

Dear Parents

Friday 22nd March 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 **Year 1 Lonk, Year 3 Texel and Year 4 Romney** 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 **98.4%**. Congratulations to **Year 3 Vendeen**, who had the best attendance this week. Congratulations also to the **278 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) 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 look around your home for something rough, smooth, spiky, sticky and soft?

Reception: If you could have a super power, what would it be and why?

Year 1: What signs of Spring can you see?

Year 2: What was your favourite part of the Great Fire of London workshop?

Year 3: What are the rules of speech?

Year 4: What is 4/5 of 35 apples?

Year 5: What did you learn about classification at the Natural History Museum?

Year 6: What are the 4 layers of the earth called?



The week gone by...



WFC Half-Time Penalty Shoot-Out

Very many congratulations to our WFC Penalty Shoot-Out team, who won again last Saturday when they played against St Paul's Primary School during half time in the Watford v Crystal Palace FA Cup Match at Vicarage Road. Rory was a brilliant goalkeeper and William, Molly, Nathan and Oliver all scored. Well done and good luck in the next round! Thank you to Mr Turton and Mr Vickers for accompanying the children.

Early Years Dads Breakfast

Thank you to all those Dads, Uncles and Grandfathers who came along to our Dads' Breakfast this morning! I hope you enjoyed breakfast with your children and had fun sharing in their learning.

Next Week...

Waste Awareness Week

Next week we will be taking part in Waste Week, an initiative to raise awareness of ecological issues brought about by our waste. Classes will take part in a fact-finding mission to learn more about the impact of waste on our planet and engaging in activities relating to waste and we will be starting to recycle food in the dining room at lunchtimes. On Friday we will be welcoming a visitor to assembly, who will further educate us about plastic pollution.

As part of our learning next week, School Council are holding a competition to design a picture that will go on the front of a reusable jute bag. The picture will need to be along the theme of recycling/plastic waste. The winner of the competition will have their design on the bag, which School Council will then sell the bags and put the money towards reducing waste in our school.



'Big Pedal' Week

Next week it is 'Big Pedal' week and we are encouraging everyone to walk, cycle and scooter as much as they can, to and from school (this includes children, parents and staff!) Every class will be given an extra playtime where they can ride their bike or scooter around the school playground. All the children have been told in Friday assembly when their extra play time will be.

Monday: Year 1 Beltex & Lonk

Tuesday: Year 2 Balwen & Swaledale

Wednesday: Year 3 Texel & Vendeen

Thursday: Year 4 Romney & Year 5 Cheviot

Friday: Year 5 Dorper & Year 6 Merino

Rickmansworth Music Festival

Good luck to Mr Vickers and the 20 children in the Music Festival choir, who will be performing at St Clement Danes on Wednesday (27th March) evening. A reminder to parents, that the children need to arrive at St Clement Danes at 6.30pm on Wednesday, ready for the concert to start at 7pm.



Parents Coffee morning

A reminder that Miss Whiteman and I are holding a Coffee Morning for parents, at 9am next Wednesday (27th March). The Coffee Morning is an opportunity for you to talk to us about any aspect of school life. Please telephone the School Office to let them know if you will be attending.

No Family Reading Morning

A reminder that there will be no Family Reading Morning next Friday (29th March). Instead, the children will have the opportunity to do Paired Reading, where they will read alongside children in a different year group – an activity which the children really enjoy.



General Information...

School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 4 and 5 trip to see Francesca Simon (author of Horrid Henry books) at St Johns School, 25th March
- Music Festival Choir to the rehearsal at St Clement Danes, 27th March
- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, 2nd April



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!



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

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 28th 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