

Dear Parents

5th October 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
- Grandparents Day celebration
- 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 name some of the colours that leaves change to in the Autumn?

Reception: Can you re-tell the story of We're Going on a Bear Hunt?

Year 1: Can you name all five senses?

Year 2: Can you retell the story of Goldilocks and the three bears along with the actions?

Year 3: What tools did the Stone Age people use and how are they different from the ones we use today?

Year 4: What does the word humid mean? Why would you use it to describe a rainforest?

Year 5: How does the position of the Earth affect the hours of daylight throughout the year?

Year 6: What sea defences were used in Kingswood to tackle cliff erosion?



The week gone by ...

Governor Visits

On Wednesday our school Governors spent the morning in school visiting all our classes. They were particularly impressed with how well the children have settled in to their new classes, how well they engaged with their learning and how welcome the children made the them feel.



Golden Table Lunch

At lunchtimes, the children are rewarded with raffle tickets from the MSAs for excellent table manners and for playing well on the playground. At the end of each month, 11 raffle tickets are drawn and those children have a very special Golden Table Lunch, where children eat at a special table decorated golden, with a member of staff! Last week we had our first Golden Table of this academic year – do look at our school Blog to see those children who enjoyed this special occasion (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org) .



Behaviour Role Model Raffle

When a member of staff sees a child displaying excellent behaviour around the school, they reward them with a Role Model Raffle Ticket. During each Celebration Assembly I draw winning tickets and each child receives a small prize, to congratulate them on being such a positive role model to other children. Do have a look at our Role Model Raffle winners last week, on our school Blog (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org) .



Star of the Week

This week I am very excited to have once again started to send 'Star of the Week' postcards home to parents whose children have particularly impressed their class teacher. This is a wonderful way of us letting you know how well your children are doing, so do keep an eye out in your post!

Parent Workshops

Thank you to all those parents who attended our Nursery and Reception Parent Workshops this week and for your positive feedback. If you were unable to attend but would like to see what was discussed, please look at our school website (<https://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk/>) on the Nursery and Reception class pages.



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

We had a very special morning in school today, when over 70 Grandparents came to school with their grandchildren! I have never received so many positive comments about the event, so thank you! It was lovely to welcome you into school. Some photographs of the event are on our school Blog (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org). Those children whose Grandparents were unable to attend today had the opportunity to make something in class for them, which they will be bringing home in their bookbags.

Shepherd Primary School PTA

Thank you to the 52 parents who voted for our new Vice Chair. It was very close indeed between all the candidates, but congratulations to Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Sheldon who will share the role of Vice-Chair. Our new PTA committee is as follows:

Chair: Mrs Sheppard

Vice Chair: Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Sheldon

Treasurer: Mrs Sorkin

Secretary: Mrs Charles



Next week...



Gardening Morning!

It has come to that time of year again when the weeds need pulling up and the flower beds need tidying, before the colder weather sets in! We are also trying to get the school looking wonderful, ready for our new prospective Nursery and Reception parents who will be touring the school after half term, looking for places for their children for September 2019. So next Thursday morning at 9am, Mrs Norwood will be gardening on the North playground – if there are any parents or Grandparents out there who would like to bring along a pair of gardening gloves and help, we would be very grateful indeed. Please let the School Office know if you are able to help.

Walk to School Day – a message from Mr Charter

On Monday we will be celebrating international walk to school day. Every class will have a walking assembly, where they will be looking for flags of countries that take part in international walk to school day, that have been placed round the school. We would like you to try and walk to school and from school as much as possible next week.



Upcoming Events This term ...

Diary Dates

Dates of particular note this term are:

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

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 practise 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.



PE Kits

This week there have continued to be a few children who have not have their PE kit in school. We will be continuing to telephone 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.



Reading Morning

A reminder that 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 half 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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher