

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents



I really hope that this week has gone as well as possible for you all. We are really aware of the huge struggle it will be for many parents to be supporting their children with remote learning, whilst also trying to look after their family and possibly work from home as well. A huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE for everything you have achieved this week! I have been absolutely thrilled to see the really high levels of engagement in remote learning and I know how much class teachers have enjoyed receiving all the children's work and feedback on their learning experiences.

Remote Learning

Thank you all for the lovely feedback we have received on our remote learning. Class teachers are working incredibly hard each day to plan and prepare a range of engaging and exciting learning for your children to complete at home, at the same time as helping to run our three classes of Rainbow Group children (children of critical workers who are still attending school).

We will continue to:

- post a class timetable for the week on Google Classroom each Monday;
- as well as learning, build time into your child's timetable to enable them to complete wellbeing activities and to engage in physical activity each day;
- ensure that the work for each day is posted by 9am each morning - we will post work daily (rather than weekly), so that it is easy for the children to find and complete what they need to do each day;
- indicate how long each piece of learning should take;
- monitor class email addresses so parents can ask questions about aspects of home learning;
- mark and respond to work submitted – this may include 'next steps' for children to complete;
- on alternate days, meet children on a live Google Meet – details of timings for these will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week, by your child's class teacher.

Coming Next!

As we work through this period of school closure we will be continuing to refine our remote learning offer, so that we ensure that we offer high quality learning opportunities for the children:

- this week you will have noticed that some class teachers have started to film and upload short video clips to support different lessons within the timetable, particularly in English and Maths. These have proved very popular with parents and children, as the clips have supported children in understanding new learning, so we will be continuing to do this.

We understand that for many children, seeing their class teacher will be a motivator and a comfort, so:

- during next week, class teachers will start to upload a brief video message for the children to watch at the start of each day, introducing the learning that day – hopefully this will encourage the children to continue to complete their remote learning;
- class teachers will also be helping to keep the Shepherd passion for reading alive! Each class teacher will be recording and uploading a daily video of them reading and sharing a story.

I really hope these enhancements to our remote learning, help and support the children's learning and wellbeing.

Parent Feedback

In a couple of weeks' time I will send out links to both parent and child surveys, so we can seek your views on our remote learning.



Laptops

It has been wonderful this week to distribute laptops from the supply we built up in the autumn term, allowing those families who have no suitable device at home to access remote learning.

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 by Wednesday 13th January, as we will do everything we can to try and support your child:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yt3JTUeBUKkqRYYaXbnDAz6OHYyCKV95FstBd_KUg2iRUMVNCTUpONjk5VVA5M0NaTzFPU0FDTFEyMC4u

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, as we will try to help you, so that your child can successfully access remote learning.



Free School Meal Food Parcels



A reminder to parents of children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals, that your next food parcel will be ready for you to collect from the school office on Monday, between 11am and 2.30pm. If your financial circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or contact Mrs Haxton in the school office for advice and support.



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

Wellbeing

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please do call Mrs Freuchen or myself at school (01923 773478), or email us at emergency@shepherd.herts.sch.uk, so that we can help support both you and your child.



Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Foad
Headteacher