

Dear Parents

Friday 16th November 2018

Nursery January 2019

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st December 2015?

If so, then they could start in our Nursery class in January 2019.

If you would like to look around our Nursery, please call the School Office to book an appointment.
Ofsted (March 2018) said: 'Children make a positive start in the high-quality early years provision'.

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 3 Texel** who had no late arrivals to school this week.

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 **96.6%**.

- Congratulations to the **267 children** who had 100% attendance this week.
- Congratulations to **Reception Ryeland**, who had the best attendance again this week.



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: How can you be a kind friend?

Reception: How can we be kind to others?

Year 1: What does a friend do?

Year 2: What does it mean to be a good friend?

Year 3: What are three things you can do to be a good friend?

Year 4: How can you help to keep our class pledge 'to be friends with anyone even if we have a best friend'?

Year 5: Can you identify 3 ways to show respect to others?

Year 6: What is a butterfly friend?



The week gone by ...

Anti-Bullying Week, 12th – 16th November

This week, the children have all participated in Anti-Bullying Week. The theme of Anti-Bullying Week this year was 'Choose respect'. Do talk to your children and ask them what they have been learning about this week and also have a look at our School Blog to see some of the activities the children have participated in (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org).



Next Week ...

Early Years Dads Breakfast, next Friday 8-9am

A reminder to all Dads/Grandads and Uncles, that our Nursery and Reception children are looking forward to bringing you to school next Friday morning, to have breakfast with them and share in their learning. Please enter via the Reception classroom doors.



Spelling Workshop for Parents, next Friday 9.15-10am

A reminder that next Friday is our Parent Spelling Workshop. Please join us for the latest information on how your children are taught spellings in school and the opportunity to watch a spelling lesson in action in your child's class.

New Windows and Doors!

I am delighted to be letting you know that we have been successful in a bid to Hertfordshire County Council to have all the windows and doors in the 'old' building replaced. This will make a considerable difference to pupil and staff wellbeing. The project starts on Monday 3rd December and will take approximately 10 weeks to complete. We will be working hard to minimise disruption to children and families during this time – we will be sending you a ParentMail each Monday during the project, letting you know how it is going and what will be happening that week. The very first part of the project is to replace the windows and doors in the school kitchen and dining room – as a result, Herts Catering will only be able to provide packed lunch school dinners from 3rd – 7th December. A separate letter explaining how parents can order packed lunches is accompanying this Friday Letter.



School Numbers, 2020 onwards

Each year I meet with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to review predicted pupil numbers for our Reception classes - this prediction is based on the number of children registered with a GP in our area, as well as planned residential building work planned which may bring additional families into the area. Year on year, the predicted numbers have proven to be higher than the actual number of children who have needed a school place in our local area.

The future predicted numbers for our area for the next few years are low. This shows that the additional form of entry we can offer, potentially isn't needed. Therefore, our school Governors have taken the decision to apply to HCC to reduce our admission number from 60, back down to 30, from Sep 2020 - this will mean that we would take 30 children into Reception (rather than up to 60). If additional spaces are needed, we would be asked by HCC to open an additional class, meaning that we would take up to 60 again. Effectively, this means that we will move back to being one form of entry from September 2020 onwards, unless additional classes are needed.

On Monday (19th November) a consultation to reduce our admission numbers opens. The consultation will run until 6th January 2019. After this, the Council will meet and decide whether to support the application. If you would like to comment on the consultation, please visit the following website from Monday:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/research-a-school/consultation-on-admission-arrangements-for-201920.aspx>

Please also feel free to come and talk to me about this if you would like to. It is really sad to think that the additional form of entry we can offer does not look like it will be needed for the next few years, but we must do everything we can to protect the school.

General Information

Image Consent forms and Data Collection forms

Thank you to over 200 parents who have already returned their Image Consent forms and Data Collection forms to the school Office (these were given out by class teachers at parents evening). If you haven't already done so, please return these to the school office on Monday.

Panto Tickets!

Thank you to all those parents who returned the slip and payment for our Y1-Y6 trip to Watersmeet Theatre to see the pantomime Snow White on Wednesday 19th December. We have just 14 panto tickets left! If your child would like a ticket, please contact the school office to arrange payment.



Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday 18th December we will be having our whole school Christmas lunch (a vegetarian option will be available as an alternative to the traditional Christmas lunch);

- If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will automatically be provided with a school Christmas lunch free of charge (as they are entitled to a free school lunch each day, as part of the 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' initiative).
- If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join other children and staff in this special lunch, please send payment of £2.50 to the school office or pay via School Gateway by Friday 30th November. After this date, no additional orders for Christmas Lunch can be added.



Applying for a place in Reception for September 2019

If your child was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st 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>



Breaktime Snacks Menu

Herts Catering have made changes to the Key Stage 2 Breaktime Snack Menu. Accompanying this Friday Letter is a flyer outlining the snacks available and their prices.

School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Group of KS2 children to visit Westerley Care Home to plant spring bulbs, Friday 23rd November
- Year 4 dance festival rehearsal, Wednesday 28th November
- Group of KS2 children to visit Westerley Care Home, Carol Singing, Monday 10th December
- Years 1-6 trip to the pantomime at Watersmeet Theatre, Wednesday 19th December



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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher