

Dear Parents

14th September 2018

Shepherd Primary School Blog

Don't forget to check our School Blog this week (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org)

where you'll find updates on:

- Mrs Foad's Blog
- Class posts
- 'Off by heart' poetry recital
- Art Week



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 we do after going to the toilet and before eating our snack?

Reception: What does an artist do?

Year 1: Can you retell the story of Funnybones?

Year 2: How do you know if something is dead or alive?

Year 3: What are the features of a fable?

Year 4: What is the largest Rain forest in the world and in which continent would you find it?

Year 5: Where did the Vikings come from and why?

Year 6: What is an Exoskeleton?



The week gone by ...

Thank you PTA

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the PTA committee (Mrs Parvin, Mrs Townsend, Mrs Charles and Mrs Smith) for all their hard work this year organising such special events for our children and families and for raising welcome funds for our school.



Today we held a very special assembly to thank Mrs Parvin and Mrs Townsend, who have been Chair and Vice Chair of our school PTA for 5 years. We presented each of them with a bouquet of flowers and a special book, which each class had contributed towards. During the 5 years I have worked with Mrs Parvin and Mrs Townsend, they have organised some amazing events for our children – some of my favourites have been the Quiz Night, 2017 Christmas Party, School Disco, Movie Night, Ice-skating and the 2018 Summer Fair Fun Day. We have been incredibly lucky to have had such a dedicated and hardworking PTA.

'Off by heart' poetry recital

Thank you to all those parents who supported their children over the summer holidays, to learn one of our 'Off by Heart' poems. Very many congratulations to all the children who took part and particularly to Alfie and Burhannudin who were chosen as the Key Stage 1 and 2 winners in our annual poetry recital. Do look at our school Blog to find out more (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org)



Art Week

Last week was our annual Art Week. Each class studied a different artist and created artwork in the style of that particular artist. Much of the artwork created will be on display in the school hall and in classrooms, so do have a look when you are next in school. You can also find further information on our school Blog (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org)

Christmas Cards!

Believe it or not, preparations for Christmas started at school this week! Today each child has created a Christmas card design – on Monday these designs will be sent home, along with information about how to order cards, wrapping paper and gift tags with your child's Christmas card design on, from IQ Cards.



Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish

As from the start of this term, we will now be teaching Spanish at Shepherd Primary School, rather than French. On Tuesday I was delighted to welcome Miss Perez, our new Spanish teacher, to our school. Miss Perez will be delivering weekly Spanish lessons to children in Years 3 - 6.

To help launch our new Modern Foreign language, we will be holding a Spanish Day on Friday 9th November – more details to follow!

General Information ...

New PTA!

This morning we held our annual PTA AGM – thank you to those parents who came along. As part of this meeting we looked ahead to forming our new PTA – we need a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

I would like to pass on special thanks to Mrs Sheppard (Mum to Oliver in Year 4) who has volunteered to undertake the role of Chair and Mrs Sorkin (Mum to Ben in Year 2) who has kindly agreed to be our Treasurer. We are therefore still looking for a new Vice-Chair and a new Secretary. If you would like to support Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Sorkin and our school, please contact me as soon as possible. If we are unable to fill the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary, sadly the PTA will be disbanded and there will be no events this term.



Thank you Second Hand Uniform Parent Volunteers

Thank you to Mrs Charles, Mrs Khan, Mrs Shepherd, Ms Horsley, Mrs Medina and Mrs Sole, all who have volunteered to help to run our Second Hand School Uniform Shop. Your support is very much appreciated, thank you.

KS2 children - arrival at school

A number of parents have expressed concern that there are a group of Year 5 and 6 children that walk to school on their own, who are encouraging younger children to leave the playground and play football on the George V Playing Fields. Please can you remind your children that if they are walking to school on their own, that when they arrive at school they must stay at school. Those children who cannot walk to school responsibly, will need to be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your support.

Reading Morning

Thank you to all those parents who came to Reading Morning today. I just wanted to share a few reminders about this event:



- All children must enter school as usual and register in their own classroom;
- Older siblings, who have a parent attending Reading Morning with a younger sibling, may join their parent and younger sibling after registration;
- Parents can enter school with their children - if parents have more than one child, they should accompany their youngest child;
- During Reading Morning the class teacher will ask parents to sign in – this is so we have a record of who is in school;
- At the end of Reading Morning, class Teaching Assistants will help parents find their way back to the school office.

Children who do not have parents attending Reading Morning will not be allowed to visit their siblings classrooms – siblings have other opportunities to read and work together during Paired Reading and our special House events.

Year 6 Secondary Transfer

A reminder to Year 6 parents that the online secondary transfer application process is now open, and will remain open until 31st October 2018. Please apply online at:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/actweb/education/Admissions/startpage.cfm>

GDPR Privacy Notices

The new Parent and Pupil Privacy Notices are available on our website, in the Non Curriculum Policies page.

School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood, Monday 24th September – Friday 28th September



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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher