

18th September 2020

Dear Parents



Welcome to the world, Baby Esom!

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Mrs Esom has given birth to a baby girl, Willow. Willow is absolutely beautiful and everyone is incredibly excited about her early arrival! I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Esom, Erin, Carson and their whole family.

Covid-19 – Important Reminders

The NHS defines the main symptoms of coronavirus as:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you, your child, or anyone in your household has any of the above symptoms, you must stay at home and book a coronavirus test. Your child must not come to school. Please do not unnecessarily put staff and other children at risk and please support the school in trying to keep the school community as safe as possible.

Accompanying this Friday letter is 'Parent Covid Guide' and a useful flow chart, which help to explain what action you need to take when your child is unwell.

Social distancing – we are working tirelessly in school to make sure that class bubbles don't mix. Please help to support the school by ensuring that you 2m social distance from other families on the playground and as you walk to and from school. Thank you.

Shepherd Primary School Blog

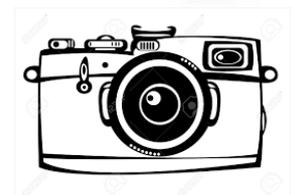
Don't forget to check our School Blog this week (www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org) where you'll find Blog entries from me, alongside class posts.



The week gone by ...

School Individual Photographs

On Wednesday Braiswick visited school to take individual photographs of each child from Nursery-Year 6. As soon as we receive the photograph proofs, we will send them home to you.





National TA Day!

On Tuesday we celebrated National Teaching Assistant Day with our team of teaching assistants - we are very lucky at Shepherd to have such a fantastic team of TAs who support children in class. Thank you to Mrs Brown, Mrs Maclaurin,

Mrs Cook, Mrs C Hunt, Miss Rumbold, Miss Holland, Mrs Dilloway, Mrs Stevens, Miss Berry, Mrs Esom, Mrs Arnold, Mrs McGeough, Mrs L Hunt, Mr Clarkson and Mrs McBrayne.

New PTA Committee!

This morning we held our annual PTA AGM – thank you to Chris Batchelor for leading this and to the parents who attended the AGM – it was certainly a first for us, holding it via Zoom, but it was lovely to see parents joining in!

I would like to thank our 2019-20 PTA Committee – Chris Batchelor, Charlotte Stelfox, Stephanie Murphy, Sarah McAllister, Amanda Charles, Rachel Foster and Tony Humphreys for all their hard work this year, as well as all the other parents, staff and governors who have supported the organising and running of the different PTA events.

I would also like to thank the parents who have volunteered to stand as our PTA committee this academic year (2020-21):

- Chair: Chris Batchelor
- Vice Chair: Charlotte Stelfox
- Treasurer: Stephanie Murphy
- Secretary: Amanda Charles
- Governor Link: Tony Humphreys



Parent Governor

Accompanying this letter is a letter about a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our school Governing Body. Mrs Padmini Naicker's term of office expires this term – I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last 4 years, as a parent governor and as our Vice Chair. Mrs Naicker plans to put herself forward for the role again, but if any other parents would also like to put themselves forward, please complete the nomination form accompanying this letter. Thank you!

SEN Individual Provision Plans

If your child has Special Educational Needs, then today they will be bringing home a copy of their updated Individual Provision Plan for this term. We are sorry that we are unable to run our usual SEN Open Morning for parents.

Next Week

Homework

Homework will commence during the week commencing 21st September – homework will be uploaded to Google Classroom for your child to access via their login. Your child will have been given their new password this week and will have brought it home this week.

Please encourage your child to complete the set homework tasks as this will help them to reinforce their learning at school and is also a great way for parents to keep in touch with the work being taught in school each week. Children can complete homework online or at home – please do not send paper copies of homework back into school, as we are limiting the number of things that come into school.



General Information ...

School Dinners

As promised, hot school dinners will recommence from Monday 28th September. As I am sure you can imagine, the logistics of not only making sure that children eat in their class bubbles, but can also collect a hot dinner from the dining room service counter, requires a lot of planning!

So up until half term, we will be offering hot dinners to children on alternate weeks, as follows:

Week commencing	Children in Reception and Years 1-3	Children in Years 4-6
28 th September	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners
5 th October	Cold school dinners	Hot or cold school dinners
12 th October	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners
19 th October	Cold school dinners	Hot or cold school dinners

Accompanying this Friday letter is the new menu and School Grid has also been updated with this new menu.

If your child's class can order hot school meals then they can also order the cold meal choice if they prefer.

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.

A Message from Mrs Kirkpatrick, our English Leader

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library/>

Please find above a link to the National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library. The link can also be accessed via your child's Google Classroom. Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. Having access to a school library is really important for children. School libraries nurture a love of reading that can enrich children's literacy skills, academic achievements and mental wellbeing. This Virtual School Library will complement our existing school library and will ensure that our children have access to the magical world of stories all year round, whether they are learning at school or at home. Virtual School Library has worked with brilliant publishers and inspiring authors and illustrators to ensure that the books and activities in the Virtual School Library will support our children's wellbeing through reading.

The below link is to a range of wonderful age specific activities that the children can complete, also on the National Literacy Trust's website: <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

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