



Welcome to Shire Services' Spring Term 2017 Newsletter. We hope you enjoyed the holidays and are back into the swing of things.

In this issue we will tell you about our upcoming conference, a report on how our new online pre-order and payment system is progressing, uptake figures for the Autumn Term and details of upcoming promotions.

First though, information regarding our conference...

SHIRE SERVICES CONFERENCE

Shire Services are holding a catering, cleaning and facilities conference on the 24th May 2017 at Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

This conference will allow you to come and meet us and our suppliers in order to see what goes on behind the scenes and further explore the catering and cleaning industries.

There will be an exhibition, guest speakers and live cooking as we demonstrate some of the development work that we do in order to come up with new concepts and ideas to continually improve the service we offer you.

We have begun sending out save the date cards (right) to Head teachers so hopefully you will receive these very soon if you haven't already.

The conference begins at 9.30am and we have the following speakers lined up with more lined up subject to confirmation:

- Janette Orrey MBE – Children's Food Campaigner. Awarded an MBE in 2012 for her services to food in schools.
- Jenny Pritchard – Head teacher at Muxton Primary School where the school dinner service holds the Soil Association's Gold Food For Life Catering Mark award.
- Public Protection who will talk about kitchen maintenance and Food Safety.

For more information, please contact Susan Vuli (susan.vuli@shropshire.gov.uk) or visit our new [website](#).



REVALUATION MACHINES

A **new 12 sided £1 coin** is due to enter circulation in March this year. At the end of October 2017 the current £1 coin will no longer be legal tender. This will impact on the revaluation machines at your school if you use these. Generally speaking, revaluation machines are owned by the school. In this instance it is the responsibility of the school to update the machines with their supplier so they can accept the new £1 coin. Please also note that after the [5th May 2017](#), the **old £5 paper note** will cease to be legal tender. This also impacts on the revaluation machine and they should be updated to accept the new £5 polymer note.

SCHOOL MEALS ICT PROJECT

In January, we installed our new online pre-order and payment system in six schools across the county.

The feedback, on the whole, has been very positive. As anticipated, there were some teething issues at a few schools. However, the reasons were identified quickly and the problems fixed. The system is now working as it should at all sites and feedback from school office staff has been very positive as there is no more money to count!

Shire Services are attending the Primary Administrators Conference on the 8th and 16th March. **We will also be circulating a frequently asked Q&A sheet shortly as well as canvassing for schools to go live in April.** If you want more information on this please contact Jon Hart on 01743 250294 or jon.hart@shropshire.gov.uk



GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES

In our last newsletter we informed you of the opportunity to get involved with a potato growing project in conjunction with the [Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board UK](#).

It is an opportunity for your school to grow your own potatoes for free as the kit and potatoes (top left) are provided by the project; all the school will need is a shovel and soil!

Registration is still open! Please click on the image (bottom left) to be taken to the website where there is a wide range of curriculum based resources available

We will hold theme days for planting with a potato themed menu. Upon harvest towards the end of June 2017, we will hold another theme day using the potatoes grown at your school as ingredients. There will be prizes and fun activities including the biggest potato yield competition! We think this is a great opportunity for our Cooks

to be involved within your school. To be involved in the project we will need the school to register on the website.



SCHOOL MEAL UPTAKE – AUTUMN 2016

Below is a table showing the schools with the highest uptake figures for the autumn 2016 term:

Primary	%	Infant/First	%	Middle/Secondary	%
Lydbury North	87	Batchley First	99	The Community College	71
Claverley CE Primary	81	Ludlow Infant	98	Belvidere School	69
St John's RC - Bridgnorth	80	Sundorne Infant	97	Church Stretton School	66
St George's Clun	80	Woodfield Infant	91	The Chantry School	63
Blakedown CE Primary	79	Himbleton First	88	Lakelands Academy	62
King Charles Primary	79				
Newtown CE Primary	77				
Bishop Hooper CE Primary	77				
Bicton CE Primary	77				
Minsterley Primary	76				

If you would like to know your school's uptake figure in relation to this table, then please contact jon.hart@shropshire.gov.uk

COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Name: Delia Dawson

Job Title: Cook-in-Charge

What do you enjoy about working for Shire Services?

The job satisfaction I get from interacting with the children, working in a nice environment and with a great team.

Have you ever travelled somewhere interesting?

The Great Barrier Reef, Australia.



Name your favourite food and drink?

I love Italian food accompanied with a bottle of white wine!

If you were stranded on a desert island and you were allowed to take two things with you, what would you take?

A good book and plenty of chocolate.

What makes you laugh?

My three young grandchildren and people with a good sense of humour.

What's your favourite time of year?

Summer, with the light mornings, light nights, long days and warmer weather!

SCHOOL MEAL NEWS

REMINDER: please remember to encourage parents to register for free school meals even if their children are in Key Stage 1 and therefore entitled to universal infant free school meals. This is to ensure your school does not miss out on the pupil premium funding that comes with students who are eligible for free school meals.



The government has launched an action plan to tackle childhood obesity. This is because data shows that nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are overweight. One action point listed will be to introduce a soft drinks industry levy (aimed directly at producers rather than consumers). The income generated from this levy, which will be introduced in two years, will be invested back into the PE and sport premium for primary schools to help improve the quality of PE and sport available. Please click on [Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action](#) for more information.

PROMOTIONS

There are some special menus and themed events taking place this half-term for you to look forward to. There is a promotion Pancake Day coming soon as well as a special menu for Mother's Day. If you are unaware of these theme days or have any concerns please contact your Area Supervisor. Below is our annual promotions calendar that we run in our primary schools.

Primary School Theme Days

September	October	November	December	January	February
March	April	May	June	July	August

BLUEBELLS CAFÉ



Our café at the Food Enterprise Centre had a new menu in September 2016. If you are ever in Shrewsbury and would like to join us for something to eat, please pop in. Please click on the image below to be redirected to a larger menu:

Shire Services
 Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre
 Battlefield Enterprise Park
 Vanguard Way
 Shrewsbury
 Shropshire
 SY1 3TG

Catering Helpline: 01743 250260
Cleaning Helpline: 01743 250270
General Enquires: 01743 250250

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER AT THE COUNTER TO EAT IN - OR TAKE AWAY		BAGUETTES & SANDWICHES		BOWL OF CHIPS OR HAND CUT WEDGES	
See our Specials Board		Served with crisps and salad garnish		£2.50	
ALL DAY BREAKFAST		SANDWICHES		£4.00	
Bacon, Egg, Sausage, Hash Brown, Baked Beans, Mushrooms, Tomato & Toast £6.50		BAGUETTES		£4.50	
Bacon Sandwich/Pop £3.50		FILLINGS		Tuna Mayonnaise	
Sausage Sandwich/Pop £3.50		Tuna & Tomato		Wishire Ham	
Scrambled Egg on Toast £3.75		Coronation Chicken		Tuna & Red Onion Marmalade	
Baked Beans on Toast £3.50		Marmalade		Cappuccino Regular £2.00 Large £2.50	
Toast (2 Slices) £1.60		HOT DISHES		Americano Regular £1.90 Large £2.50	
Extra Items each 50p		Served with peas or baked beans with bread & butter		Café Latte Regular £2.00 Large £2.80	
OPEN DELI SANDWICHES		SCAMPI & CHIPS		Mocha £2.80	
Served with hand cut wedges, coleslaw and salad garnish £7.00		Served with rice or chips & a poppadum		Espresso £1.80	
SHROPSHIRE DELI		with bread & butter		Syrap Shot 50p	
Filet Steak, Red Onion Marmalade & Shropshire Blue Cheese		CHICKEN OR VEGETABLE CURRY		TEA	
DEEP SOUTH		Served with rice or chips & a poppadum		Pot of Tea for one £1.50	
BBQ Pulled Pork		£6.00		Mug of Tea £1.40	
TUNA MELT		HOT CHOCOLATE		Bluebells Hot Chocolate with Whipped Cream £2.60	
Tuna & Belton Cheddar Cheese		Bluebells Hot Chocolate Regular Hot Chocolate £2.40		Syrap Shot 50p	
MEDITERRANEAN DELI (v)		£6.00			
Roasted Peppers, Courgettes, Tomatoes, Mushrooms & Mozzarella Cheese					

NEW WEBSITE

Shire Services has recently launched a new website! Please visit our [new website](#) and have a look at the wide range of services we can deliver to your school.

- School meals
- Cleaning solutions
- Facilities Management

RECRUITMENT

We still have plenty of jobs and career opportunities across both catering and cleaning services.

Some schools have helped by texting details of vacancies to parents using their own contact database.

Where this has happened we have been surprised by the number of enquires we had – which was a lot! Please talk to your Area Supervisor if you think this could help fill vacancies in your school.

All our vacancies are listed on our website:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/shire-services/shire-services-job-vacancies/>

Please share this link within your local community either through your school website or parent newsletter to help us with our recruitment.

