

Dear Parents

Friday 11th January 2019

I would like to thank all the children and families for all the lovely cards and gifts I received for Christmas. Thank you. Happy New Year!



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: Which Nursery rhymes have we been singing this week? Can you sing them to an adult? Can you change some of the words and make up your own?

Reception: How is a square different from a rectangle?

Year 1: What 3D shapes can you find in the environment around you?

Year 2: Can you name 3 objects that are made from wood?

Year 3: What are the names of three polygons and why are they polygons?

Year 4: What solids, liquids and gases can you name?

Year 5: How do strawberries reproduce?

Year 6: When did WW2 start and end?

New Windows and Doors!

Over the Christmas holidays, the window fitters worked hard to fit new windows in Year 1, Year 2 Swaledale, our school office and my office. This week new windows have been fitted in Year 2 Balwen. The difference is amazing. The classrooms are brighter and warmer, a lovely learning environment. Next week the work starts on the quadrangle windows so we will be warm and cosy from both sides!



The week gone by ...

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and to hear all about their Christmas holidays!

Shepherd Babies!

For those of you who haven't heard, Mrs McGrath's daughter, Josephine Ellen, arrived safely on Sunday 15th December. We are absolutely thrilled for the whole McGrath family!

This week Mrs Jull went on maternity leave. We are going to miss her terribly, but look forward to hearing news of baby Jull's safe arrival – hopefully I will be able to pass on some exciting news to you in next week's Friday Letter!

New Staff

This week we welcomed the following staff to new roles in school:

- Mrs Brown – Nursery Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Bates and Mr Dunkley – Year 3 class teachers
- Mr Marlow – Year 5 class teacher

They have all enjoyed their first week and the staff and children have been making them feel very welcome.

Next Week ...

Head Boy and Head Girl fundraising

Heath and Evie, our Head Boy and Girl, are fundraising to raise money to fund the Year 6 celebrations at the end of the academic year. Next week they will be selling a range of 'Soccerstarz' football figures and 'Chupa Chup' lollies, for 50p each. The sale will take place at breaktime each day.



Spring Term Clubs

Spring Term clubs start next week. Please ensure children are collected promptly from the North playground at 4.15pm.

Family Worker

Our family worker, Debbie Wingfield will be running a parent drop-in session, alongside Mrs Freuchen. It will be an opportunity to meet her and find out what she does, on an informal basis over coffee and biscuits. The first drop-in will be on Thursday 17th January at 9am - please come to the school office.

Curriculum Newsletters

Curriculum Newsletters for each class (Nursery-Year 6) will be going home next week.

General Information

Parent Diary Dates

Diary Dates for this half term are accompanying Friday Letter this week.

Coffee Mornings are back!

Last academic year we held a series of coffee mornings, giving parents the opportunity to meet informally with Miss Whiteman and myself to discuss any aspects of school life. As we received such positive feedback about the Coffee Mornings, we have decided to run them this year.



The first Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 12th February at 9am-10am. As it is Safer Internet Day, we have decided that the focus for the Coffee Morning will be e-safety. Miss Whiteman and I will be offering parents advice as to how to support their children in keeping safe online and to answer any questions or queries that parents may have. If you would like to attend the Coffee Morning, please telephone the School Office and add your name to the list.



Nut Free School

As you know, we are a nut free school – this means that children are not allowed to bring anything containing nuts in their school packed lunch. This includes Nutella sandwiches and cereal bars containing nuts. This week a little girl with a serious nut allergy has joined our school – please can I ask parents to take extra care when making their child's packed lunch, to ensure that no nut products are included.

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