

Shepherd Primary School

Friday Letter

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents

Nursery Applications for September 2021

Applications for places in our 4 year old Nursery for September 2021 are open, for children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018.

Applications are made via an online form on our school website:

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

Unfortunately we are unable to tour parents around our Nursery at the moment, but please do call the school office (01923 773478) to either book an appointment to talk to me about our Nursery, or to add your name to the list of parents who would like to tour Nursery when national restrictions allow us to.

NURSERY

Parents Consultations

Thank you to the huge number of parents who have already booked a parent consultation meeting for the week commencing 22nd February (straight after half term). We really appreciate your support and flexibility as we know that many of you are juggling work and home schooling to attend your parent consultation appointment – thank you.

Accompanying this Friday Letter are instructions for how to access the Google Meet parents consultations.

I know that many of you have already contacted Mrs Freuchen and I during the last few weeks, but if you would like to speak to us please email emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk to organise an appointment time.

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!



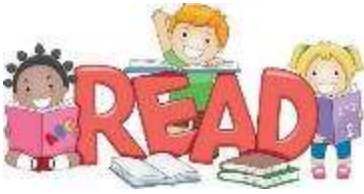
Wellbeing Day & World Book Day

A reminder that on Thursday 4th March we will be holding a World Book Day & Wellbeing Day for staff and children.

Mrs Freuchen and I will be setting a range of fun activities for the staff and children to complete, that gives them all time away from the screen and a break from learning online. We will be sending home details of the activities straight after half term, so you can

see in advance some of the things your child can do.

On that day our whole team of school staff will also be completing essential First Aid training, Health and Safety training and GDPR training, so school will be closed for all children (as we cannot release staff from their current roles in school when the children are in, without mixing 'bubbles').



Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Accompanying this Friday Letter is a flyer that I came across when visiting the Education Endowment Fund, all about how to support your child reading at home. There are some great top tips, so do take a look!

Our School Family Worker Debbie Wingfield

As a school we employ a Family Worker to support Shepherd families, as part of our work with the South West Herts Partnership. We have worked with our Family Worker, Debbie Wingfield for many years and she has supported so many families during that time. Accompanying this Friday Letter is a flyer about some of the things Debbie could support families with. If you would like support from our Family Worker, or would just like to find out more about her role, please contact Mrs Freuchen at emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk or by calling the school office.



School Supplies

If you are in need of any school supplies to help with remote learning, please visit the school office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays between 10am and 2pm and the office staff will very gladly provide you with the supplies you need (exercise books, pencils, pens).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher

General Reminders

Laptops

We understand that children in many families are sharing a suitable electronic device to access their remote learning – this is absolutely fine and class teachers understand that children will complete and submit work at different times of day, as and when they have access to a device. But if you do not have any suitable device at home at all please do let us know by completing the survey at the following link - we will do everything we can to try and support your child:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUMV_NCTUpONjk5VVA5M0NaTzFPU0FDTFEYMC4u



Internet Connectivity

If you do not have internet access at home, or are struggling with your current data allowance, please email emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk, as we will try to help you, so that your child can successfully access remote learning.



Mobile Data

The DfE are rolling out a scheme where schools can request mobile data increases for children who do not have fixed broadband at home and cannot afford additional data for their devices, to enable them to access educational resources. Participating networks are: EE, Sky Mobile, Smarty, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile, O2 and Vodafone. If you think you wish us to make a request on your behalf, please complete the form at:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUQ0c3U1hRUFVJUjNaNFQwUU1PQ1IwWIZVNS4u



Mill End Food Bank

We know that a number of families may need some additional support with food and meals during this period of national lockdown – we are able to provide these families with support from the Mill End Food Bank. If you would like support from the Food Bank, please do email: emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk

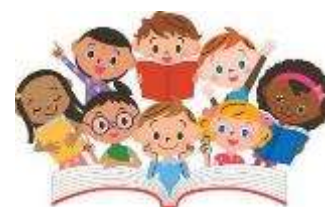


Hertfordshire Libraries 'Ready Reads' services

We all know how important it is for children to have access to books. Despite the current lockdown situation, Hertfordshire libraries are open for Ready Reads. Families can order books for their children and themselves using the online form and then collect them from a selected library, via the following link:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/other-library-services/ready-reads.aspx> If you are unable to access the online form, please

contact the library service on 0300 123 4049 and a member of their team will be able to help fill out the form. The library also has an extensive online eBook and eAudio library, BorrowBox. Never have books been more important, not only supporting children with their reading and education but also with their health and wellbeing.



Blue Peter

Blue Peter have launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter) at CBBC, suitable for 5-11 year olds. They are uploading world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances.

You can subscribe, completely free of charge, at: <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>



Live Singing Sessions from Sing Up!

Sing Up will be running live sessions on Tuesday mornings with a #FeelgoodFifteen minutes of singing and musical fun to wake children up and get them ready for a day of learning. If you miss the live session, each video will be saved so you can catch up afterwards. You can access the session at:

<https://www.youtube.com/singup>

