

## 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 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 **97.2%**. Congratulations to **Year 1 Beltex**, who had **100%** attendance this week. Congratulations also to the **267 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: Can you remember the fruits that Handa had in her basket? Can you describe how any of them felt?

Reception: What is your favourite fruit and why?

Year 1: What different languages can you name?

Year 2: Which country did street dance start in?

Year 3: Which Cultural Diversity Week activity has been your favourite?

Year 4: Can you describe what a day is like for a Peruvian child?

Year 5: What would life be like if every meal was exactly the same?

Year 6: Which country did street dance start in?



## The week gone by ...



### **Cultural Diversity Week**

This week has been ‘Cultural Diversity’ week in school. The children have been learning about and celebrating all the different cultures and backgrounds that our children and families have. I have spoken to many children this week, all of whom have been very excited to share what they have learnt with me – some of the activities they have most enjoyed included the dance workshops on Tuesday, the steel-panning music workshops on Wednesday and Thursday and the visits from the many parents and carers who have come into school this week. Do look on our School Blog for further information about the special week we have had.

## Parents Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended parents evening this week. Over 92% of parents met with their child's class teacher - we hope you found the consultations useful and informative. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire set up on the iPads in the school library – we really value and appreciate your feedback about our school. If you were unable to complete the questionnaire at Parents Evening, but would like to do so, please follow visit: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> Over the next few weeks we will be analysing the results of the survey and will share the results with you.



## Red Nose Day

Today we celebrated Red Nose Day, by all coming to school dressed in red clothes! Thank you everyone who made a donation to Comic Relief, either by wearing red clothes today or by buying one of the red noses we have been selling in school – we raised a wonderful £350. Today in assembly, our School Council told the children all about Comic Relief and why it is such an important charity - information about the excellent work Comic Relief do, can be found at: <https://www.comicrelief.com/>

## Picture News

Since February half term, our Key Stage Leaders have been leading a new assembly each week, called 'Picture News'. These assemblies are giving the children in Key Stages 1 and 2 the opportunity to learn about news events, issues and stories happening around the world, in an age appropriate way. Talking about news and current affairs is important so that children grow up as global citizens, but it's important too to share a variety of fun and exciting news stories from the worlds of sport, entertainment, music and science as well. Our new 'Picture News' assemblies are proving popular with the children, so do talk to them about what they have learnt each week!



## Next Week ...

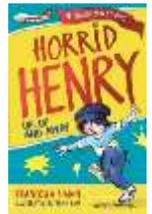
### Early Years Dads Breakfast

We are looking forward to welcoming all dads, uncles and grandfathers to our Early Years Dads Breakfast next Friday (22<sup>nd</sup> March), from 8-9am! Do come along and enjoy breakfast with the children and share in some fun activities.

## General Information

### Year 4 and 5 trip to see Francesca Simon, author of the Horrid Henry Books

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Years 4 and 5 will be visiting St Johns School to visit the bestselling children's author, Francesca Simon. Today the children are bringing home a letter about this visit, giving information about how children can pre-order a signed copy of her new book, 'Horrid Henry, Up Up and Away'.



### Parent Governor

Accompanying last week's Friday Letter was a letter regarding becoming a Parent Governor. Please ensure all nominations are handed in to the School Office by 9am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### Reception Class Numbers

I have received notification that the Local Authority's application to reduce the number of children we take in Reception has been approved by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator - they have agreed to make a variation to our admission numbers so that we admit 30 children in Reception from September 2019 (rather than 60). We have updated the Admissions page on our school website and have provided a link to the full report from the Adjudicator, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shepherd-primary-school>

If you would like to discuss this with me, please do call the school office to make an appointment.

### School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 5 trip to the Natural History Museum, 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 4 and 5 trip to see Francesca Simon (author of Horrid Henry books) at St Johns School, 25<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, 2<sup>nd</sup> April



## 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](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> March.

## 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