

Dear Parents

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Applying for a place in Nursery for September 2019**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, you can apply for a place for Nursery.

**Applications are open and close on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Please apply directly to our school at:

<http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk/admissions/four-year-old-nursery-admissions.html>

If you would like to come and look round our Nursery, we are holding tours at 9.30am on 12<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March - please call the school office to book a place.

## **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 **Beltex** who had least late arrivals to school last 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 **92.2%**. Congratulations to **Year 5 Cheviot**, who had the best attendance last week. Congratulations also to the **242 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](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 talk about the similarities and differences between the Reception classroom and the Nursery classroom?

Reception: What is snow made of?

Year 1: What do you think transport will look like in the future?

Year 2: Can you explain what a noun is?

Year 3: Do you prefer pictograms or bar charts? Can you explain why?

Year 4: Can you list 3 things you learned at the Science Museum?

Year 5: How many grams are in 7.2kg?

Year 6: What is the difference between perimeter and area?



## **Term Dates for next academic year (2019-20)**

Below you will find the full term dates for next academic year. I appreciate that term dates can be confusing, so I have tried to set out this information as clearly as possible for you. Please make sure that holidays are not booked in term time, as absence due to holiday will be unauthorised. If you need to take time out of school for exceptional reasons, please see me in advance to discuss this. Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school for 15 sessions (7 ½ days) or more across two terms without authorisation, then you will receive a fixed penalty notice (fine) from the Local Authority.

### Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September: school closed (staff training days)

Wednesday 4th September: school starts for children

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November: half term holiday

Friday 15th November (occasional day): school closed

Friday 20th December (1.30pm): end of term

### Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January: school starts for children

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February: half term holiday

Friday 3rd April (1.30pm): end of term

### Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April: school starts for children

Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May: half term holiday

Monday 29th June: school closed (staff training day)

Friday 17th July (1.30pm): end of term

Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July: school closed (staff training days)

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



### **Safer Internet Day**

On Tuesday we celebrated Safer Internet Day in school. Mrs Luts led special assemblies for children in Key Stages 1 and 2 and class teachers planned a range of activities to help remind children of the importance of online safety. Each year group has posted an entry on the School Blog, so you can see what the children learnt ([www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org](http://www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org))

## **Next Week ...**

### **Feeling Good Week 2019**

As part of our commitment to supporting the emotional wellbeing of our school community, we are celebrating 'Feeling Good Week'. During the week the children will be completing activities around what we can do to help ourselves and others feel good and so help emotional wellbeing.



Each class will also take part in a yoga session on Monday or Tuesday, run by 'Tilly's Dance Factory'. We are also running a yoga session for parents, free of charge, from 2.50-3.15pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – please contact the school office if you would like to book a place, as places are limited.

We have chosen rainbow colours to represent the week, so the children can wear 'rainbow' coloured clothes instead of school uniform next Friday (15<sup>th</sup> February).

- School Council will be selling buzz bugs for 50p at breaktimes
- Rainbow biscuits will be on sale at Friday breaktime for 50p

Money raised will be split - half will be sent to the charity 'Young Minds in Herts' that supports young people with emotional difficulties and the other half will be put towards a 'Feeling Good' experience for the children.

## E-safety Coffee Morning

In Friday Letter this half term we have been advertising an E-Safety coffee morning with Miss Whiteman and I, where we hoped to be able to give parents the opportunity to hear advice as to how to keep their children safe online. As no parents have signed up to attend the coffee morning, we are sadly cancelling the event. I have uploaded the resources we were going to make available to parents, to the school website – so if you would like to find out more, please click on the following link to view the E-Safety resources: <http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk/curriculum.html>  
I am also attaching the HfL Online Safety Newsletter to this email.



## New Windows and Doors!

This week new windows have been fitted in the early years classrooms, they make the South playground look very smart and are already making an enormous difference to the atmosphere in Early Years, making the classrooms cosy. Next week the fitters will be finishing off the last few windows and tidying up the site before they fit a new front door during half term week.

## Family Worker

Our family worker, Debbie Wingfield ran a parent drop-in session last Thursday. It was an opportunity to meet her and find out what she does. Thank you to those parents who attended. The next drop-in will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 9am.

## General Information



### School Crossing Patrol

We are really keen to continue our hunt for a school crossing patrol - while the PSPO has reduced the number of parents parking outside our school, it has meant that there are more families crossing Shepherd's Lane to get to school and those cars driving down Shepherd's Lane are going faster - so I think our need for a school crossing patrol is greater than ever. If you are interested in this role and would like to find out further information, please contact Janet Fairhead at HCC County hall on 01992 556815.

## School Trips and Local Visits

The following school trips and local visits are scheduled to take place this term:

- Year 3 Vendeen trip to Wenzels bakery, 25<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 3 Texel trip to Wenzels bakery, 4<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 6 trip to watch 'Hairspray' at The Reach Free, 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 5 tag rugby event at The Reach Free, 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 5 trip to the Natural History Museum, 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, 2<sup>nd</sup> April



## Safer Places - Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker



Safer Places is a charity offering support to families experiencing domestic abuse. They advise, that if you think you are suffering from domestic abuse, then you probably are. 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 support 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](mailto:emily.hannon@sahwr.org.uk)

## School Closure - Snow

In the event of the school having to close due to severe weather, parents who are signed up to ParentMail will receive a text notifying them. If you are not signed up to ParentMail, please either;

- check the school website: [www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk](http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk)
- check the Herts Direct website ([www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org))
- listen to either Heart Radio Station (96.6 FM) or Jack Radio Station (106 FM)



We fully appreciate how inconvenient it is when our school closes, which is why we try to avoid it. When we do have to close the school, we make the decision as early as possible. In the event of local roads and paths being icy and potentially dangerous to travel on, we may not open the school. If not enough staff can safely make the journey into school, it may not be possible to open due to problems with ratios and concerns over the health and safety of both children and staff. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### **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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher