

# Shepherds Down School

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17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to see the vast majority of the children back full time. Bearing in mind the past few weeks, I think all the children have coped remarkably well and have quickly settled back in to their class and school routines. Most seem very happy to be back and we have been very pleased to see them. It does feel that we are slowly returning to some degree of normality, which is really good, but we continue to be cautious about moving forward.

Continued Vigilance and support:

Whilst the COVID-19 infection levels seems to have significantly reduced we continue to keep all the precautions in place to reduce the risk of transmission and keep everyone safe. We ask that you continue to support us with this, as you have throughout. In particular, we ask that you remain vigilant to any symptoms of COVID-19 with your child or any member of your household, isolate and book a test as soon as possible if necessary, wear a mask if you pick up and drop off your child and arrive after the buses e.g. 9:10am or 3:10pm (unless this isn't possible). We will keep the current risk assessment and precautions in place until after the Easter holidays at which point we will review them in line with the government guidance and consider how we might open up more during the Summer term.

Testing for households:

Do not forget that all adults in households with school age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus testing. These tests are designed to detect the virus when there are no symptoms present. The tests are voluntary but we would ask that you consider using them as we believe it will help us to further reduce the transmission of the virus within the school community. They can be collected or ordered online by the following methods:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- ordering a home test kit online

If you do decide to use them please let us know asap if you have a positive result and ensure all your household isolates, just like you would with a positive PCR (normal) result.

Parental Feedback:

As we start to return to some normality and move forward, I just wanted to provide the opportunity for some feedback on how the school has supported you and your child during this past lockdown. It would be good to know if there are any lessons that can be learnt, improvements that can be made and positives that we can build on. I know the past few months have been very difficult, whether your child has been at home or school, however, the questionnaire is to find out what you have felt about what the school have provided during the 'lockdown'. To support us with this, I would be very grateful if you could take 5 minutes to provide some feedback by following this link <https://s.surveyplanet.com/PezNuFa6N>. Please complete the questionnaire by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Also if you have any photos, videos or examples that you are happy to share of your child learning at home please send it in to school as we are collecting examples of what children did at home during 'lockdown'.



Hampshire  
County Council



#### INSET Days:

I have previously mentioned that we have not had any of our INSET days since the beginning of the year and so we have 3 INSET days left for this year. We have left them until the Summer term as we need to be able to provide some face to face training and this has not been possible yet. We would not normally have 3 INSET days in one term – but I hope you can appreciate why.

The planned dates are:

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

#### Annual Reviews of EHCP's:

We will continue to hold EHCP reviews virtually at the moment. We have provided the choice of a telephone call, or a Microsoft Teams meeting. If you want a Teams meeting Trudy will send you an email with the Teams invite a few days before the meeting, Teams can be accessed on any device.

#### Sharing Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) plans:

Nicola, Ed and Karen will be sharing virtually the schools relationship and sex policy and scheme of work and answer any questions you might have on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at either 10am or 5:30pm. Alternatively, the powerpoint can be emailed to you. If you haven't done so already it is not too late to let us know if you will be joining the Zoom meeting or want the powerpoint sent home.

The invite for the zoom meetings are:

The 10am meeting: Meeting ID 994 2633 3075 Passcode: fqw2BS

The 5:30pm meeting: Meeting ID 947 3879 9743 Passcode: ryN5ye

We will be teaching the new relationship and sex education scheme of work in Key Stage 2 after Easter.

#### New Home Reading books:

Over the next few weeks, you might notice your child coming home with a different reading book to read at home, if this is appropriate for your child. We have bought new reading books, which are part of the reading and writing scheme we use in school – Read Write Inc. This enables us to send a reading book home that exactly matches the level your child is reading at in school and the book will also be in a style and format your child will be used to. We are receiving very positive feedback about the books and we hope they will support the generalisation of children's reading skills further.

#### Events:

The World Book Day was a success both at home and at school and seemed to be enjoyed by children and staff alike.

We will be celebrating Comic Relief this Friday (19<sup>th</sup> March) with a non - school uniform day. Please donate £1 if you can.

#### Parents Morning:

Ed and Nicola will be continuing to hold parents morning virtually after Easter – more details to follow soon. In addition, the NHS Speech and Language Therapy team (Ella and Siobhan) would like to offer a virtual drop in for parents – see message below:

*'The NHS Speech and Language Therapy team – Ella and Siobhan – would like to offer a virtual drop-in session for parents who would like to discuss their child's speech or language concerns on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May between 9.30-10.30am. If you would like to speak with us please use the link <https://nhs.vc/cfw-esp-cts-speech-and-language-clinic> and include your name and contact number and the words 'drop in' when it asks you to put in your details. This will then take you to a virtual waiting room where we can pick up the call or if it is busy can arrange another time to contact you. You can drop-in to speak to us regardless of whether your child has an open speech therapy referral.'*

Do not forget I am always contactable either by phone or email and am happy to discuss any concerns or questions you might have about anything to do with school.

Take care

Debby