

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 Soay, Years 1 Beltex and 3 Texel** 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 **97.7%**. Congratulations to **Year 2 Swaledale**, who had **100%** this week. Congratulations also to the **273 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: Do you remember the book we shared about how a chick grows? What is the egg tooth for?

Reception: Can you search for some signs of new life during the Easter holiday?

Year 1: Which religion celebrates Easter?

Year 2: If 5 children found 3 Easter eggs each, how many Easter eggs do they have altogether?

Year 3: Can you name a country that begins with each of the letters in EASTER?

Year 4: What is Palm Sunday?

Year 5: Why is Easter the most important celebration in the year for Christians?

Year 6: The idea of the Easter bunny originated in the 1700's in what country?



The week gone by...

PTA Easter Family Fun Night

Last Friday evening, I attended the Easter Family Fun Night with my own two children, run by our PTA. The evening was jam packed with lots of fun games and great entertainment and everyone had a brilliant time! Thank you to our wonderful PTA for running such a fun event for us all to enjoy.



Gade Winning House Treat

On Monday morning, Mrs Freuchen and I had a great time with all the children in Gade, who won the House points challenge this term – we enjoyed squash and a biscuit together, before the children set off on a chocolate egg hunt around the school grounds! Congratulations to all the children in Gade!

Clubs

Today Summer Term Club allocations were sent home. We are looking forward to welcoming the children to clubs, which start during the week commencing Monday 29th April. If you have not yet signed your child up to attend any of our Summer Term Clubs and would like to, please contact the School Office.



Year 3 and 4 Production of Cinderella

On Wednesday morning, parents of children in Years 3 and 4 were treated to the most wonderful rendition of Roald Dahl's 'Cinderella'. I was so proud of all the children, who performed beautifully and entertained us brilliantly. An enormous thank you to our whole Lower Key Stage 2 team for providing the children with such a memorable experience.

Easter Egg Hunts!

Yesterday morning, the whole school participated in our annual Easter egg hunt! They followed a series of clues to lead them to me, where they earned a basket of chocolate eggs! Thank you to Mrs Batchford who designed our Easter egg hunt and to the PTA who provided the chocolate eggs.



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.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 23rd April.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher