



Information for Parents/Carers.

**September
2015**

Spixworth Infant School

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WELCOME

We hope you all had a lovely holiday. It is great to see all the children at school and they have settled in really well. We have lots of activities planned this term and more details will be given out in the Class Newsletters. We welcome Mrs Jackson to the teaching staff this term as well as Mrs Jones to the support staff team and Miss Evans joins us as Graduate Intern for the year.

Building Work

As you will have noticed we have had lots of work done over the holidays including a new front entrance, two refurbished classrooms, a new staffroom and a new office and meeting room. I hope you will agree that it looks fantastic and I have seen the children in Beech and Oak class really enjoying their time in their new classrooms. I would like to thank all of those staff who came in over the Summer holidays to ensure that these rooms were ready for the children on the first day back. The school office is now off the main entrance lobby next to the playground door.

Dates

Attached to this newsletter you will find dates of school events for the year. We hope you will find this useful. Please look out on the boards and windows by your child's classroom for reminders. We will try to inform you of any new dates as early as possible.

Reception Parents Meeting

We would like to invite all parents of children in Reception to attend a short meeting on Thursday 17th September at 9.05am to talk about what to expect this year. There will be a chance to talk informally to your child's class teacher after the meeting and tea and coffee will also be available!

Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Don't forget that meals at lunchtime are now free. There is a hot meal or packed lunch available each day. Vegetarian options are also available and can be chosen by anyone. Jacket potatoes are also available with a choice of cheese, tuna or ham filling. If your child has any dietary requirements then please speak to the school office in the first instance. The meals are ordered on a daily basis by putting your child's name in the correct basket in the classrooms. The children will come into the hall a year group at a time to ensure that the children do not have to wait too long for their meal and they get as much outdoor play as possible. We will continue to have a range of activities available to make lunchtimes even more enjoyable.

New Website

We are very excited that our new website is now up and running. It is much more user friendly and contains lots of useful information about school and any letters or information sent home can also be found on the website. Please do have a look www.spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

Spelling

Over the Summer we have made some changes to how we teach spelling and the children will no longer have spelling tests either on a weekly or half termly basis. There will be a meeting about this on Monday 14th September at 2.45pm where you will be able to receive information about the changes and the new way of working. A letter will also be sent home on the same day about the changes and all the information will be available on the website.

Pushchairs

Please do not bring pushchairs and prams into school as they block the corridors and cause a health and safety risk. You are welcome to leave them outside the entrances or in our buggy park at the front of the school.

Core Values

The Core Values are key to our teaching and learning in school. You will be asked to sign a home/school agreement to say that both yourselves and your child will uphold the Core Values of the school. The children will receive rewards for following the Core Values. The Core Values are:

Safety - We feel safe at school and know how to keep ourselves and others safe.

Teamwork – We work together and understand how our behaviour affects our learning.

Achievement – We always try our best in everything we do even when we find things difficult. We know how we can get even better.

Respect – We respect the views of others.

Stimulating – We learn about things that interest us and our teachers challenge our thinking.

School Opening Times

For Safeguarding reasons the only way to gain access to the school before 8:55am will be through the front door. If you need to speak to a member of staff before school please ring the bell. The best time to speak to teaching staff is after school. School finishes at 3.15pm

House Points

Each child is placed in a house. There are pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in each house. And they will stay in the same house throughout their time here. Children will earn house points for following the Core Values. These will be added up each week and the House with the most points at the end of the week will receive a certificate. There will be a special reward for the House with the most points at the end of each term.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations for all children will take place on Wednesday 14th October from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and on Thursday 15th October from 5pm to 7pm. Sign-up sheets will be outside classrooms nearer the time. If you have any worries or concerns about your child please arrange to speak to your child's teacher after school.

Homework

We believe that spending time with your child at home supporting their learning in school is vital to their development and progression in school. In addition to daily reading we hope that you will also support your child to learn any phonics or spellings that are sent home. In addition children will also be given an open ended activity to take home on a fortnightly basis. These activities are based on a variety of curriculum areas and will support your child in their learning at home. More details will be sent home with their first activity.

Rewards

In addition to the House Points we have a number of other reward systems in place.

- Children can earn 'Pride Squares' for good work in all subjects. Once a child receives 20 Pride Squares they will receive a certificate. There will be different certificates for each additional set of 20 Pride Squares.
- Each class has a 'Golden Work' board. Extra special work will be displayed on this board in the classroom each week.
- Two children from each class will receive special recognition for their hard work each week in Achievement Assembly which will be held every Friday.
- Children will be able to earn rewards as a class when the whole class has shown good teamwork over a period of time.
- If children show particularly good behaviour then their name will be placed on either the silver or gold traffic light. If their name is on the gold traffic light they will bring a certificate home.

Consequences

Each class will have a traffic light system for behaviour. All children will be on green at the start of each day and they will move up and down the traffic lights as necessary. If a child is on the red traffic light they will miss 5 minutes of the break or lunch time or go to a 'buddy class' for 5 minutes. Children will be given a fresh opportunity to amend their behaviour each lesson. If a child has been on the red traffic light 3 days in a row then you will be informed by your child's class teacher. If being on the red traffic light becomes a regular occurrence then a positive behaviour plan will be set up in conjunction with yourselves.

Class Names

Each class is known by their tree name. Ms Jordan's class is called Beech class, Mrs Murphy's and Mrs Jackson's class is Oak Class, Mrs To's is Maple Class and Miss Buller's is Horse Chestnut Class.

Online Learning Stories for Reception

As many of you will be aware we are using a new online learning story for Reception children called 'Tapestry'. If you have not yet returned your child's permission slip for its use please do so as soon as possible so that you can begin to receive information about your child's achievements in school.

Email addresses

Over the course of this half term we will be beginning to send you information via e mail rather than letters. If you have not yet provided us with your e mail address please could you give it to your child's class teacher so it can be passed on to the office for use.

Reminders

If you have changed your contact details over the Summer, please let the office know the new information.

Please remember to label all your child's clothes including shoes!

Please ensure your child has a sun hat and coat in school every day.

Reading, Writing and Maths Cafés

We will be continuing to hold our successful Cafés each half term with Reading Cafés for Reception, Maths Cafés for Year 1 and Writing Cafés for Year 2. Dates can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Coffee Morning

Your views about the school are important to us and with this in mind we hold half termly coffee mornings from 9am-9.30am. Drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat.. It will also be a chance to get to know more about the school and meet other parents too. If you want to talk about anything specifically relating to your child then please speak to your child's class teacher or arrange an appointment to see me. Younger siblings are welcome. The first one will be held on Wednesday 23th September. We look forward to seeing you.

Reading Books

Over the next week your children will start to bring home reading books. The system for changing books has changed and instead of them being changed once a week your child can change their book as often as they wish. Once they have read their book they need to put the book and their reading record in the basket in the classroom and they will be able to change it. Please make a comment about their reading or sign and date the reading record book to acknowledge it has been read as without this your child won't be able to change their book. We would expect your child to change their book at least 3 times a week and that you will read with your child for 5 to 10 minutes every day. Your child will be able to choose the book they take home within the colour band they are currently working on in class. This may mean that your child wishes to bring the same book home on more than one occasion. This is a great opportunity to revisit the story and see how much your child remembers.

New Gate

Many of you will be aware that there is currently grass rather than paving on the road side of the new gate. Norfolk Highways department are currently in the process of organising the paving and also a metal barrier near to the road as we have at the other pedestrian gates. Please ensure that your children do not run out of this gate and remain with you at all times.

Facebook

Please be reminded that photos of events at the school should only be posted on Facebook where permission has been gained from all parents of the children concerned. The Friends of Spixworth Infant School Page should only be used to gain information about Friends events at the school. Please come and talk to us about any questions or problems you may have.

Dates For Your Diary

Assemblies

Please note that all class assemblies will be at 9.10am.

Oak Class

Friday 20th November

Friday 5th February

Friday 6th May

Beech Class

Friday 27th November

Friday 18th March

Friday 20th May

Maple Class

Friday 9th October

Friday 29th January

Friday 29th April

Horse Chestnut Class

Friday 2nd October

Friday 11th March

Friday 22nd April

Leavers Concert

Thursday 14th July 2pm

Reading Cafés for Reception

Monday 5th October 9-10am

Tuesday 24th November 2-3pm

Wednesday 3rd February 9-10am

Thursday 17th March 2-3pm

Monday 9th May 9-10am

Tuesday 28th June 2-3pm

Maths Cafés for Year 1

Monday 28th September 9-10.15am

Tuesday 17th November 2-3.10pm

Wednesday 27th January 9-10.15am

Thursday 10th March 2-3.10pm

Monday 25th April 9-10.15am

Wednesday 22nd June 2-3.10pm

Writing Cafés for Year 2

Monday 21st September 9-10.15am

Tuesday 10th November 2-3.10pm

Wednesday 20th January 9-10.15am

Thursday 3rd March 2-3.10pm

Monday 18th April 9-10.15am

Tuesday 14th June 2-3.10pm

Parents Evenings

Wednesday 14th October 3.30-5.30pm

Thursday 15th October 5-7pm

Monday 8th February 3.30-5.30pm

Wednesday 10th February 5-7pm

Open Evening

Tuesday 5th July 5pm-6.30pm

Christmas Productions

Tuesday 15th December

Wednesday 16th December

Times to be confirmed

Other Dates

Meeting about Spellings – Monday 14th September 2.45-3.10pm

Reception Parents Meeting – Thursday 17th September 9.05-9.30am

School Coffee Morning - Wednesday 23rd September 9-9.30am

Harvest Festival – Tuesday 22nd September 9.30am

Meeting for Year 2 Parents at Woodland View – Thursday 26th November 9.05am

Christmas Lunch, Party and Christingle – Thursday 17th December

Individual Photos – Tuesday 12th January

Class Photos – Tuesday 7th June

Term Dates

Wednesday 21st October 2015 close for half term. School reopens Monday 2nd November 2015

Friday 18th December close for Christmas. School reopens Tuesday 5th January 2015

Friday 12th February close for half term. School reopens Monday 22nd February

Thursday 24th March close for Easter. School reopens Monday 11th April

Monday 2nd May school closed

Friday 27th May close for half term. School reopens Monday 6th June

Wednesday 20th July close for Summer.