

## Sports Day

We will be running our annual Sports Day and Family Picnic this coming Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> June. Sports Day will be followed by a family picnic. A few reminders to help the day run smoothly:



- If your child has not pre-ordered a school packed lunch, we are now assuming that you will be providing them with a packed lunch or bringing lunch for them with you. We cannot order any school packed lunches on the day of Sports Day
- During the family picnic, the PTA will be selling ice-creams for 50p. If you are unable to attend the family picnic but your child would like an ice-cream, please send them to school with 50p in a named envelope, to be passed to their class teacher at the start of the day
- Please ensure that your child has a sunhat and re-usable water bottle in school on Monday
- Please ensure your child has their school sports kit (white t-shirt and black shorts) in school on Monday. They will also need their trainers
- If the weather is sunny, please apply sun cream on your child just before school

We hope as many families as possible will join us on the school field, ready to start at 9.30am.

Dear Parents

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019

## Attendance & Punctuality



The school day starts at 8.50am 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, Year 2 Swaledale and Year 5 Cheviot** who had 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. Last week our overall school attendance was **94.1%**. Congratulations to **Reception Soay** who the best attendance this week. Congratulations also to the **253 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 you discuss your child’s learning with them at home, please find below a question that you could ask your child about something they learnt during Science Week last week:

Nursery: Can you explain the lifecycle of a butterfly?

Reception: What things can we do to be clean and stay healthy?

Year 1: How did the different size bottles change how high the mouse flew?

Year 2: What happens to your heart rate when doing exercise?

Year 3: Why do plants need roots?

Year 4: Why will a circuit not work if only connected to a positive power source?

Year 5: What role do bees have in pollination?

Year 6: What is the function of the optic nerve in the eye?



## The week gone by...



### Pyjamarama

Thank you to all those families who made a donation on Pyjamarama day, when staff and children came to school dressed in their pyjamas! We raised a wonderful **£242** – half has been donated to the Book Trust charity and class teachers are busy spending the other half of the money on books for the classroom book corners! Thank you!

### Welcome Jim!

This week we have been delighted to welcome Jim, our new school crossing patrol, to Shepherd Primary School. Thank you for making Jim feel so welcome as he settles in to his new role. We have battled so hard to get our school crossing patrol reinstated, please make sure you do use it to cross Shepherds Lane safely.



### School Council and Eco-Committee Trip to Watersmeet

On Monday, our Key Stage 2 School Council and Eco-Committee members went to Watersmeet with Mrs Bryson and Mr Turton, to participate in the Youth Council. Children from Shepherd Primary School shared with other local schools, all the things we have done this academic year to help the environment.

The children also had the opportunity to see the amazing 'Ocean 14' artwork, which is an enormous piece of artwork which has been created by local primary schools to raise awareness of climate change and recycling – children in Year 1 Beltex, Year 1 Lonk, Year 2 Balwen, Year 2 Swaledale, Year 3 Vendeen and Year 6 helped to create the large piece of ocean artwork when the team visited Shepherd Primary School on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019. If you would like to see the finished artwork, it is on display at Watersmeet until early July.

### RNLI Visit

Earlier this week, two members of the RNLI visited school, planning to educate the children on beach and water safety. Year 5 and Year 3 enjoyed their sessions and learnt valuable information for how to keep themselves safe this summer. Sadly, one of the RNLI volunteers took very ill towards the end of the Year 3 session and was unable to stay at school and deliver the remaining sessions to Years 1, 2 and 4. Unfortunately they are fully booked and unable to return to Shepherd Primary School this term – please be reassured that we have the training materials and resources and will be delivering these sessions over the next few weeks.

Thank you to all those families who donated £1 to the RNLI in advance of the workshops – we are assuming that as we will still manage to deliver the workshop contents to the children, that parents who donated £1 are still happy for us to donate this to the RNLI and the valuable work they do. More information about the RNLI can be found at:

<https://rnli.org/>



### Football Competition

Yesterday afternoon Mr Turton took our school football team to a tournament at a local primary school. Mr Turton said how much fun the children had, how well they played and what excellent sportsmanship was shown throughout. Congratulations to Heath, Riley, Violet, Matthew, Harry, Aiden, Oliver, Lincoln, Rory and William. Thank you to the parents, uncle and grandad who helped transport the children to and from the event, we really appreciate your support.

### Class Photos

Today class photograph proofs were sent home. If you would like to see a larger copy of the class photograph before you place your order, please do pop along to the school office. All orders must be placed by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, as Braiswick will be collecting the orders on that day.

### Lost Uniform

This term, I have been overwhelmed by the number of parents reporting lost school uniform. Please could I urge parents to check at home for any uniform that your child may have brought home by mistake and return it to school. Please also make sure all school uniform is named, as it is easy for us to return lost uniform to its rightful owner if it is named.

## Next week...

### Family Reading Morning

A reminder that there will be no reading morning next Friday, as classes will be participating in Paired Reading.

## General Information...

### Helping the Environment

A reminder that:

- we no longer allow single use plastic water bottles in school. Instead, please make sure that your child brings a refillable water bottle to school.
- children having packed lunches are encouraged to recycle their crisp packets after lunch each day. If children would like to bring empty crisp packets from home in their lunchbox, they are also able to recycle these.



### Sponsored Bounce!

Thank you to all those families who have returned their sponsored bounce money – **we have raised an incredible £2255!** Next Friday I will be presenting the children with a thank you certificate.

### 2019/20 Term Dates

Below are the updated term dates for 2019/20.

**Please note that the children return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.**

**Please also note that the date of the May bank holiday has changed from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

#### Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2nd September: school closed (staff training day)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: school starts for children

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

Friday 15th November (occasional day): school closed

Monday 18th November: school closed (staff training day)

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

Friday 8th May: Bank Holiday

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

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

Friday 17th July: end of term

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



### School Trips

The following school trips will be taking place this term:

- Year 2 trip to the Wetland Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Year 6 leavers trip to Rock Up and Meat & Shake, 18<sup>th</sup> July

### 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, runs a regular parent drop-in – it is an opportunity to meet her and find out what she does and how she might be able to support families. The next drop-in will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**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