

Dear Parents

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Applying for a place in Nursery for September 2019**

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

**Applications are open and close on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> March - please call the school office to book a place.

## **Farewell Mrs Priddle**

After almost 25 years of service at Shepherd Primary School, today we say a fond farewell to Mrs Priddle (Year 3 teaching assistant). The children have benefitted from Mrs Priddle's kindness during all the different roles she has had in school over the years - as a teaching assistant, midday supervisor and as our school crossing patrol! We thank her for her contribution to the success of our school and wish her the very best of luck for the future. Today we had a special assembly to say goodbye to her, where we presented her with a lovely card made by all the children and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. We also sang a very special version of the song 'You've got a friend in me', especially for her.



## **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 **Year 1 Beltex and Year 3 Texel** who had no late arrivals to school last 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 **93.2%**. Congratulations to **Year 3 Texel**, who had the best attendance last week. Congratulations also to the **244 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](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: Family discussion - can everyone remember and share a time when they felt good? (e.g after going for a run/spending time with a friend/ helping a relative)

Reception: Can you name any of the planets in our solar system?

Year 1: What different materials can you find in the environment?

Year 2: What have you enjoyed most about Feeling Good Week?

Year 3: Can you show some of the yoga we learnt this week?

Year 4: Can you talk about the science experiment we did this week that made the whole class smile?

Year 5: Talk about two things that you are good at.

Year 6: What was your Feeling Good Week quote?



## Term Dates for next academic year (2019-20)

Below you will find the full term dates for next academic year. I appreciate that term dates can be confusing, so I have tried to set out this information as clearly as possible for you. Please make sure that holidays are not booked in term time, as absence due to holiday will be unauthorised. If you need to take time out of school for exceptional reasons, please see me in advance to discuss this. Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school for 15 sessions (7 ½ days) or more across two terms without authorisation, then you will receive a fixed penalty notice (fine) from the Local Authority.

### Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September: school closed (staff training days)

Wednesday 4th September: school starts for children

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November: half term holiday

Friday 15th November (occasional day): school closed

Friday 20th December (1.30pm): end of term

### Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January: school starts for children

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February: half term holiday

Friday 3rd April (1.30pm): end of term

### Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April: school starts for children

Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May: half term holiday

Monday 29th June: school closed (staff training day)

Friday 17th July (1.30pm): end of term

Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July: school closed (staff training days)

## The week gone by ...

### Feeling Good Week 2019

Feeling Good Week has come to an end at Shepherd Primary School! This week we have focused on 'Your Feeling Good 5' and the different ways we can help our feelings and mental health. Classes have been completing feeling good activities during the week and we hope they have come home and shared them with you. The children and staff really enjoyed the yoga sessions on Monday and Tuesday and children said they felt relaxed at the end of their sessions. Parents too were able to join in with the yoga, with a special 'family yoga' session! To end the week, children were invited to come into school wearing rainbow colours! During the course of the week School Council have been selling fuzzy bugs and today the school kitchen staff make rainbow smartie cookies – the sale of the cookies and fuzzy bugs raised over £130 – half will be donated to the charity Young Minds and the other half will be put towards an end of year feeling good treat for the children! Thank you Mrs Freuchen for organising this special week and to Claire and her team in the kitchen for making the yummy smartie cookies!



## New Windows and Doors!

We are nearly at the end of our windows project. It has been an incredibly positive experience - the window fitters Tom, Jack and Dan have worked hard to get the windows fitted quickly and with minimum impact on the teaching and learning of the school which they have certainly achieved. When we return to school after the holidays we should have a brand new front door which we are particularly excited about. We do hope you like the new windows, we think they are great!



### 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. After half term 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.

## After Half Term ...



### Spring 2 Diary Dates

Accompanying Friday Letter is a list of Parent Diary Dates for next half term. In particular, please note that we are running a Phonics Workshop for Rec-Year 2 parents on the first Friday back (1<sup>st</sup> March) – parents will have the opportunity to go into their child's class and see them being taught phonics, and then play some fun phonics games with their children

## School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 3 Vendeen trip to Wenzels bakery, 25<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 3 Texel trip to Wenzels bakery, 4<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 6 trip to watch 'Hairspray' at The Reach Free, 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 5 tag rugby event at The Reach Free, 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 5 trip to the Natural History Museum, 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, 2<sup>nd</sup> April



## General Information



### 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. They advise, that if you think you are suffering from domestic abuse, then you probably are. 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **School Closure - Snow**

In the event of the school having to close due to severe weather, parents who are signed up to ParentMail will receive a text notifying them. If you are not signed up to ParentMail, please either;

- check the school website: [www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk](http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk)
- check the Herts Direct website ([www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org))
- listen to either Heart Radio Station (96.6 FM) or Jack Radio Station (106 FM)



We fully appreciate how inconvenient it is when our school closes, which is why we try to avoid it. When we do have to close the school, we make the decision as early as possible. In the event of local roads and paths being icy and potentially dangerous to travel on, we may not open the school. If not enough staff can safely make the journey into school, it may not be possible to open due to problems with ratios and concerns over the health and safety of both children and staff. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### **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.

**Have a lovely half term break, we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher