

Shepherds Down School

Shepherds Lane, Compton, WINCHESTER. Hants. SO21 2AJ

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Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



29th April 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break. It has been good to see all the children back. This is quite a short half term and I think it will fly by!

COVID -19:

As you are aware the current guidance is that there is no need to test; either Lateral Flow or PCR and the advice of twice weekly asymptomatic testing has also stopped. Just to remind you though:

- If your child does have a positive test they need to remain at home for 3 days after the day of the test.
- If your child has a temperature or any other symptom of a respiratory illness they should remain at home until their temperature has gone or until they feel better, if they don't have a temperature
- Please let us know if your child has tested positive so that we are aware of the numbers within the community.
- We have made the decision that we will still let you know if there is a positive case in the class, but this is for information purposes only – we do not expect you to do any testing, but it would be good to be more vigilant to any symptoms of a respiratory illness in this case.

We will continue to ensure that there is good hand hygiene and communal spaces are well ventilated. However, we have stopped most of the limitations on offsite trips, mixing within school and face to face meetings. We will put back in place some or all of the restrictions if there is a need to in the future.

COVID – 19 Vaccinations:

The next vaccination will be on the 8th June, hopefully it will go as smoothly as last time, however some children might be a bit wiser to what is happening so we shall see! There was a small number of children who refused last time and we have been in contact to see if parents want to come in and support their child to have the vaccine this time around – if that applies to you we will be in contact to agree a time, if you expressed an interest nearer the time.

Sun cream:

It is nice to see some signs of warmer and sunnier weather but we do need to make sure we keep children safe in the sun. Please provide a sun hat if your child will wear one, and even if they won't we will try to get them to. Please put sun cream on your child if the weather is likely to be hot during the day. We do have communal sun cream for every class or you can provide your own but this won't be applied until break time. So that we know whether you want your child to have the class sun cream or provide your own and most importantly that we have your permission to apply sun cream - please return the sun cream form asap, if you have not already done so.

School photographer:

The school photographer will be in on Friday 24th June and the photos will be available to buy before the Summer holidays. Information on how to buy these will follow once they have been completed.



Hampshire
County Council



Finances

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Like everywhere, we are feeling the constraints of our budget for the coming year, particularly with rising fuel cost rises predicted of 200% and 66% for gas and electricity, respectively. We will continue to prioritise our budget on ensuring the staffing ratio is adequate in every class, but as a result there is less flexibility throughout the budget for other costs. It has never been more important for us to recover some of the costs of resources / activities such as snack money, cookery, swimming, horse-riding (if applicable) and trips out. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 per term for snack & £10 per term for all the cookery activities. We would also ask for a £3 contribution towards the cost of class sun cream, if you are not sending in your own. The cost for swimming and horse-riding will be communicated separately if it is applicable for your child. All payments can be paid using the Sco-pay app (contact the office if you need a link). If you would prefer we also accept cash or cheque just send it in with your child making sure that the money is in an envelope that is clearly marked with your child's name and what the money is for.

Changes in the office:

There have been some changes to roles within the reception team although all the faces remain the same. As you are aware Brian retired at the end of last term and Trudy has been appointed to his role. The office team is now Trudy, Jackie and Emma.

Report format this year:

We are trialling a new way of completing the annual report to parents this year, using the assessment App we collect evidence and make assessments on during the year. It will be a combination of photos showing progress over the year alongside a summary of your child's achievements. I am hoping it will be a good way to show some of the photos and evidence of progress we collect over the year as well as providing useful information about your child's progress. It will be good to see what you think in July.

Dates for the rest of the year:

Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday

Friday 27th May – Break up for Half term

Monday 6th June – Return to school

Wednesday 8th June – 2nd COVID-19 Vaccination

Friday 24th June – School Photographs

Friday 1st July – last INSET day

Thursday 21st July – Break up for Summer

Advance notice that Thursday 1st September & Friday 2nd September will be INSET days so that all staff can complete their statutory training, with all children returning to school on Monday 5th September

Don't forget, if there is anything you are concerned about or want to discuss further please contact me, I will always try to help if I can.

Enjoy the long weekend!

Debby