



Shephalbury Park Primary School

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Headteacher: Ms Chelsea Atkins

March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is going along really quickly with so many things going on in school and how much the children are learning. We are now two terms into being a single entry primary school, with our new logo, values and vision, we have a new governing body and the school is running along very well.

Gateway is the online system that many of our parents and carers use for payments to school. To use the system, you just register with Gateway (you don't need a password) and they will send you a PIN and that's it! Your email address and mobile phone number is the link to Gateway, so if the school office has these, your registration should be straight forward.

Please note that if you make a manual payment for anything other than dinner money, it will NOT show on Gateway.

Thank you- We have received huge 'Thank you's' from Homestart for the cheque we gave them for £135 and from The Food Bank for the toiletries we donated at the end of the last half term. Thank you for supporting these worthwhile causes with your donations.

Menus- The new lunch menus will be arriving home before the Easter break. Please keep them in a safe place as they run through to October half term. Year 6 children will also have the option of a jacket potato, offered with a different filling each day for the same price, £2.35.

Dogs on site- A really big thank you to the many parents who responded to the dogs on site consultation. Majority of you were happy being around dogs but did not feel that they were best suited on the school playground. We had such a varied response and it highlighted areas that we had not thought of, so thank you to all who responded. We will continue with our 'No dogs on site' policy, either on a lead or in arms.

Parking at the start and end of the day- I have been informed again that adults driving their children to school in the car are parking in front of drive ways which has at times meant that residents cannot park outside their house or get out of their drive way. Please ensure that you park responsibly.

Breakfast club and after school club- the break fast (Porridge Pot) and afterschool club (Tea Pot) are very popular and children enjoy attending, some children have stated to attend just for fun! If you would like to find out more, please see the website or pop into the office

PE kits- please check your child's PE kit, that they have it in school and that it still fits, children do need trainers for their PE days and if they are doing outside PE, a navy tracksuit or joggers.

Summer dresses and shorts after Easter can be worn, dresses should be pale blue and white check or stripe and shorts should be grey and tailored.

Governors- have been in and around school this term attending school trips and meeting up with subject leaders.

A large part of the Headteacher and Governing Body's role is to plan what happens to the school in the future. Two main factors in school planning are budgets and staffing.

Financially the school is in a good position with a balanced budget and a healthy carry forward every year. This is due to prudent financial planning. This has enabled us to sustain and improve our provision in terms of staffing and resourcing to ensure we can give the best education possible to your children.

We are now facing a major challenge over the next few years as several financial pressures are being brought to bear on all schools. The uncertainty of Brexit, the rise of inflation compared to wages, the introduction of the 'living wage', increases in pension contributions and the new apprenticeship levy have all impacted on our finances.

Added to this, there will soon be a major reduction in funding through a number of government initiatives which will mean we may have to make some difficult choices in the next few years. Please take a moment to use this website to see how Shephalbury Park could be affected -

<http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/#/>

Whilst our budget is in very good health at the moment, the forecast indicates that at current levels of spending we will be in deficit within five years. As we need to ensure that the school remains on a firm financial footing we will need to be even more vigilant and prudent in how we spend our money.

You may also be aware that there is a shortage of teachers across the country. As of Thursday 26th January there were 209 teaching vacancies on the *Teach in Herts* website. Many headteachers this year are choosing early retirement and there is a shortage of suitably qualified staff to move into leadership positions. A recent report indicated that by 2022 there could be a shortage of up to 20,000 headteachers/ school leaders across the country. We are in a fortunate position at Shephalbury Park to be fully staffed at the moment. However the difficulties recruiting staff together with significant budget cuts are a concern for us all.

In all things our guiding principle is what is best for the children so be assured that we shall do our best in sustaining the quality of education we provide at Shephalbury Park, and we shall ensure the impact on your children will be as minimal as possible.

Lining up in the morning- you may have noticed that the lining up procedure in the morning has slightly changed. This is so that breakfast club children can line up and also allow parents to come away from the line. Staff will still be out in the morning if you need to speak to them

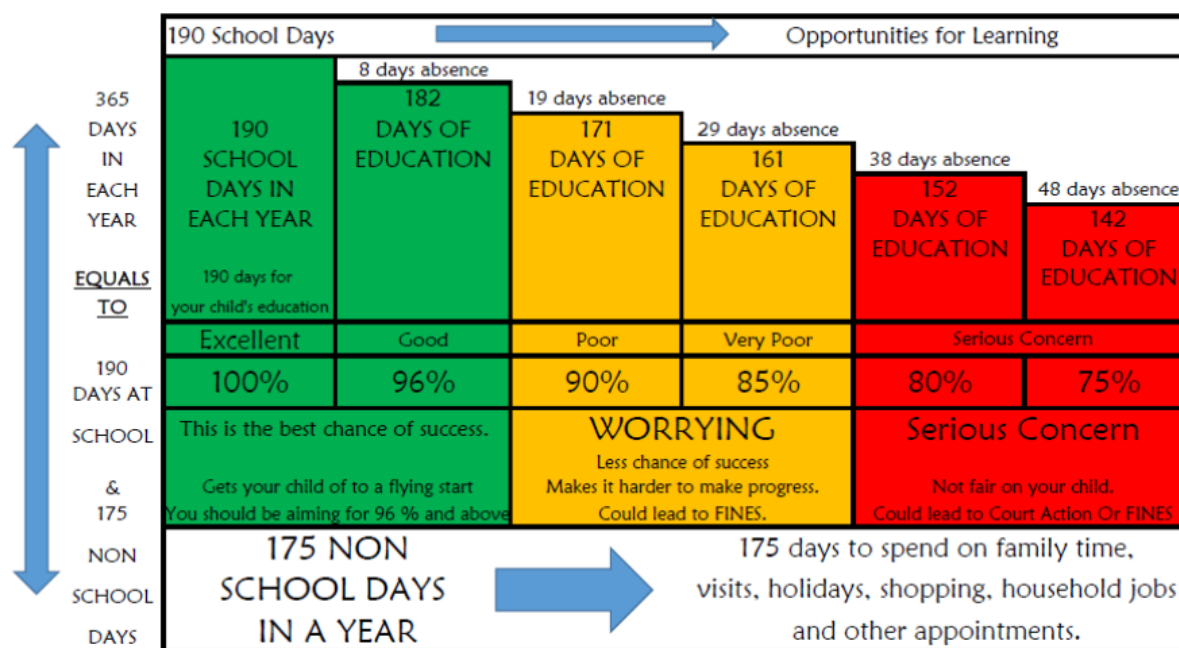
Creative curriculum- Magnificent Minds- all children have been looking at the same topic this term - 'Magnificent Minds' this is to support with their emotional wellbeing and resilience in life. They have been exposed to various different experiences and reflected on how they have felt after taking part

in them. We would love to hear your comments if you have any feedback about how the children have responded to this outside of the school.

Parenting workshops are going to take place at school - they are a 2 hour masterclass on various aspects of parenting. Please do not feel that this is aimed at you if you sometimes struggle with parenting issues, this is aimed at all parents as some or all of it will be relevant. It would be great to get as many parents as possible so that we are able to put more of these types of events on. Please let the office know if you are going to attend.

Attendance

Please have a look at the chart below, and in particular, the impact time off in term time can have on your child's learning time.



Please help us to help you. If you are worried about your child's school attendance, then staff are available at school and within the local authority who can help and support you.
Gaps in education can mean your child will not reach their full potential.

Dates

Friday 10 th March	Yrs 3 & 4 Hazard Alley visit
Tuesday 14 th March	Yrs 3 & 4 - Airbus STEM visit
Tuesday 14 th March	Y6 Easter Story
Wednesday 15 th March	8.50am - sign up for parent/teacher consultations in the hall
Thursday 16 th March	9am Class Photos
Friday 17 th March	Nursery application process closes
Friday 17 th March	Nursery - Y6 Planetarium in school (am)
Friday 17 th March	Yrs 5 & 6 science fair at Barnwell (pm)
Monday 20 th March	9.-11am Parent workshop 'Push the pause button'
Wednesday 22 nd March	2.30 - 6pm - Parent Teacher consultations
Thursday 23 rd March	2.30 - 4.30pm - Parent Teacher consultations
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day - further information to follow
Friday 31 st March	Airspace visit Years 1 - 6. Packed lunch from home required.
Friday 31 st March	Finish at 1.30pm for Easter
Tuesday 18 th April	INSET Day. Primary allocation day

Wednesday 19 th April	Children return to school
Thursday 20 th April	1.15 - 3.15pm 'Confident Parenting' workshop
Tuesday 25 th April	Nursery offers to parents available on line
Thursday April 27 th	6-8pm Play 'IT' safe - parent workshop
Wednesday 3 rd May	Stibbington residential visit
Friday 5 th May	Stibbington children return
Monday 8 th May	SAT's week for year 6
Friday 19 th May	9-11am 'Better Behaved Children' workshop
Friday 26 th May	Break for half term
Monday 5 th June	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 th June	Children return to school
Friday 9 th June	National Space Centre sleepover - Yrs 5 & 6

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Parent feedback-please

Please return this to school to support us in how we can improve the school .

What does the school do well in?

What could the school do better in?
