

Shepherds Down School

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

Tel: 01962 713445 Fax: 01962 713453 Email: admin@shepherdsdown.hants.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



8th July 2026,

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year seems to have flown by and we are nearly at the end!

Hot weather:

The weather continues to be very hot – but thankfully no Red weather warnings yet! We are doing all we can to keep children as cool as possible during the day but I am sure they are getting home to you quite hot and bothered. We are trying to keep children in the shade and providing lots of ice pops! Please make sure your child does have sun cream applied in the morning and do not worry about school uniform at the moment – just whatever keeps your child as cool as possible and spare clothes as they will be doing a lot of water play. We are looking at more shade (which will be installed over the winter) and exploring other options such as air conditioning units/ air conditioning in advance of next year.

School reports:

As last year your child's school report will be accessible on the Evidence for Learning Parents App and will be available by the end of the day on Monday 13th July. The report will be a journey of your child's learning over the year captured on the App. Hopefully you can all access the Evidence for Learning App as this is where we share photos of your child's learning over the year, however if you would like a paper copy of the report it can be provided on request.

Classes for September:

We have now completed the class lists for September. The photos of children and adults in your child's class in September will be coming home with your child on **Friday 10th July**. This will be useful for you to refer your child to when in preparation for September.

For those children moving classes/teachers, all key information was shared during the INSET day on Friday 26th June. The class teachers will be arranging transition opportunities which they feel will best work for their children before the end of the term, which may include members of the new class team visiting your child in their class and/or an opportunity to visit the new class either when empty or with other children depending on what will work best for each child. Please contact me if you have any concerns about your child's transition.

Parent Mornings:

The last Parents Morning of the year will be

- **Monday 20th July 9.30am** - School Core Makaton Signs

This is also a good opportunity to meet other parents and support from and share with other parents who will be able to relate to your experiences.



College House Progress:

You will be able to see the progress of College House as you drive by. However, as can sometimes happen with building work, the handover date has been delayed due to a rotten roof. We will now get the building handed over to us on 18th September and it will be ready and open to the new reception children on **Monday 21st September** – I hope! We have decided to call the extension the ‘Shepherds Hut’ and it will provide 3 classes for Shepherds Down Reception children. It will have its own entrance and drop off parking for parents and there will be a member of the admin team on the site each day.

Picking your child up before 2:30pm:

I appreciate that many of you are juggling other family commitments and need to pick your child up earlier. We try to be as flexible as possible and provide a 2:30pm pick up option (at the top door). However, **a regular pick up time that is earlier than 2:30pm does mean that your child could be missing as much as half a day equivalence in time each week.** In advance of September, if you feel you do need to pick your child up before 2:30pm please can you have a conversation with me about this.

School use of photos:

We are updating the way we use photographs and videos on our website and social media; we will no longer be sharing photos or videos of children's face's where they can be easily identified.

Where images are shared publicly, we will aim to use photographs that do not clearly show children's full front faces, such as side profiles, back views, group shots taken from a distance, or images focused on activities and learning. This change reflects current safeguarding guidance and the increasing risks linked to AI and online image misuse. This does not affect the use of the Evidence for Learning App as this is an encrypted platform, however you might have noticed we have removed some photos from the website or our Facebook page. This is real shame as there were some lovely photos of our children on these sites but we need to ensure that there is no risk of misuse of any of our images.

In the Autumn term we plan to provide some parent training/problem solving sessions in relation to keeping children safe on line, especially with the new guidance which will be coming from the government. We will send out details in the Autumn term.

Water Safety:

I appreciate that our children will not be around water unsupervised but just in case it is useful to you this is a link to **The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Water Safety Toolkit** for parents and carers. It offers simple, practical advice to help families stay safe.

The toolkit is designed to be clear and accessible, helping families build confidence and make safer choices around water. It includes guidance on:

Everyday risks at home – including bath time safety and garden hazards

Staying safe outdoors – such as the beach, around rivers and in open water

Practical safety advice – including the Water Safety Code and how to “Float to Live”

Age-specific guidance – for babies, young children, older children and teenagers

What to do in an emergency – including simple first aid steps and where to find further support

This is the link to access the toolkit:

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/>

Parent Questionnaires:

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the parent questionnaires. We had 69 responses in total and they were overwhelmingly positive with some lovely comments from parents. I have attached the summary of the results for you to read.

We will consider the improvements suggested in the development of the school improvement plan which I will share with you in the Autumn term. Thank you for the feedback, your views really help us to identify what is working well and future priorities for development.

Teacher Goodbyes:

July is often a time to say goodbye to staff and this year is no exception. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to **Nicky Broadhurst** who has been Swifts teacher for over 24 years and **Matt** who has been Magpies teacher who has also been with us for over 13 years!

Abbi, Puffins teacher will be leaving to go on maternity leave and **Charlotte**, Kingfishers teacher will also be leaving us. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well in the next steps.

We also welcome back **Louise** (Linnets) and **Emily** (previously Kingfishers) after their maternity leaves.

INSET days in September.

We have 3 INSET Days in September to accommodate the school re-organisation needed with the new extension.

The first day for children is **Friday 4th September**,

Dates for the rest of this year:

Wednesday 22nd July – Leavers Assembly (for all parents of year 6 children) – more details to follow

Wednesday 22nd July – School closes for the Summer

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – INSET days – school closed to children

Thursday 4th September – Additional INSET day to support the moving of classes across the school

Friday 4th September – School opens to children

If you have any other concerns, or anything else you want to discuss further please contact with me either by phone or email, I will be more than happy to speak to you and will always try to resolve any concerns/issues or help if I can.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Summer when we get there!

Kind Regards,

Debby

