

Dear Parents

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## 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 **Reception Ryeland and Nursery lambs** who had the fewest 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. This week our overall school attendance was **98.0%**. Congratulations to **Year 3 Vendeen**, who had the best attendance again this week. Congratulations also to the **277 children** who had 100% attendance this week.

Last term, the school’s overall attendance for the term was 95.8%, below the national average. Shortly we will be sending a letter to those parents whose children had 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.



## 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 describe the truly magnificent broom at the end of Room on the Broom?

Reception: What 3D shapes do you know? Can you see any around you?

Year 1: Can you describe where people are in a queue?

Year 2: Can you name the countries in Great Britain?

Year 3: Why did the Romans want to invade Britain?

Year 4: Do you think bubble bath has high or low viscosity?

Year 5: How do you add fractions together?

Year 6: Who was Martin Luther King?



## The week gone by ...



### **Baby Jull**

I am absolutely thrilled to be able to announce that Harry James Edward Jull, a son for Mr and Mrs Jull has arrived safely! Both Harry and Mrs Jull are doing well. I am sure that Mrs Jull will pop in to school to introduce us to Harry soon!

## **New Windows and Doors!**

The window fitters are a week ahead of schedule! This week we have had new windows fitted in the quad making the corridors look lovely. The children have been very sensible whilst this work has been carried out. Next week the hall windows will be fitted - we anticipate this will make a real difference to the look and feel of the front of the school.



## **Curriculum Newsletters**

This week you will have received your child's class Curriculum Newsletter, outlining key information for this term. I hope these are helpful and provide you with useful information for the term ahead.

## **Governor Vacancy**

Accompanying this Friday Letter is a letter regarding becoming a Parent Governor. Please ensure all nominations are handed in to the School Office by 9am on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.

## **Head Boy and Head Girl fundraising**

Heath and Evie, our Head Boy and Girl, have been fundraising, selling a range of 'Soccerstarz' football figures and 'Chupa Chup' lollies, for 50p each. Evie and Heath have worked really hard and the sale was very successful, raising a terrific £130 towards their Year 6 Celebration fund! The sale will continue next week – if your child would like to buy a Soccerstarz football figure or a Chupa Chup lolly, please ensure their money comes into school in a named envelope.



### **Congratulations Year 4**

Congratulations to our Year 4 class who took part in an athletics festival at the Reach Free School yesterday. Mrs Bryson said how hard the children worked and how well behaved they were. The boys team came 4<sup>th</sup> and the girls team came 2<sup>nd</sup> – congratulations!



### **WFC Penalty Shoot-Out**

Tomorrow Mr Turton and Mr Vickers are taking our Penalty Shoot-Out team to Vicarage Road to participate in the half-time penalty shoot-out competition. Good luck to the whole team – we hope you enjoy the special event.

## **Family Worker**

Our family worker, Debbie Wingfield ran a parent drop-in session yesterday morning. 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 24<sup>th</sup> January at 9am.

## **Next Week ...**

### **SEN Open Morning**

A reminder to those parents of children with special educational needs, that it is our SEN Open Morning next Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January. Mrs Freuchen has sent details of appointment times home to parents.



### **Family Reading Morning**

A reminder that there is no Reading Morning on the last Friday of each month, so there will be no Reading Morning next Friday. Instead we give the children the opportunity to do Paired Reading, with children from other classes.

## **General Information**

### **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.

### **Coffee Mornings are back!**

Last academic year we held a series of coffee mornings, giving parents the opportunity to meet informally with Miss Whiteman and myself to discuss any aspects of school life. As we received such positive feedback about the Coffee Mornings, we have decided to run them this year.



The first Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 9am-10am. As it is Safer Internet Day, we have decided that the focus for the Coffee Morning will be e-safety. Miss Whiteman and I will be offering parents advice as to how to support their children in keeping safe online and to answer any questions or queries that parents may have. If you would like to attend the Coffee Morning, please telephone the School Office and add your name to the list.

### **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