

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 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%**. Congratulations to **Year 1 Beltex, Year 1 Lonk and Year 6 Merino**, who all had **100%** this week. Congratulations also to the **277 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 help to sort out some rubbish? Look for the recycling symbol on packaging and help to throw recycling, compost and non-recyclables into the correct bin.

Reception: Can you find 5 things in your house that you can recycle?

Year 1: How many items can you name that can be recycled?

Year 2: Why is it important to put our fruit waste in the new food compost bin and not the classroom bin?

Year 3: If 2/7 of Mr Dunkley's weekly rubbish has gone to landfill, what fraction of the waste has he managed to recycle?

Year 4: What is one thing that you can do to reduce plastic waste in the ocean?

Year 5: How can the country help reduce waste?

Year 6: What materials can be recycled and what do we recycle here at school?



The week gone by...

Waste Awareness Week

This week we have taken part in Waste Week:

- classes have taken part in a fact-finding mission to learn more about the impact of waste on our planet
- we have started to recycle food in the dining room at lunchtimes
- yesterday many children took part in an art workshop using recycled materials
- this morning we welcomed a visitor to assembly, who educated us about plastic pollution
- the children have also been busy designing pictures - the winning design will be printed on the front of a reusable jute bag which we will be selling after Easter.



Thank you to Mrs Holt and our Eco-Committee for organising Waste Week.

'Big Pedal' Week



This week has been Big Pedal Week, where we have been encouraging the children to walk, cycle and scoot to and from school – the children really enjoyed their extra playtimes, where they were able to ride their bikes and scooters around the school playground! Wherever possible, do continue to walk, cycle or scoot to school each day!

Parents Coffee morning

On Wednesday morning, Miss Whiteman and I enjoyed meeting up with parents at our half-termly Coffee Morning. It was a lovely opportunity for parents to give us feedback on school life. The next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 21st May.



Rickmansworth Music Festival

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of attending the Rickmansworth Music Festival at St Clement Danes, where I joined parents in watching our Music Festival Choir perform a range of wonderful songs. Our Shepherd Primary School children shone at the event – they were so well behaved, performed so confidently and were wonderful ambassadors of the school. Thank you to Mr Vickers for helping our Choir prepare for such a special event.

New School Dinner Menu

Today your child will be bringing home a copy of the new Herts Catering school dinner menu, which starts on Tuesday 23rd April. A copy of the new menu will also be available on our school website, after Easter.

Next Week...

Clubs

A reminder that Clubs have now finished for this term, so all children will need to be collected at normal time.

Thank you to all those parents who have returned their clubs slip and payment, for summer term clubs. Next week Mrs Anderson will be busy allocating clubs and club allocation slips will be sent home next week.

School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, Tuesday 2nd April



Year 3 and 4 Production of Cinderella

A reminder to all Year 3 and 4 parents that the children will be performing their play, Roald Dahl's 'Cinderella', at 9.30am on Wednesday 3rd April. **Please remember that there are two seats available for each family** – we cannot allow more than two seats, due to the hall having a restriction on the audience size, following a fire risk assessment we carried out.

Easter Egg Hunts!

Next Thursday the whole school will be participating in our annual Easter egg hunt! Thank you to Mrs Batchford who is busy designing clues for each class to follow, and to the PTA who are providing the chocolate eggs!



Year 6 Parents SATs Meeting

A reminder to Year 6 parents that Mr Turton and Mrs Grace will be leading a SATs meeting next Friday, 5th April, at 9am.

End of Term

Term finishes next Friday, 5th April at 1.30pm. Please make sure you note the early finish time. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 23rd April.

General Information...

School Uniform

A reminder to Early Years and Key Stage 1 parents (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), that children should be wearing a white polo shirt to school (not a fitted shirt – these are part of our Key Stage 2 school uniform).

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 25th April.

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