

Dear Parents

28th September 2018

Shepherd Primary School Blog

Don't forget to check our School Blog this week (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org) where you'll find updates on:



- Mrs Foad's Blog
- Class posts
- Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood

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 put some of your toys in size order from the biggest to the smallest? (e.g. teddies, cars)

Reception: How many different ways can you make 6?

Year 1: What activities did you do during the multi-skills workshop?

Year 2: Can you name the 5 oceans in the world?

Year 3: What are the features of a fable?

Year 4: Can you find 3 mythical words to use in your story?

Year 5: What 2 planets are closest together?

Year 6: What is your best memory from Kingswood?



The week gone by ...

Year 6 Kingswood

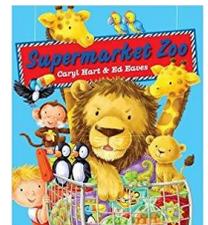
This weekend our Year 6 children have been in Kingswood in Norfolk for the week. We have missed having them at school, but they have had a wonderful week and have made lots of special memories. If you would like to find out more about what they have been up to, do have a look at our School Blog (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org).

We look forward to welcoming them back to school next week.



Nursery and Reception Storytime

This week I spent time in Nursery and Reception reading the children stories - I chose to read them 'Supermarket Zoo' and 'Owl Babies', two of my own children's favourite stories. I was struck by how well the children have settled in to school life and how much they enjoyed listening to the stories. I hope to visit Nursery and Reception each half term to share a stories with them.



Year 1 and 2 Multi-sports Event

On Wednesday our Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed participating in a special multi-sports event, run by the Sports Partnership that we belong to. Luckily the weather was lovely, so the event ran outdoors. Mr Charter and Miss Zantotto have posted some information about the special event on our School Blog:

(www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org).



Year 4 Tri-Golf Event

Yesterday our Year 4 children enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the Reach Free Secondary School, participating in a special tri-golf event for local primary schools. This was organised by the Sports Partnership that we belong to. Mrs Bryson has posted some information about the special event on our School Blog (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org).

After School Clubs

This week was our first week of after school clubs - we hope the children enjoyed themselves! KS1 and 2 children attending clubs will continue to be collected from their classroom just before the end of the school day and supervised in the school hall until Club Leaders arrive. Please remember to collect your child promptly at 4.15pm from the North playground.

Next week...

Parent Workshops

A reminder that the Nursery Home Learning meeting for parents is on Tuesday 2nd October at 9am and the Reception Reading & Phonics meeting for parents is on Thursday 4th October at 9am. We hope to see as many Nursery and Reception parents as possible at these events.



Grandparents Day Breakfast, Friday 5th October, 9-10am

Today in assembly I reminded the children about our annual Grandparents Morning. Next Friday morning we are inviting children to bring their Grandparents to school with them, from 9-9.45am. Grandparents can accompany the children in to school straight from the playground (rather than coming to the school office) – they will have the opportunity to share a drink and a biscuit with the children and take part in some fun activities.

Unfortunately we cannot extend this invitation to parents, as we have limited space in school. We understand that not all children will have a grandparent that can come along, but I have explained to the children that they will all be able to enjoy the fun activities and have a drink and a biscuit together! We look forward to welcoming Grandparents to Shepherd Primary School next Friday!

General Information ...

Homework Updates for 2018 - 2019

We have decided to make some changes this year to the way that homework is set at Shepherd Primary School.

Reading (Early Years - Year 6)

As a general rule, we encourage all pupils in our school to read as frequently as they can (with three times a week being the minimum) - parents are then encouraged to record any reading in each child's reading record book.

Times Tables (Year 2 - Year 6)

From Year 2 pupils will be encouraged to learn their times tables at home - your child should be able to tell you which one they are currently working on.

Spellings (Year 1 - Year 6)

Pupils will bring home their week's spelling words each Thursday which they are expected to practice and learn at home ready to use in their writing by the following Thursday. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 will be set spelling words to learn which will link to the current phonic sound they are learning in class or to their common exception words. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will receive spelling words which link to the particular spelling rule they are currently learning in class.

Online Maths Homework (Year 1 - Year 6)

We have decided to expand our online homework repertoire, therefore we have recently subscribed to the very popular MyMaths online homework system. This week you should have received a letter from your child's class teacher explaining how to log on to MyMaths at home - it does require the use of Flash which

may not be available on some tablets (iOS or Android ones). If this is the case, you can download the free Puffin Academy app which is a mobile Flash browser for approved educational websites - this should enable you to run MyMaths. Your child's class teacher will set a Maths homework task every Thursday which will need to be completed by the following Monday. There is always an option to complete a practice homework task before doing the actual one and we recommend doing this first before completing the actual homework each week. If you have any problems accessing MyMaths then please speak to your child's class teacher.

Online English Homework (Year 3 - Year 6)

We will continue to use spag.com this year with our Key Stage 2 pupils and you should have received your child's online logins already. Each pupil in KS2 will be set an online spag.com homework task every Thursday - this should be completed by the following Monday each week. Again - please see your child's class teacher if you are having any difficulties.

Communication with Parents

I am keen to review the ways that we communicate with parents, to try to make sure we use the best ways to let you know about school life. Thank you to the 84 parents who have already completed the short survey. I would be grateful if parents could complete the survey by Monday 1st October:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUNjIKUK1UM0FMVDdZRkFQWDNHWRVTIICUy4u



Second Hand Uniform Sales

Further to my Parentmail last week, I am pleased to let you know that second hand uniform will not only be available in the school library every Reading Morning, but will also be on sale on the North playground on the first Monday of each month – the first playground sale will therefore be before school on Monday 1st October. If you have any old school uniform that you no longer need, please drop it to the school office.



PE Kits

This week a few children have not have their PE kit in school and were therefore unable to participate in their class weekly PE lessons. Please make sure your child's PE kit is in school every day, including trainers for outdoor PE lessons. As the weather turns colder children in Years 1-6 will also need tracksuit bottoms and a tracksuit top as lessons will continue to be outside. We will be telephoning parents of children who do not have their full PE kit in school and asking them to drop their child's PE kit in to school. Thank you in advance for your support.

Diary Dates

Dates of particular note this half term are:

- Enterprise Week Fair, Friday 26th October, 3.30-4pm



Christmas Cards!

Last week each child came home with their Christmas card design, along with an accompanying letter and order form. Please make sure all order forms are returned to the school office along with payment and your child's card design, by Friday 5th October.

Reading Morning

I just wanted to share a few reminders about our weekly Family Reading Morning:

- All children must enter school as usual and register in their own classroom;
- Older siblings, who have a parent attending Reading Morning with a younger sibling, may join their parent and younger sibling after registration;
- Parents can enter school with their children - if parents have more than one child, they should accompany their youngest child;
- During Reading Morning, the class teacher will ask parents to sign in – this is so we have a record of who is in school;



- At the end of Reading Morning, class Teaching Assistants will help parents find their way back to the school office.

Children who do not have parents attending Reading Morning will not be allowed to visit their siblings classrooms – siblings have other opportunities to read and work together during Paired Reading and our special House events. 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:

- School Council trip to Watersmeet Theatre, Monday 15th October



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.

Message from the PTA Chair, Mrs Sheppard ...

I am delighted to report that three candidates have now come forward for the PTA Vice Chair role. Parents will be able to elect the new Vice Chair by returning the voting slip that is accompanying Friday Letter today. Paper copies of the letter and voting slip will also be sent home in bookbags. All voting slips must be returned to the school office by 9am on Friday 5th October.



I would also like to thank Amanda Charles (mum to Jonathan, Year 4 and Robert, Year 5) for volunteering for the PTA Secretary role again this year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher