not complete this check, your child's free school meals may stop in the autumn term 2026.** Please click the secure link below to complete an online application.

[Free school meals | Leicester City Council](#)

What you will need: Your national insurance number (or national asylum support service number), your date of birth, your legal name.

From Monday 1 June 2026, children in households in receipt of universal credit, with annual household earnings above £7,400 would be entitled to 'expanded' free school meals. If your child was previously refused free school meals, you can apply again. Children who qualify under this expanded eligibility will receive free school meals from autumn term 2026.

KING RICHARD III INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL AND SHAFTESBURY JUNIOR SCHOOL SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

AUTUMN TERM

Schools Open: Wednesday morning 26th August 2026

August Bank Holiday: Monday 31st August 2026

Schools Close: Friday evening 16th October 2026

Mid-Term Break: Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October

Schools Open: Monday morning 26th October 2026

Schools Close: Friday evening 18th December 2026

Christmas Break: Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January

SPRING TERM

Schools Open: Tuesday morning 5th January 2027

Schools Close: Friday evening 12th February 2027

Mid-Term Break: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

Schools Open: Monday morning 22nd February 2027

Schools Close: Friday evening 19th March 2027

Easter Break: Monday 22nd March to Friday 2nd April

SUMMER TERM

Schools Open: Monday morning 5th April 2027

May Day Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Schools Close: Friday evening 28th May 2027

Mid-Term Break: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Schools Open: Monday morning 7th June 2027

Schools Close: Friday evening 9th July 2027