

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents

Covid-19 – Important Reminders

Face Masks/Face Shields

As a result of the rise in cases of covid-19 in Mill End, we have decided that from Monday;

- Adults will need to wear face masks on the playground when they drop off and pick up children (unless they are medically exempt from doing so), as it can be difficult for families to stringently adhere to 2m social distancing at all times;
- Adults will always need to wear a face mask or a face shield when they are talking to a member of school staff;
- Staff will wear a face shield or face mask when they talk to parents or carers;
- Families must adhere to 2m social distancing guidelines.

Staff will not routinely be wearing face masks or face shields, but will have these ready in case they need to talk to a parent/carer, or a parent/carer wants to talk to them. Staff will not be wearing face masks or face shields inside school.

School Pick-Up Times

We are aware that the pick-up at the end of the day is not working as well as we hoped, as large numbers of parents are waiting on the playgrounds and the exit bottlenecks at certain times.

So as from Monday we are staggering our pick-up slightly more, as follows:

- 3.10pm: Reception and Year 1
- 3.15pm: Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4
- 3.20pm: Year 5 and Year 6

Please do not arrive on the playground early.

As soon as you have collected your child, please leave the playground straight away.

Covid Testing

If your child is tested as part of testing initiated by your family, or if they are asked to participate in the ONS-led testing study, your child will need to stay at home until the results are obtained. This is to avoid a situation where your child is asymptomatic, tests positive, and has continued to attend school, meaning that the class bubble has to self-isolate for longer than necessary. We are not discouraging parents from allowing their child to participate in the ONS-led study, and we will provide your child with home learning for the few days they are off school and waiting for their results.

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.



The Week Gone By...



Road Safety – Year 1 and Year 3

Last week our Year 1 class had an online Road safety lesson with the Hertfordshire Travel Team and this week it was the turn of Year 3. The sessions were a lovely opportunity for the children to learn some important age-appropriate road safety skills. Thank you to Mr Charter, our Travel Plan Leader, for organising these sessions.

Next Week...

Spooky Mufti Day!!

We are aware that many families won't be participating in the normal Halloween celebration this year, due to social distancing guidelines and restrictions on the number of people that can gather together inside at any given time. So to celebrate the end of our first half term back at school, we are inviting the children to all wear spooky themed fancy dress to school on Thursday 22nd October. Children can wear any kind of spooky fancy dress (no masks or props) to school in exchange for a voluntary donation of £2. Please do not feel that you have to purchase an outfit for your child to wear, something homemade would be lovely! All the money raised will be put towards new books that we are investing in for our school library and whole class sets of books for classes to read. Alternatively, parents may wish to donate a book straight to school via our Amazon Wish List: <https://amzn.eu/boriYd0> We have been overwhelmed by the huge number of parents that have chosen to do this. Thank you!



Inset Day

A reminder that school will be closed to children next Friday, 23rd October, as we have an Inset day.

School Dinners

Next week, children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 can only order cold meals. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 can order hot or cold meals.

Please make sure that you order from the right set of hot or cold choices – if by mistake you order a hot meal in a week that your child is having cold school lunches, then their order will be swapped to a cold lunch and may not be something that your child would choose.

After half term, we will be continuing our rota of hot and cold meals, as this is enabling us to keep children in their class bubbles, as per the government guidance:

Week commencing	Children in Reception and Years 1-3	Children in Years 4-6
2 nd November	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners
9 th November	Cold school dinners	Hot or cold school dinners
16 th November	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners
23 rd November	Cold school dinners	Hot or cold school dinners
30 th November	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners
7 th December	Cold school dinners	Hot or cold school dinners
14 th December	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners

General Information...

Parents Evening

Parents Evening Consultations

Unfortunately this year we are unable to run parents evening in the traditional way, by inviting you into school to meet with your child's class teacher in person, due to covid restrictions.

We know how important parents consultations are, so will be running them in a slightly different format this year - consultations will be via telephone during the week commencing 2nd November 2020 (the first week after half term). You will be able to book a time online, just as you have done previously, then your child's class teacher will call you at your allotted time. Please be aware that the telephone number they call from will be withheld.

We know that parents of children in Nursery and Reception receive regular updates on their child's learning via Tapestry, our online learning journal, so you have the opportunity to regularly engage with your child's learning at school.

But we know that parents of children in Years 1-6 will miss the opportunity to look through their child's exercise books before their consultation. So next Thursday your child will bring home a photocopy of four pieces of work they have completed this half term - one piece of writing, one piece of maths work and two other pieces of work they are proud of. Your child will choose these pieces of work with the support of their class teacher.

This week you will have received an email from our ParentMail online booking system, allowing you to log on and book a telephone appointment for your child. If you have any difficulties in booking, please contact the school office. Appointment bookings will close during half term.

Halloween Advice

Please click on the link below to view the advice from Hertfordshire County Council regarding Halloween and how to keep covid-safe.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/herts-leaders-advise-stay-safe-for-halloween-2020

Celebration Assembly



Mrs Freuchen and I are really enjoying visiting each class to do Celebration Assemblies each Friday – I am continuing to award a Headteacher's Award to a child in each class and to award a prize to a child who has earned a Role Model Raffle ticket that week. I am also continuing to post home Star of the Week postcards each week. It has also been lovely to share in some of the children's out of school achievements – ballet exams, taekwondo belt gradings and children that have earned Blue Peter badges! If your child does have a special

achievement that they would like to share with me as part of our Celebration Assembly, please do email me at: emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk

New School Hoodie

Thank you to all those parents who placed an order for one of our new school hoodies. The order has been placed and should arrive the second week after half term – as soon as it does, we will send the orders home with the children. If you did not order a hoodie and would like to do so, or you are waiting for the polar fleeces to come back in stock, please visit www.gooddies.co.uk Please remember that children are not permitted to wear their own jumpers to school.



Outdoor Shoes

Please make sure that your child has a spare pair of shoes in a plastic bag, in school - the shoes can be left in school, in the plastic bag, hanging on your child's peg. The spare pair of shoes are to wear on the field and can either be an old pair of trainers or a pair of wellington boots. If you don't have a spare pair of shoes for your child to wear outside, then please send them to school with a spare pair of indoor shoes to wear in school - plimsolls for example.



From after half term, the children will be predominantly playing on the playgrounds at break and lunchtimes. They will only use the school field during sports lessons.

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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher