



Attendance & Punctuality

The school day starts at 8.50am 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 5 Cheviot, Year 4 Romney and Year 2 Swaledale** 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 **96.3%**. Congratulations to **Year 3 Vendeen** who had the best attendance this week. Congratulations also to the **260 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 you discuss your 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: This week we planted sunflower seeds. Do you remember what seeds need to grow?

Reception: How many days are there in a week?

Year 1: What parts of a plant can you name?

Year 2: Why is it important for humans to eat a balanced diet?

Year 3: Where, in Roman Britain, would you find a Domus, Insulae, Wooden Hut and Villa? Can you describe them?

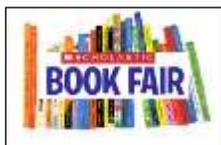
Year 4: Why was the Nile so important to the Ancient Egyptians?

Year 5: How many different ways can you present a remainder?

Year 6: What is the difference between active and passive voice?



The week gone by...



Scholastic Half Price Book Fair

Thank you to all those families who visited our book fair this week. We hope you are enjoying reading your half price book bargains! We have been able to choose a number of books for the school library, as part of our commission – thank you!

Curriculum Newsletters

Curriculum Newsletters for all classes were sent home this week. Copies have also been posted on the school website.

Secondary Transfer Meeting for Year 5 Parents

This morning I led my annual secondary transfer meeting for parents – thank you to those parents who attended. For those of you unable to make it, a copy of the presentation has been posted on the school website, in the 'Useful Information' section. We will once again be running familiarisation sessions for those Year 5 children sitting the academic aptitude tests in September – a copy of the letter outlining the arrangements for these sessions has been Parentmailed to Year 5 parents today.

Next Week...

Sponsored Bounce!



We will be holding our annual whole school Sponsored Bounce fundraising event next Friday, 10th May. We are asking children to ask family and friends to sponsor them to bounce on a bouncy castle as many times as possible in one minute (sponsorship forms went home in bookbags last Friday).

Please ensure that the sponsorship form is returned back into school on or before 10th May, in order for your child's class teacher to record their number of bounces on it. This will then be sent back home with your child that day, in order for them to collect their sponsorship money. All the money raised this year will be put towards a range of workshops for children from Nursery-Year 6 during National Sports Week – we hope to raise enough money to include skipping, martial arts, scooters, skateboarding and dance!

General Information...

Year 6 SATs, w/c 13th May

As you know, the Year 6 SATs will take place during the week commencing 13th May and the children and staff have been working really hard to prepare for these tests. The timetable for the tests is as follows:

Monday 13th May	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 14th May	English Reading
Wednesday 15th May	Mathematics Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 16th May	Mathematics Paper 3

We will be providing breakfast for all Year 6 children on the days of the SATs, to enable them to share breakfast with their friends and have a relaxed start to the day - breakfast will include a variety of cereals, fresh fruit, toast and fruit juice. Year 6 children should arrive at school at 8.30am and enter school through the dining room, where breakfast will be served. If you have any questions about the SATs or arrangements for the week, please speak to Mr Turton or Mrs Grace.

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 9th May.

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.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher