

Dear Parents

Friday 8th March 2019

Applying for a place in Nursery for September 2019

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

Applications are open and close on Friday 15th March 2019

Please apply directly to our school at:

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

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 **Year 1 Lonk and Year 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 **96.0%**. Congratulations to **Year 1 Lonk**, who had the best attendance last week. Congratulations also to the **262 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: Can you show someone at home where to find the title, blurb and the name of the author on your library book?

Reception: Who is your favourite superhero character?

Year 1: Who are the main characters in the wizard of Oz?

Year 2: Which crayon do you feel most sorry for in ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’?

Year 3: Which '10 in a Term' book have you enjoyed reading most so far this term?

Year 4: Who is your favourite book character and why?

Year 5: How would the character you came dressed up as yesterday have responded to the bluchers (The Boy in the Tower - Class reader)?

Year 6: How many children’s books, including picture books, has David Walliams written?



The week gone by ...



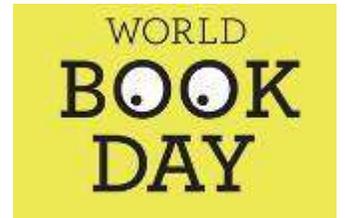
Year 3 Drumming Performance

On Monday afternoon our two Year 3 classes put on a fantastic drumming concert! I was so impressed by what the children have achieved and how confidently they played. Thank you to those parents and grandparents who came along to watch the children. Miss Douglas and Mrs Bates have posted some photographs from the event on the School Blog (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org).

World Book Day

On Thursday we celebrated World Book Day:

- Many children (and staff!) came to school dressed as a book character
- Miss Whiteman led a special assembly where children were able to see each other's costumes
- The children took part in a range of fun activities in class
- Many children enjoyed the special lunch provided by Herts Catering
- Each child was given a £1 book token which they can use at local book stores in exchange for a free World Book Day book, or put the £1 voucher towards a different book of their choice.



Thank you to all those families who donated £1 – we raised over £160 and are already busy spending the money on new reading books for each class!



Reception 'Stay and Play'

Thank you to all those Reception parents who came to our 'Stay and Play' session this morning. I hope you enjoyed learning alongside your children!

Parents Evening – 12th and 13th March 2019

Last week the booking system opened for Parents Evening Consultations, which will be held on Tuesday 12th March and Wednesday 13th March. Please click on the link you received via ParentMail to book your appointment. The booking system will close on Saturday 9th March – those parents who haven't booked an appointment will be allocated one by the school office early next week.

Next Week ...



Cultural Diversity Week

Next week we are running a special 'Cultural Diversity' week in school, where we will be celebrating all the different cultures and backgrounds that our children and families have. As part of the celebrations, children will be learning about different countries and cultures each day – teachers are busy planning a lovely range of activities for the children including art, geography and music. The children will also have the opportunity to participate in dance and music workshops. Thank you very much to those parents who have contacted the school to say that they would like to join in the week by sharing something from their own culture with their child's class. Do keep an eye on the School Blog, as we will be posting entries from some of the special events next week.



Red Nose Day

On Friday 15th March we will be celebrating Red Nose Day. All children are invited to come to school wearing Red Noses and red clothes, in exchange for £1 which will be sent off to the Red Nose Day charity. Thank you to all those children who purchased one of the Red Noses we were selling in school – these have now completely sold out.

General Information

Parent Governor

Accompanying this Friday Letter is a letter regarding becoming a Parent Governor. Please ensure all nominations are handed in to the School Office by 9am on Friday 29th March 2019.

School Trips and Local Visits

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

- Year 5 trip to the Natural History Museum, 18th March
- Year 4 and 5 trip to see Francesca Simon (author of Horrid Henry books) at St Johns School, 25th March
- Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon, 2nd April



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 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 14th March.

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