

## Nursery January 2019

*Do you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **96.1%**.

- Congratulations to the **259 children** who had 100% attendance this week.
- Congratulations to **Year 1 Lonk**, 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](http://www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org)) where you'll find Blog entries from me, alongside class posts.

## The week gone by ...

### Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Trees

You may well have heard about the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy project, where the Woodland Trust put together packs of trees. Community groups then had the opportunity to apply to receive one of the packs of trees to plant. I am thrilled to say that Shepherd has been lucky enough to receive two packs of trees – one from Miss Woodger and one from a parent. We have temporarily planted the ten trees (four silver birch trees, four rowan trees and two hazel trees) in the flower bed on the North playground – once the trees are a bit bigger and stronger we will move them to their new permanent locations around the school site and will have a special ceremony to mark this exciting event! More information about the project can be found at: <https://www.royal.uk/find-out-how-you-can-get-involved-queens-commonwealth-canopy>



### Wildlife Committee

I am sure you will have noticed the improvements that have been made to the North playground flower beds, including the raised bed – the beds have been tidied and weeded and a range of new plants have been planted. The bird feeder has been relocated to a better place for birds and new 'tyre' planters have been created (and more are to follow!) I am very grateful to Chris and Marion Batchelor who are so generously giving up their time to care for our North Playground and to work with our new Wildlife & Gardening Committee.

### Be Bright Be Seen

This week each class teacher has talked to their class about the 'Be Bright, be Seen' campaign. Further information can be found at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>

### Westerley Care Home Bulbs Planting

This afternoon a group of KS2 children, led by our Head Boy and Head Girl, Heath and Evie, went to Westerley Residential Care Home to plant spring bulbs for the residents to enjoy. Mr Turton will post some photographs of the event on our school Blog ([www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org](http://www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org)) .



### Spelling Workshop for Parents

Thank you to the 60 parents who attended our Spelling Workshop this morning. We received excellent feedback from the event, thank you. A copy of the presentation that Miss Whiteman led is on our school website at the following link: <http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk/curriculum.html>

### Early Years Dads Breakfast

I hope that all the Dads, Grandads and Uncles enjoyed breakfast with our Nursery and Reception children this morning! It was lovely to see the children showing you round the classrooms and sharing their learning with you.



### Next Week ...



#### Scholastic HALF PRICE Book Fair, NEXT WEEK

Next week we will be running a Scholastic Book Fair in school, from 3.30-4.00pm each day, in the dining room. All books on sale will be half price, so do come along and grab yourself a bargain!

### Year 4 Dance Festival

Good Luck to the group of 22 Year 4 children who are participating in the Rickmansworth dance Festival next week. We look forward to watching your performance in our Friday assembly next week!



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



### 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 19<sup>th</sup> November a consultation to reduce our admission numbers opened. The consultation will run until 6<sup>th</sup> 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: <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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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>

### **School Trips and Local Visits**

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

- Year 4 to the Rickmansworth Dance Festival rehearsal, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November
- Year 1 to visit the local park, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- Year 5 Fun Run on George V Playing Fields, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November
- Group of KS2 children to visit Westerley Care Home, Carol Singing, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December
- Years 1-6 trip to the pantomime at Watersmeet Theatre, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

I am really looking forward to the PTA Music Bingo event and look forward to seeing those of you attending, later on tonight!

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Claire Foad, Headteacher