



# Shepherd Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs C Foad (B.Ed.(Hons), M.A.(Ed), NPQH)



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents



## Remote Learning

I hope that you have all had a positive week and that your children have enjoyed their remote learning and Google Meets. Thank you for all the positive feedback that you have sent both to me and to class teachers directly – we are so glad that the video clips introducing the day and supporting teaching and learning are proving to be so useful.

## Google Classroom on Xbox and PlayStation

I received an excellent top tip from a parent this week that I wanted to share with you: you can access Google Classroom on an Xbox and a PlayStation console – the parent has tested it out and it definitely works! This may help those families who have these devices.



## Laptops

We understand that children in many families are sharing a laptop or suitable electronic device to access their remote learning – this is absolutely fine and class teachers are really understanding that children will complete and submit work at different times of day, as and when they have access to your device.

If you do not have any suitable device at home at all and did not complete the initial survey in the autumn term, 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=yt3JTUBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd\\_KUg2iRUMVNCTUpONjk5VVA5M0NaTzFPU0FDTFEYMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUMVNCTUpONjk5VVA5M0NaTzFPU0FDTFEYMC4u)

## 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](mailto:emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk), as we will try to help you, so that your child can successfully access remote learning.



## Free School Meal Food Parcels

A reminder to parents of children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals, that your next food parcel will be ready for you to collect from the school office on Monday, between 11am and 2.30pm. From the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January we will be aiming to provide supermarket vouchers rather than food parcels, for three weeks.

If your financial circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

## 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](mailto: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>



### Childhood Winter Illnesses

Accompanying this Friday Letter is a leaflet from the NHS, offering advice to parents on how to deal with childhood winter illnesses.

### Wellbeing

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please do call Mrs Freuchen or myself at school (01923 773478), or email us at [emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk](mailto:emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk), so that we can help support both you and your child.



Accompanying this Friday Letter is a useful wellbeing guide that we received from 'Safe Space' (Hertfordshire's school counselling service, who provide counsellors for some children at our school.) There are suggested activities as well as different ways to promote your wellbeing and the wellbeing of your family.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher