

Dear Parents

Friday 25<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** 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. This week our overall school attendance was **96.8%**. Congratulations to **Year 5 Dorper**, who had the best attendance again this week. Congratulations also to the **270 children** who had 100% attendance this week.

Last term, the school's overall attendance for the term was **95.8%**, below the national average. Next week 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: What sorts of things did the Evil Pea do to the poor vegetables in 'Supertato'?

Reception: Can you find a hot or cold country on a map?

Year 1: Can you recite the first verse of The Owl and the Pussy Cat?

Year 2: Can you recall an interesting fact about sharks?

Year 3: If the animals went in to the Ark in twos, and there were 9 different types of animal, how could you show that as an array? What number sentences could you write from that array?

Year 4: How is condensation formed?

Year 5: How do you create suspense in writing?

Year 6: What does BIDMAS stand for?



## The week gone by ...

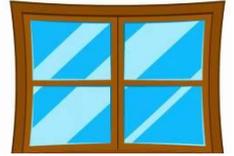


### **WFC Penalty Shoot-Out**

Congratulations to Violet, Oliver, Rory, Molly, William G and Nathan, our Watford FC Penalty Shoot-Out team. They won 8-7 on Saturday, when they took part in the half-time competition. They are now through to the next round. Do look our School Blog to find out more ([www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org](http://www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org)).

## New Windows and Doors!

This week the fitters started replacing our huge hall windows, these should all be in by the start of next week. The fitters will then start work on staff areas. Work in Early Years will start the week after next and once that work is done we can turn our heating down a notch as the school is really rather warm now!



### Golden Table

Very many congratulations to the following Y1 and 2 children who won a ticket on our Golden Table today with Mrs Wood, for showing excellent table manners and kindness to others during lunchtimes:

Year 1: Hayley, Katy, Alice, Charlotte, Lily-Anne

Year 2: Frankie, Shay, Abdullah, Sara, Elizaveta

## Head Boy and Head Girl fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported Heath and Evie's 'Soccerstarz' football figures and 'Chupa Chup' lolly sale. Evie and Heath have worked really hard and the sale was very successful, raising a terrific £150 towards their Year 6 Celebration fund!



## Family Worker

Our family worker, Debbie Wingfield ran a parent drop-in session last Thursday. 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 31<sup>st</sup> January at 9am.

## Next Week ...



### Young Voices

Good luck to our Young Voice choir, who are performing at the O2 Arena next Friday evening, with Miss Whiteman, Mrs Freuchen and Mr Vickers. The week after next the choir will be performing in a special assembly. I hope all the parents and families going along to watch the children, enjoy the show!

## General Information

### School Trips and Local Visits



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

- Year 1 trip to the Lookout Centre, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January
- Young Voices trip to the O2 Arena, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Year 4 Maths Mastermind Workshop (*selected Year 4 children only*), Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 4 trip to the Science Museum, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

### 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.

### **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.

### **Governor Vacancy**

Accompanying last week's Friday Letter was 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.

### **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