

Dear Parents

Friday 1st March 2019

Applying for a place in Nursery for September 2019

If your child was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, you can apply for a place for Nursery.

Applications are open and close on Friday 15th March 2019

Please apply directly to our school at:

<http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk/admissions/four-year-old-nursery-admissions.html>

If you would like to come and look round our Nursery, we are holding a tour at 9.30am on 5th March - please call the school office to book a place.

Attendance & Punctuality



The school day starts at 8.50 for children in Years 1-6 and 8.55am for children in Nursery and Reception – please make sure your children are on time for school every day. Congratulations to **Reception Ryeland and Year 3 Texel** who had no late arrivals to school this week.

In order for a school to be judged as ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted, the school’s overall attendance must be above the national average for all children. Although our overall attendance is improving year on year, we are still below the national average – this is a significant barrier to us moving from ‘good’ to ‘outstanding’.

Children attending Shepherd Primary School should attend school regularly - we see this as being at least 97% of the time. Last week our overall school attendance was **96.0%**. Congratulations to **Year 1 Beltex**, who had the best attendance last week. Congratulations also to the **264 children** who had 100% attendance this week.



Shepherd Primary School Blog

Don't forget to check our School Blog this week (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org) where you'll find Blog entries from me, alongside class posts.

Promoting discussions about ‘Learning’ at home

The children at Shepherd Primary School are busy learning so many new and different things each week. To help parents discuss their child’s learning with them at home, please find below a question that you could ask your child about something they have learnt this week:

Nursery: What do you know about dinosaurs?

Reception: Do you know someone who is a hero?

Year 1: Can you create your own word problem?

Year 2: Can you name 3 materials that are man-made?

Year 3: If there are 22 children on the playground and half go to lunch, how many are left?

Year 4: Can you use a fronted adverbial in a sentence?

Year 5: Can you name 3 features of an explanation text?

Year 6: What can you tell me about Mount Etna?



The week gone by ...



Water Bottles

Please remember that your child should bring a water bottle to school each day and that this should only be filled with water. A number of children have started bringing squash and juice to school instead.



Phonics Workshop

Thank you to those parents who attended the Phonics workshops this morning. We hope you enjoyed working alongside your children!

Crocus Bulbs

In the autumn term, as part of an initiative working with Local Schools, each child came home with crocus bulbs to plant. We hope you had fun planting them and that they are starting to bloom now that spring has arrived and the weather is getting warmer! Thank you to Councillor Ralph Sangster, who funded the cost of the bulbs for us all to enjoy.



Rickmansworth Music Festival Rehearsals

Our Choir for the Rickmansworth Music Festival is now formed and rehearsals with Mr Vickers and the 21 children started this week! Today each child in the Choir is bringing home a letter regarding tickets that parents can buy to watch this special event. All tickets must be purchased by Friday 15th March 2019.

Cycle Training for Years 5 & 6

Today all children in Years 5 and 6 are bringing home a letter regarding Cycle Training that we are running during the week commencing 20th May 2019. Please can parents reply by Friday 15th March.



Parents Evening – 12th and 13th March 2019

Earlier this week the booking system opened for Parents Evening Consultations, which will be held on Tuesday 12th March and Wednesday 13th March. Please click on the link you received via ParentMail to book your appointment. The booking system will close on Saturday 9th March – those parents who haven't booked an appointment will be allocated one by the school office.

Next Week ...

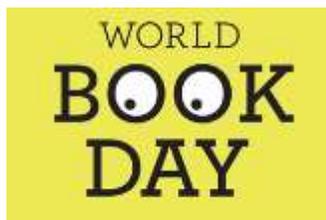


Red Nose Day

On Friday 15th March we will be celebrating Red Nose Day. All children are invited to come to school wearing Red Noses and red clothes, in exchange for £1 which will be sent off to the Red Nose Day charity. Next week, we will be selling 100 Red Noses in school, for £1.25 each. If your child would like to buy a red nose, please send them to school with £1.25 in a named envelope.

Year 3 Drumming Performance

A reminder to parents that Year 3 will be holding a short drumming performance at 2pm on Monday (4th March). The children will be showcasing what they have learnt so far this year, so do come along and support them!



World Book Day

Next Thursday is World Book Day – children are invited to come to school in book character fancy dress on the day. We would like to encourage children to bring in a donation of £1, for our World Book Day donation bucket! We would love to buy some new books for each class, to inspire the children to read! Each child will be given a £1 book token which they can use at local book stores in exchange for a free World Book Day book, or put the £1 voucher towards a different book of their choice.

Reception 'Stay and Play'

A reminder to Reception parents that we are running a 'Stay and Play' session next Friday morning (8th March), from 9-9.45am – all parents are invited to come along and share a range of fun activities with their children.

General Information

Internet safety

It has been brought to our attention that a meme named 'Momo' is being seen on children's You Tube postings as well on games such as 'Peppa Pig' and 'Mindcraft'. Momo, described as a WhatsApp "suicide challenge", features an avatar of a woman with dark hair, pale skin and oversized eyes, who sends messages that at the extreme level, suggests harming oneself and suicide. As with all aspects of internet safety, you can support your children in the following ways:

- Talk about using the internet safely
- Be around your child when they are on the internet
- Remind your child that they should never share information on-line or do anything they feel uncomfortable with
- Remind your child to show an adult when there is something they do not like
- Have parental controls set up as appropriate

In the case of Momo, please also reassure your child that it is not real and that someone has put her picture up on the internet. Please reassure your child that there is nothing to be afraid of and that the internet providers are working hard to find out who has done this and take it down. We are giving the same messages to any children who raise 'Momo' in school.



Spring 2 Diary Dates

Accompanying Friday Letter before half term was a list of Parent Diary Dates for this half term. Please note that the date of the Parent Coffee morning is Wednesday 27th March at 9am – this is an opportunity for you to come along and talk to Miss Whiteman and I about any aspects of school life.

School Trips and Local Visits

The following school trips and local visits are scheduled to take place this term:

- Year 3 Texel trip to Wenzels Bakery, 4th March
- Year 6 trip to watch 'Hairspray' at The Reach Free, 5th March
- Year 5 tag rugby event at The Reach Free, 7th March
- Year 5 trip to the Natural History Museum, 18th March
- Year 4 and 5 trip to see author Francesca Simon at St Johns School, 25th March
- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, 2nd April



Please take care of our plants



The Batchelor family are so kindly continuing to help us improve the North playground area, by planting a variety of new plants and creating planters from old tyres. Soon we will be starting to think about creating an area to start growing our own vegetables!

Unfortunately, some of the new plants have been damaged. Please could I ask you to help keep our North playground looking beautiful, by carefully supervising younger children before and after school, ensuring that they stay off the flower beds and leave the plants alone. Thank you.



School Crossing Patrol

We are really keen to continue our hunt for a school crossing patrol - while the PSPO has reduced the number of parents parking outside our school, it has meant that there are more families crossing Shepherd's Lane to get to school and those cars driving down Shepherd's Lane are going faster - so I think our need for a school crossing patrol is greater than ever. If you are interested in this role and would like to find out further information, please contact Janet Fairhead at HCC County hall on 01992 556815.

Safer Places - Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker

Safer Places is a charity offering support to families experiencing domestic abuse. The Reach Free secondary school have been chosen as a base for Emily Hannon (Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker from Safer Places) – she will be present there between 10am and 12 noon each Friday. This means that you can access direct support from the charity should you wish. Safer Places offers a range of different services to support you and guide



you through an abusive relationship. Emily can tailor the support to you and your family's individual needs, or just offer advice. To speak to Emily call 01923 711517 at the times above, or email her at emily.hannon@sahwr.org.uk

Family Worker

Our family worker, Debbie Wingfield ran a parent drop-in session last Thursday. It was an opportunity to meet her and find out what she does. Thank you to those parents who attended. The next drop-in will be on Thursday 28th February 2019.

Ink Cartridge Recycling

We are continuing to recycle ink cartridges – please help us raise some extra funds for the school by sending your used/empty cartridges into school. Thank you!



Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of a young person or child you are able to make an anonymous referral through Hertfordshire County Council, by calling **0300 123 4043** and selecting option 1. Remember that you can make a referral at any time – weekday, weekend or during the school holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher