

Dear Parents

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

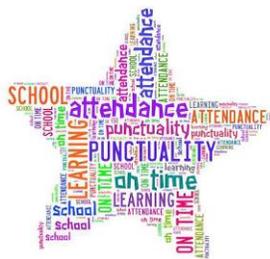


**This will be my last Friday letter of the year as we break up for the Christmas holidays next Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, at 1.30pm. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Merry Christmas!**

## **Attendance & Punctuality**

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. This week our overall school attendance was **94.0%**. Congratulations to **Year 5 Cheviot**, who had the best attendance again this week. Congratulations also to the **224 children** who had 100% attendance this week.



After Christmas we will be sending a letter to those parents whose children have attendance lower than the DfE expected standard of 95%. This letter has been devised by the attendance team to alert parents to their child's attendance, as many parents do not realise the impact that absence has on their child's overall attendance.

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 **Nursery Lambs and Year 2 Swaledale** who had the fewest late arrivals to school this week.



## **Shepherd Primary School Blog**

Don't forget to check our School Blog this week ([www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org](http://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: Can you help your child to use tape and scissors to wrap up a real present (or just an empty box)? Encourage them to think about how much paper will be needed. Have fun!

Reception: Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Year 1: Can you retell the Christmas story?

Year 2: How many days until Christmas day?

Year 3: Can you name all 9 of the reindeer?

Year 4: Can you explain how your body digests a mince pie?

Year 5: Can you sing your song for the Carol Concert?

Year 6: In the carol '12 days of Christmas' can you recall what happens on each day?



## The week gone by ...

### **In the spirit of Christmas**

This Christmas season I have been reminded how kind and thoughtful people can be – the PTA kindly fully funded tickets to the Christmas Party for those parents of children in receipt of pupil premium funding, who applied for free tickets. But in addition, two families made donations to the school to enable us to provide tickets to other families who weren't able to buy tickets for their children for the party, for financial reasons. Also, when the children's raffle tickets went home this week, a family contacted me to say they were donating money so some tickets could be purchased for a pupil premium family. These extremely kind and thoughtful gestures reminded me about the true spirit of Christmas. Thank you.

### **Governor Newsletter**

Accompanying this week's Friday Letter is a Newsletter from our Governors.

### **New Windows and Doors!**



The new Key Stage doors are in place, we love the colour! The windows in the cloakroom and KS1 toilets are also in, but the work isn't quite finished as some of the glass needs to be changed and fans still need to be installed. Next week the windows will be replaced in Year 1 Beltex. It will be interesting to see what difference this makes to the teaching environment. Do ask your children what they think of the new windows.

### **Key Stage 1 Play 'Midwife Crisis'**

On Wednesday we were treated to the most wonderful performance of 'Midwife Crisis', by the children in Years 1 and 2! I could see how hard the Key Stage 1 staff had worked to make sure that every single child had a special part to play. The children performed so confidently and I was so proud of them all. I received so many lovely comments from parents and grandparents about how well the children had done. Thank you to the PTA team who served teas and coffees to parents before the play started.

### **Spring Term Clubs**

Club allocation slips will be going home with children today. Clubs start w/c 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



### **Carol Singing at Westerley Care Home**

On Monday a group of Key Stage 2 children, including our School Councillors, went to Westerley Residential Care Home to sing carols to the residents. They also took some lovely decorations they had made for them all. The children were a credit to our school and sang beautifully. Thank you to Mr Turton and Mrs Bryson for organising this special opportunity.

## Next Week - Christmas Celebrations!

Please note the following festive events happening at Shepherd Primary School:

- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> December: KS2 Christmas party, 1.30pm
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December: KS2 Christmas Concert for parents, 9.15am  
The PTA will once again be serving teas and coffees before the concert.
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Lunch, 12 noon
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Christmas party, 1.30pm
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> December: Y1-Y6 trip to the panto, 10am
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> December: Early Years Christmas Party, 9am
- Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> December: Board Games Day!



### **Panto trip - Packed Lunches**

A reminder that on the day of the Year 1-6 trip to the pantomime (Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec), there will be no hot school dinners – children can either bring in a home packed lunch, or have a school dinner packed lunch. (Reception school dinners will remain the same as normal.)

## **General Information**

### **Applying for a place in Reception for September 2019**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, you will need to apply for a school place for Reception. The application process for a Reception school place in September 2019 is now open so please apply online at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/actweb/education/Admissions/startpage.cfm>

A reminder to our Nursery parents that you also need to apply for a place for Reception for September 2019, using the above link.



### **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!

### **Family Worker**

Our family worker, Debbie Wingfield, is available to work with families on a variety of family issues through individual or group sessions. If you feel you would like some family support, please contact Mrs Freuchen via the school office.

### **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.

Merry Christmas!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher