

Friday 27th 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.



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.



Next Week...



Christmas at Shepherd Primary School

Next week our Christmas celebrations start here at Shepherd Primary School! This year will be different because of the covid restrictions in place, but we are still determined to make this a special time of year for the school community. On Tuesday (1st December) our celebrations will begin – we will be revealing to the children the special things we have planned for them. I will also write to you on that day to outline the arrangements for you as well.



Year 6 Ambassadors

I am aware that at the moment we are unable to nominate Year 6 Prefects, as Prefects are unable to mix class bubbles. But I would still like to recognise children in Year 6 who are wonderful role models for younger children, have excellent behaviour and have a positive attitude towards their learning. So as from next week I will be awarding children who demonstrate these qualities, with a golden tie to wear in school.

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
30 th November	Hot or cold school dinners	Cold school dinners
7 th December	Cold school dinners	Hot or cold school dinners

General Information...



Reception Admissions 2021

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

Google Classroom – Homework

I am aware that we are all adjusting to the new guidelines in place regarding remote learning, the use of google classroom and returning homework online. Thank you for persevering, as I know technology can be stressful at times! This morning I managed to help a Year 2 parent successfully log on to Google Classroom and upload their child's homework – if you need any help or support, please do just ask your child's class teacher, or email the School Office. We're still learning ourselves, but will do our very best to help.



Shepherd Primary School is a 'Nut Free School'



As you already know, we are a nut-free school. This is because we have children with severe nut allergies, that require treatment with an epi-pen should they be exposed to nuts. An increasing number of children are bringing Nutella sandwiches to school – Nutella contains hazelnuts and can be highly dangerous for children with nut allergies. Last week a child also had a bag of pistachio nuts in their lunchbox. Please help us to support those children with nut allergies, by not putting anything at all that contains nuts, in your child's packed lunch box. Thank you.



Our Amazon Wishlist

We have had a number of requests from parents to re-send the link to our School Amazon Wishlist, as parents would like to buy the school a book for our main library or classroom libraries, for Christmas - Thank you! The link to our wishlist is: <https://amzn.eu/boriYd0>

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. 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



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.



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