

Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Covid-19 – Important Reminders

Please remember the following:

- the covid symptoms are - a temperature, a new persistent cough or a loss/change to your taste or smell
- if anyone in your household has any of the covid symptoms, then your whole household must self-isolate immediately
- you must book a covid test for the person that has covid symptoms (within 3 days of getting symptoms)
- you must all continue to self-isolate while you wait for the test results
- when you receive the test results please email these through to: emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk
- if the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they have been covid-symptom free for 48 hours
- if the test result is positive then you must continue to self-isolate
- You must not send your children to school if they, or anyone else in your household have any covid symptoms.



A message from Hertfordshire County Council:

Did you know that only 20% of people in Hertfordshire self-isolate when they are asked to by a nursery, school, college, workplace, Test and Trace or a health professional? 1 in 4 of us admitted that we'd still pop to the shops even if we had been asked to self-isolate.

We know it's not easy and self-isolation can have a real impact on our lives, however if we're asked to do it, it's one of the most important things we can do to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

We've pulled together a guide (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide) which we hope simplifies some of the rules around self-isolation, the reason for the number of days you might be asked to self-isolate for (including as part of a school bubble), how to recognise symptoms of coronavirus and when to book a test.

Help is available to support you and your family should anyone from your household need to self-isolate, or if you've been affected by coronavirus in any way – there is some information about the help available in the guide.

Thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight to reduce the impact of coronavirus in Hertfordshire, and for helping to keep our communities safe.

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.



This Week...

Anti Bullying Week and Just Talk Week

This week has been Anti-Bullying Week and Just Talk Week in school. Children in each class have been participating in a range of activities promoting anti-bullying and the importance of positive mental health, including:



- Our Anti-Bullying Week launch assembly
- Odd Socks Day
- Creating a Unity tree
- Writing a class anti bullying pledge
- Thinking about the 5 ways to wellbeing
- Completing a wellbeing network hand

Please do take a look at our School Blog to see what each class has been doing this week, and talk to your child about the special activities that they have been doing: www.shepherdprimaryschool.edublogs.org

Remote Learning Policy

Thank you to all those parents who gave us their feedback on home learning during lockdown (March – July 2020) and to Year 4 Romney and Year 6 parents who gave us their feedback on home learning when their child's class bubble closed last half term. We have used that feedback, as well as a carrying out a range of reading and research over the last half term, to formulate our new Remote Learning Policy which our Governing Body approved this week. Our Remote Learning Policy outlines the provision that we will make for children's education, when they cannot be at school because they are self-isolating due to covid-19. A copy of our Remote Learning Policy is accompanying this Friday Letter and can also be found on the school website at the following link: <http://www.shepherd.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-policies>

Food Parcels

- for children in receipt of Free School Meals who are self-isolating

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and has to self-isolate at home due to covid-19, for 5 days or more, we will provide you with a food parcel to help with your child's lunches while they are at home and unable to eat lunch at school. The parcels contain a range of lunchtime food including jacket potatoes, bread, cheese, eggs, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, milk and biscuits. Mrs Freuchen and I have delivered 8 of these food parcels to families already and they have been very well received.

If your child does not currently receive Free School Meals and you think you may be entitled to them, please visit the following website and call the School Office to speak to Mrs Haxton if you need any advice:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Next Week...



Nursery Bicycle Day – Monday 23rd November

On Monday, all Nursery children have been invited to bring a bicycle or scooter into school – there will be an area cordoned off by the Nursery ramp for children to leave their vehicles in. Please make sure these are named! During the morning the children will be cycling/scooting around a track set out on the playground!

Flu Nasal Spray

Our School Health Team will be re-visiting school on Monday afternoon to administer the flu nasal spray to the final few children who missed it when School Health last visited, just before half term.

School Dinners

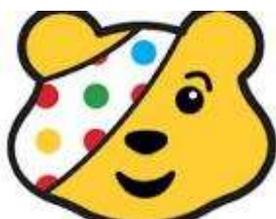
Please make sure that you order school dinners from the right set of hot or cold choices – if by mistake you order a hot meal in a week that your child is having cold school lunches, then your child will be given whatever cold lunch is spare.

Week commencing	Children in Reception and Years 1-3	Children in Years 4-6
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...

Image Consent Form

A reminder that if you have not already done so, to return the new Image Consent Form. Thank you.



Children In Need Mufti Day

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to Children in Need last Friday when we held our mufti-day. We raised £227.50 which has been donated to this very special charity. If you forgot to donate and would like to, School Gateway will remain open for donations until Monday.

Reading Record Books

From today, the following new arrangements will be in place regarding reading:

- **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:** children will continue to have a Reading Record Book for parents to record when their child reads at home. Children in Years 1 and 2 will continue to receive Red Ted stamps as a reward for reading at home. Reading Record Books will not be looked at by school staff during the week, but will be collected in with reading books on a Thursday, quarantined for 72 hours, then looked at on Monday morning before sending home with children for the week.
- **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6:** children will no longer have a Reading Record Book, but reading will continue in the same way – children will continue to participate in Guided Reading and individual reading and they will continue to bring home a reading book to practise and develop a love of reading. The only difference is that parents will not need to record their child's home reading in a Reading Record Book. Please do continue to encourage your child to read at home.

Christmas Cards

This year, due to covid-19, children will not be able to bring Christmas Cards into school to exchange with their friends and we will also be unable to run our usual Christmas Postbox. Instead, class teachers will be providing children with a lovely opportunity to wish each other a Merry Christmas – do ask your child about this over the next few weeks. Please make sure Christmas cards are not brought into school. Thank you.



Christmas Gifts to and from Staff

A number of parents have already asked me about whether they will be able to buy gifts for staff this Christmas – thank you for your thoughtfulness, it is very much appreciated. Parents and children will be able to bring gifts to school on Monday 7th December – Thursday 10th December. These must be placed in the containers that will be at the entrance gates into school, where Mrs Norwood and I wait each morning to welcome you into school. The gifts will be quarantined for 3 days and Mrs Norwood will deliver them to staff on your behalf the following week.

Christmas cards and gifts from staff to your children will be quarantined for 3 days before they are given out to the children.

Reception Admissions 2021

Applications for Reception for 2021 have opened. Please apply online, at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions



Celebration Assembly

Mrs Freuchen and I are really enjoying visiting each class to do Celebration Assemblies each Friday – as well as handing out Headteacher's Awards, we are also enjoying sharing in the children's out of school achievements. 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

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