

Shepherds Down School

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

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Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearly at half term, it seems to have flown by!

Welcome

We would like to welcome all our new reception children and their families to the school:

In Robins class - Roman, Zachary, Joshua, Alexander, Tommy, Steven, Leo P, Harry S

In Wagtails class - Fraser, Cruz, Leo S, Harry C, Aria, Ethan, Juniper, Cody

In Linnets class - Florence, Isla, Sophia, Stevie

I am sure you will join me in welcoming them and their families to the school.

COVID - 19 operating procedures:

Within school, we have had a small number of cases over the past month, but all the necessary precautions have been taken and children and staff have remained as safe as possible. I am very grateful for all of your co-operation in relation to mask wearing, being vigilant to symptoms both in your child and yourself and getting PCR tests and keeping your child home from school when requested. Please continue to keep an eye out for symptoms in your child and keep school informed if there are any concerns.

We have just reviewed our risk assessment and precautions in place and in light of levels of COVID across the country we do not feel it is the time to make any changes. In particular, we will continue to wear mask at the start and end of the day, and ask that you do the same. We will also continue to avoid unnecessary visitors to school and minimise mixing of classes as long as it does not impact on the learning opportunities we can provide. In addition we will:

- **Ensure good hygiene for everyone**
- **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes**
- **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**
- **Remain vigilant to symptoms** - send home any child displaying any of the 3 main symptoms and request that they remain at home and get a PCR test.
- **In the case of a positive result** - your child will need to remain at home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If this is the case please let school know asap, so that we can support with remote learning and so we know that there is a positive case in the school, to keep abreast of a possible outbreak.
- **Continue with Asymptomatic Testing** - Lateral flow or Saliva tests
- **Continue the end and beginning of the day arrangements** - request that parents aim to drop and pick their child up just after the buses - just after 9am/3pm respectively.
- **Continue to wear masks at the beginning and the end of the day** -
- **In the case of a positive case within the school community - child/staff** - we will let both parents and staff know that there is a positive case within school, however we will be preserving the anonymity of the case.



Hampshire
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- **If the positive case is in your child's class** - we will advise you to get a PCR test for your child but your child can continue to attend school during this time.
- **If there are more than 2 cases within a 'group' where there will have been close contact** - (which we are classing as a class) - we will contact Public Health and implement our contingency plan. This plan will include re-instating most of the restrictions we have previously had in place and if advised isolating the class with the cases.

Thank you for your continued support with this. If you have any questions about any of this please speak to me and I will be happy to discuss this further.

Saliva testing:

Thank you to all the parents who have been supporting their child to complete Saliva tests - I appreciate this is not easy. If you would like to try with your child, but have not yet registered we can sort this out, just let us know. Due to the current infection levels the scientific advisory group and public health are suggesting moving to twice weekly saliva testing after half term. Please see the attached letter. The Saliva testing should now be carried out on Tuesday and Friday morning and brought into school for collection as happens now. School staff will all be doing the same.

If you are not able to do saliva testing with your child, twice weekly lateral flow testing by parents also plays an important role in stopping the spread of COVID. Whatever asymptomatic testing you can do will continue to help keep everyone in school as safe as possible.

Parent Consultations:

By now all parents, apart from those of reception children, should have been contacted by your child's class teacher to arrange a time for a conversation about your child. This is an opportunity for you to discuss any issues that have arisen since the start of term, your child's individual targets and progress towards these, any additional plans e.g. individual behaviour plans, therapy plans and anything else you want to discuss. If you haven't arranged a time it is not too late, please contact your child's class teacher.

As the reception children are still transitioning into school, their structured conversations are planned for November. Your child's class teacher will be in contact after half term to arrange this.

FOSDA:

The Friends of Shepherds Down Association (FOSDA) is a joint parent - school organisation that supports the school by fundraising for projects and resources that the school cannot afford within their school budget. Over the years they have raised money for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 adventure playgrounds, Christmas presents for all children, contributions to Year 6 Residential costs and 'nice to have' resources across the school, for which as a school we are really grateful and all children have benefitted from. This year we are focussing on repairing the Woodland Walk and increasing the number of iPads across the school, which are used regularly for both learning and motivators in every class. This has only been possible due, and will only continue to be possible due to the involvement, time and dedication of both parents and local volunteers who enable the fundraising to happen. Unfortunately, at the moment the number of parents involved is depleting. If you are interested and able to help in any way please contact school via the office and we will put you in touch with FOSDA. We know that everyone's time is very precious and so whatever you can do to support will be very much appreciated.

FOSDA will be meeting again next half term. We will be looking at some easy and fun fundraising ideas as we lead up to Christmas, more information will follow in the next few weeks.

Parent Mornings:

We are hoping to re-start parent mornings in November and will provide more information about this after half term. In addition, we have had a suggestion from a parent about having an 'ask the parent' chat where parents would have the opportunity to benefit from the advice from other parents who have had a similar experience. We could host this on our Website/ Facebook page.

The thinking behind this is that sometimes as parents you might prefer to hear from other parents about common issues such as accessing DLA, access to support from social services , continence service or sleep issues. In order for this to work we would first need to see if there are any parents who are willing to volunteer to answer the questions when they are posed. If you would be willing to support other parents in this way, please let me know and I will see if we have enough support from parents to set something up.

Parent Governors

We have several vacancies for parent governors which we need to fill as soon as possible. Shepherds Down School has always aimed for a partnership with parents which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor. The governing body's main tasks are to support the school in ensuring that pupils receive a high quality education and plan for future development and improvement of the school.

We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance.

If you are interested please feel free to have a chat with Trudy in the school office or have a look at the Hampshire Governors Website www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors

Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to a vetting process and identity check.

Home/school Communication:

Over the past two years we have been developing and improving the consistency of our communication with parents/carers. This is a summary of what communication we agree to provide and how often:

Communication method	Frequency
Home/school book	As frequently as requested - mainly daily
A class blog	New one every half term, at least
Information such as half termly targets, Individual Learning plans and class timetable	Each half term
Class Newsletter - including learning to be covered and ways parents/carers can help at home	Each half term
3 Parent meetings in addition to annual review	October (structured conversation rather than information sharing) Early February and June Parents evenings
Headteacher Newsletter	At least, each half term
Website	Regularly updated, including copies of all newsletters and communication
Additional 1:1 meetings	As requested by parents
Phone calls/text messages	As necessary

I have attached a questionnaire to find out how frequently you would like home/school books to be completed and whether you prefer emails or paper copies of additional information. This will enable us to further tailor our communication with you. Please also use this to add any comments or any additional feedback in relation to our communication with you.

Please return the form **by Friday 5th November.**

Dates for the term:

Friday 22nd October - Break up for half term

Monday 1st November - School re-opens

Friday 12th November - INSET day (school closed to children)

Friday 17th December - Break up for Christmas

Tuesday 4th January - School re-opens

Remaining 2 INSET days for the year (School closed to children) - Friday 4th February & Friday 1st July

If you have any worries or concerns, or just want to discuss something further about your child at school, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always accessible by phone, or email and I am happy to meet you face to face as well.

Have a good weekend!

Debby



Name of child _____

Class _____

(Please circle your responses below)

1. How frequently would you like the home/school book to be completed?

(if we do not get a response we will complete the book as frequently as possible, which may not be daily)

Daily	Every other day	Weekly	Only if something is needed to be communicated
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2. Do you want to receive the half termly information from the class about targets?

(if we do not get a response we will assume No)

Yes	No
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3. How do you want to receive additional information - e.g. school newsletter, teacher newsletter and half termly information

(if we do not get a response we will continue to send via email if we have your address and paper copy if not)

Paper	Email
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If via email please identify the email address you would like us to use (if we don't already have it):

Any additional comments/feedback:

Please return this response by Friday 5th November so we can ensure that our communication matches your requirements as far as is possible.

Thanks

Debby