

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 **Reception Ryeland** and **Year 6 Merino** who had the fewest number of 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 **95.5%**.

- Congratulations to the 246 children who had **100%** attendance this week.
- Congratulations to **Year 3 Texel**, who had the best attendance 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: Can you play a game where you hide a teddy and you describe to your child where it is? e.g on top of the wardrobe, next to the television, in between chairs, under the bed.

Reception: Why did we make spiders for our number work?

Year 1: What rhyming words do you know?

Year 2: Can you explain what a habitat is?

Year 3: Do you know three facts about Stonehenge?

Year 4: What is yellow in Spanish?

Year 5: How many days does it take for the moon to orbit the Earth?

Year 6: Who were the Mayans?



The week gone by ...



Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue

Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service have produced a fire safety video, designed for children. This week, I asked class teachers to show the video to children in Years 1 -6. If you would like to see the video, it can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYv6W4v3XOc&feature=youtu.be>

100,000 Bulbs Challenge!



On Monday, Samantha and Liam (our Year 6 School Councillors), went on a special trip to the Council Offices to work alongside other Year 6 School Councillors from local schools, to look at what we, as a group of primary schools, can do to help the environment. To launch our environmental focus this year, we have teamed up with 16 local schools to buy 100,000 crocus bulbs for the children to plant! We have chosen crocus bulbs because they are an RHS approved pollinator and we hope their annual flowering will be a visual reminder of the importance of the environment in all our lives. Bulbs will be coming home with each child next week, alongside a short set of instructions for planting - please plant the bulbs by early November at the very latest, the sooner the better. We hope that you will support your children to plant their bulbs across the local area so we can all enjoy a community in bloom in spring!

NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assemblies and Workshops

On Monday the NSPCC came to run their 'Speak out, Stay safe' programme for Key Stage 1 and 2 children. Through the child-friendly, interactive assemblies the NSPCC staff gave the children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries. The NSPCC have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation. This includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex. The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants The NSPCC will be back to run follow-up workshops for children in Years 5 and 6 on Thursday 25th October.



School Football and Netball Teams

This week our school football and netball teams played matches against St Johns. Sadly both teams lost, but congratulations to all the children as they displayed great sportsmanship. The football player of the match was: William G and the netball player of the match was: Olivia



Upcoming Events ...

Year 5 Parents meeting – PGL



Next Friday (26th October) at 9am, Mrs Freuchen and Mr Turton will be running a meeting for Year 5 parents regarding the Year 6 PGL residential trip scheduled for September 2019. I would encourage all parents to attend, as the children will also be attending the meeting. It is a great opportunity to find out lots of information about the residential trip.



Remembrance Day Poppies

To commemorate Remembrance Day we will be selling Poppies in school from next week, along with a selection of other Remembrance day items priced between 50p and £1 (including wristbands and keyrings). If your child would like to buy a Poppy, please ensure they bring at least 30p to school in a named envelope. Please ensure your child sends in the correct money as change cannot be given.

Enterprise Week

Next week is 'Enterprise Week' at Shepherd Primary School! Children in Year 1-6 will be busy planning, designing and making items to sell at the Enterprise Fair on Friday 26th October, 3.30-4pm. The theme of Enterprise Week this year is 'recycling and reusing', so everything being made is from recycled items:

- Year 1: wind chimes
- Year 2: mini banjos
- Year 3: book animals
- Year 4: crisp packet keyrings
- Year 5: jar snowglobes
- Year 6: balloon stress balls

**Enterprise
Week 2018**

Parents Evening

On Tuesday a letter was ParentMailed home about Parents Evening, which will be on Tuesday 6th November (3.30-5.30pm) and Wednesday 7th November (3.30-8pm). Please follow the instructions to book an appointment online to see your child's class teacher. You also have the opportunity to book an appointment to see Mrs Freuchen and myself, if there is something you would like to talk to us about.



Spanish Day – Friday 9th November

On Friday 9th November we will be holding a 'Spanish Day' to celebrate the launch of our new Spanish Curriculum in Key Stage 2! We are busy planning an exciting day for the whole school, which will include a range of different activities for the children to participate in, including: art, flag making and food tasting! We would like to invite all children to come to school dressed in either the colours of the Spanish flag (red and yellow), or wearing Spanish style clothes!

We need your help! We wondered if there were any parents out there who speak Spanish and would like to help us on the day? We also need a team of parents to help our class teachers run some of the more practical activities – if you can help out during the morning or afternoon of Friday 9th November, please let the school office know.

Anti-Bullying Week, 12th – 16th November



We will once again be joining in with national Anti-Bullying Week during the week commencing 12th November. The theme of Anti-Bullying Week this year is 'Choose respect'. To kick start the week, we would like to invite all children to come to school wearing odd socks on Monday 12th November! School Council will be selling anti-bullying wristbands at breaktime during the week, for £1. All proceeds will be put towards buying resources for our new 'Playground Buddies' and 'Play Leaders', who will be supporting children on the playground at break and lunchtimes.

General Information

Policy on Dogs on School Grounds

A reminder to all families that whilst our Governors and staff recognise that dogs are an important part of life for some of our families, dogs are not allowed on the grounds of Shepherd Primary School at any time (unless used to aid visual impairment or disability). Dogs can continue to be tied up on the railings outside both entrances in to school. Please do not tie up your dog on the railing by the Nursery and Reception playground gate, as this is still on school premises.

Flu Immunisations for children in Reception-Year 5

On the 8th November NHS England will be coming in to school to complete the flu immunisation programme for children in Reception to (and including) Year 5. This consists of a simple squirt up the nose. It is painless and very quick. Earlier this week a letter about the flu immunisation, and a consent form were sent home in the children's bookbags. Please complete and return the Flu Immunisation Consent Form by Thursday 25th October, even if you do not consent to your child receiving the flu immunisation.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Accompanying Friday Letter this week is a flyer and letter regarding a vacancy that we have for a Parent Governor to join our Governing body. Please ensure nomination forms are returned to the school office by 9am on Friday 9th November.

New Lunch Menu

The new Herts Catering school dinner menu was sent home in book bags earlier this week. The new menu choices will start straight after half term.



Breaktime Snacks Menu

Herts Catering will be making changes to the Key Stage 2 Breaktime Snack Menu, starting after half term. I have asked them to produce a flyer giving parents and children more details, which I hope to receive next week, so further information should follow in next week's Friday Letter.



Lunchtime Skills

Please can we ask parents of our Reception and Year 1 children to keep supporting their children at home as they learn to cut their own food during meal times, as a large number of children having school dinners are unable to cut up their lunch to eat it. We really want to encourage skills of independence, so our lunchtime supervisors will be continuing to positively encourage the children to try to cut up their own food and will be rewarding them with lots of stickers and positive praise!



Rock & Pop Foundation Music Lessons

We have an excellent partnership with the Rock & Pop Foundation, who not only deliver our whole class music lessons for Year 4-6 as part of our music curriculum, but they also deliver 1:1 and small group peripatetic music lessons to those Key Stage 2 children who would like to learn an instrument. Instrumental lessons that Rock & Pop currently teach, include: drums, guitar, piano and keyboard. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument, please contact the Rock & Pop Foundation, on: 01252 368330 or enrol them at: <https://www.rockandpopfoundation.com/enrol>



Reading Morning

A reminder that the last Friday of every month will be Paired Reading, where the children have the opportunity to read alongside children in other year groups, therefore there will be no Family Reading Morning on the last Friday of each month.

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>

School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 6 trip to STEM at St Clement Danes, Friday 16th November
- 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