

Dear Parents

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## Attendance & Punctuality

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. This week our overall school attendance was **95.9%**. Congratulations to **Reception Soay**, who had the best attendance again this week. Congratulations also to the **255 children** who had 100% attendance this week.



After Christmas we will be sending a letter to those parents whose children have attendance lower than the DfE expected standard of 95%. This letter has been devised by the attendance team to alert parents to their child's attendance, as many parents do not realise the impact that absence has on their child's overall attendance.

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 and Nursery lambs** who had the fewest late arrivals to school 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: How many beats are there in your name?

Reception: Have a look around you, what shapes can you see?

Year 1: Can you tell your version of the 3 little pigs?

Year 2: How many different ways can you make 50p?

Year 3: How many degrees are in a right angle?

Year 4: Can you improve this sentences using how, where and when adverbs? The sloth slept.

Year 5: Imagine you have six quarters of a pizza. What is another way of saying six quarters?

Year 6: What did the Mayans believe they had to sacrifice to the gods?



## The week gone by ...

### New Windows and Doors!



The kitchen and dining room windows are now all in place, don't they look a treat! Next week the windows will be replaced in the KS1 children's toilets and cloakroom. The children will be using the KS2 toilets or Nursery toilets whenever work is taking place in their toilet. We are also having the doors replaced at either end of the corridor. By the end of the week all the windows on the north side of the school will have been replaced making the school lovely and snug.

## Early Years Christmas Concert

On Wednesday morning I gathered in the school hall with a large audience of parents and grandparents, to watch the Early Years Christmas Concert. We were treated to a host of different songs performed by our talented Nursery and Reception children – I was struck by how well the children have settled in to school life and how confidently they performed in front of us all. I was incredibly proud of our youngest children and the concert was a wonderful start to our Christmas celebrations at Shepherd Primary School.

Thank you to the PTA team who served teas and coffees to parents before the concert.

## Spring Term Clubs

Earlier this week Clubs letters were sent home with children in Years 1-6. Please ensure all Clubs reply slips are returned to the school Office, by 9am on Monday (10<sup>th</sup> December).

## Next Week ...

### Carol Singing at Westerley Care Home

On Monday a group of Key Stage 2 children, including our School Councillors, are going Carol Singing at Westerley Residential Care Home. This is a lovely opportunity for our children and we are sure the residents will enjoy the children's singing.



### Key Stage 1 Christmas Play

A reminder to our Key Stage 1 parents that children in Years 1 and 2 will be performing their Christmas play, 'Midwife Crisis' on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Places are limited to two per family, as there is a restricted audience in the school hall. The PTA will kindly be serving teas and coffees before the production.



### Christmas Jumper Day!

Next Friday (14<sup>th</sup> December) is national Christmas Jumper Day! Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper to school that day, instead of their school cardigan/jumper (alongside the rest of their usual school uniform).

## Christmas Celebrations!

Please note the following festive events happening at Shepherd Primary School:

- 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.

## General Information



### **Smoking near the school gates**

I have received complaints from parents regarding other parents and carers smoking on the paths by the school gates on the North playground. Whilst I realise that the George V Playing Fields are a public area, I can understand why parents are unhappy, as a huge number of children walk along the paths to and from school. Please can I ask parents wishing to smoke, to move right away from the school gates and nearby paths. Thank you.



### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Thank you to all those families who came along and purchased a book or two at our Book Fair last week. We took £520, meaning that we were able to choose £52 of books for classrooms, which the children are already enjoying reading! Thank you.

### **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...

### **Christmas Party**

A big thank you to everyone who was involved in the PTA Christmas Party on Tuesday - from organising to volunteering to buying tickets, it was a great team effort. We had such a great turnout and have had lots of positive feedback from both children and parents which we really appreciate and we're all really pleased with how it went. And of course a thank you to the children who were all so well behaved and their enjoyment made it all worth it!



### **Christmas Raffle**

We will be holding a children's raffle this year with 8 prizes to be won in total! A flyer with tickets and further information will be sent home in book bags today.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher