

## 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'.

## Goodbye Mrs McGrath, Mrs Jull and Miss Woodger



**Mrs McGrath:** Today we said goodbye to Mrs McGrath, who is going on maternity leave. We enjoyed a special Baby Shower staff breakfast with her this morning and the children said goodbye to her during our Friday assembly, when they presented her with a bouquet of beautiful flowers and a very special card, which they had all contributed towards. We look forward to hearing the happy news that baby McGrath has arrived safely, within the next few weeks!

**Mrs Jull:** Mrs Jull will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term, with her last day being Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Whilst Mrs Jull is on maternity leave, Mr Michael Dunkley and Mrs Lucy Bates will be covering Year 3 Texel. Mrs Bates already works in school on Mondays and Tuesdays each week and Mr Dunkley has had a long association with the school, most recently teaching Year 5 last year. Mrs Bates and Mr Dunkley will be visiting Year 3 Texel over the next few weeks and will be getting a full handover from Mrs Jull.

**Miss Woodger:** Miss Woodger will also be leaving at the end of this term, as she has decided to relocate to Slovakia with her partner. Miss Woodger started her teaching career at Shepherd Primary School and is a brilliant teacher. We have thoroughly enjoyed having her as part of our school team and will miss her very much. We wish her the very best of luck as she embarks on a very exciting chapter of her life, in Slovakia.

*A message from Miss Woodger:*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my time teaching at Shepherd Primary and taking part in all of the wonderful activities the school has to offer. Over the last two years, it has been a joy to see the children growing and achieving in all aspects of school life. I am looking forward to taking up a new job opportunity abroad but will miss the pupils and staff at Shepherd Primary. I wish the school and pupils every success in the future.*

We have appointed Mr Robin Marlow to take over as our Year 5 Dorper class teacher from January 2019. Mr Marlow will be visiting Year 5 over the next few weeks and will be getting a full handover from Miss Woodger.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet Mrs Bates, Mr Dunkley and Mr Marlow formally in the new year.

## 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, Year 1 Beltex and Year 3 Texel** who had the fewest 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 **94.9%**.

- Congratulations to the **235 children** who had 100% attendance this week.
- Congratulations to **Year 3 Texel**, 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.

### **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 sing a number song and say how many will be left each time? e.g. 10 Green Bottles

Reception: Can you sing The 12 days of Christmas?

Year 1: Can you retell the Three Little Pigs story with actions?

Year 2: Can you retell the story of the stickman

Year 3: Can you find two things that might be magnetic? How do you know?

Year 4: What are the 4 types of teeth called?

Year 5: What are the 7 continents of the world?

Year 6: What is the product of 4 and 7?



### **The week gone by ...**



#### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Thank you to all those families who came along and purchased a book or two at our Book Fair this week. There was a lovely range of books for children in each key stage and there were lots of bargains to be had! I will let you know how much money we raised in next week's Friday Letter.



#### **Year 4 Dance Festival**

On Wednesday evening, a group of 22 of our Year 4 children participated in the Rickmansworth Dance Festival, performing their dance in front of an audience of over 200 people! Mrs Bryson and Mrs Arnold were proud of the children and many parents have said how much they enjoyed the event. In Celebration Assembly this morning, Year 4 performed the dance to the whole school, which we all thoroughly enjoyed! Mrs Bryson has posted a Blog entry of the special event ([www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org](http://www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org))



#### **Switch off Fortnight**

During the last two weeks we have been thinking about Switch Off Fortnight. Our school Eco-Watchers have been working with Mrs Holt to look at where we can cut down on the amount of electricity we are using in school, to help the environment. Each class teacher planned a fun activity for the children to do in class, so do talk to your child about what they have learnt. Accompanying this Friday Letter is a fact sheet about how to save energy at home.

### **Next Week ...**

#### **Christmas at Shepherd Primary School!**

This weekend our big Christmas tree will be going up in the school hall, signalling the countdown to Christmas! Please note the following festive events happening at Shepherd Primary School:

- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> December: PTA Christmas Party for children (3.30-6pm)
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> December: Early Years Christmas Concert for parents, 9.30am
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> December: Group of KS2 children to visit Westerley Care Home, Carol Singing
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 play to parents, 9.30am
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day!
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> December: KS2 Christmas party, 1.30pm
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December: KS2 Christmas Concert for parents, 9.15am
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Lunch, 12 noon
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Christmas party, 1.30pm
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> December: Y1-Y6 trip to the panto, 10am



- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> December: Early Years Christmas Party, 9am
- Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> December: Board Games Day!



### **Christmas Card Post Box**

The Christmas Card Postbox will be in the school library from Monday – children can bring their Christmas cards to school and post them and the cards will be delivered to each class throughout the week. Please make sure that the child's name and class are written clearly on each envelope.

## **New Windows and Doors!**

The project to replace all the windows and doors in the 'old' building starts on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and will take approximately 10 weeks to complete. You may have noticed that the 'compound' has been set up on the North playground today. 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.



## 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>



### 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.

## PTA Messages



### Music Bingo Night

A big thank you to everyone who helped organise and came to support the music bingo night on 23 November – a great time was had by all!

### PTA Christmas Party, 4 December

We have had a fantastic response to the Christmas party – so much so that we have had to increase the number of volunteers required to ensure the event runs smoothly and the children have the best time possible. If you are able to volunteer to help out at the party please sign up via PTA Social. If you're having difficulty please contact your class rep or e-mail [shepherd.primary.pta@gmail.com](mailto:shepherd.primary.pta@gmail.com) and we will provide further details. Your help is greatly appreciated!

There will further detailed information on the above messages and other PTA news in the November/December edition of the PTA newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher