

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents

I wanted to start my letter this week by saying how very grateful we are to you, our wonderful parents and carers, for all that you are doing to support your child's remote learning. We don't underestimate at all how difficult it is for so many of you, as you juggle supporting your children, working and supporting your wider families as well. As a whole staff team, we are absolutely thrilled with the very high levels of engagement in remote learning, as the majority of children are completing work each day – well done!

### Remote Learning Survey

An enormous amount of work goes into the remote learning each week, so we are keen to gather your feedback on your remote learning experience and which aspects of remote learning you and your child value the most. Please can I ask you to complete the short survey at the link below – the survey will remain open until next Friday:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd\\_KUg2iRUQTBFQkRYN1ZDUUIPQOIFWVpOSzIKSzROVS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUQTBFQkRYN1ZDUUIPQOIFWVpOSzIKSzROVS4u) We really do value your feedback and will use the responses in the survey to help shape our remote learning going forward.



### Wellbeing Survey

I can't tell you how much we are missing seeing the children at school every day. Despite not seeing them every day, we would still like to offer help and support to any child who may be finding this period of national restrictions and school closure challenging. During the last period of school closure back in the spring/summer of 2020, you may remember that we ran a wellbeing survey every half term as a way to offer further support for children's wellbeing. This week I have already called and spoken to all the parents of children who found the last school closure difficult, to see how the children are.

We are once again opening the wellbeing survey - please could you take a minute to answer the one question in the survey in the link below, in relation to your child:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd\\_KUg2iRUFdQS1JSVVJLOUZJOFRTDVTRDk5S1JCSC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUFdQS1JSVVJLOUZJOFRTDVTRDk5S1JCSC4u) You do not need to give your child's name, but please do so if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing and would like additional support. If you have more than one child at Shepherd Primary School, please complete the question for each child. The survey will remain open until next Friday.

# Wellbeing

### 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 may be eligible for the scheme and wish us to make a request on your behalf, please complete the form at:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd\\_KUg2iRUQ0c3U1hRUFVJUjNaNFQwUU1PQ1lwWIZVNS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUQ0c3U1hRUFVJUjNaNFQwUU1PQ1lwWIZVNS4u)



Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad  
Headteacher

## General Reminders

### 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=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd\\_KUG2iRUMV\\_NCTUpONjk5VVA5M0NaTzFPU0FDTFEYMC4u](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](mailto:emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk), as we will try to help you, so that your child can successfully access remote learning.



### **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](#) 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>

