



Information for Parents/Carers.

**November
2015**

Spixworth Infant School

Ivy Road, Spixworth,
Norwich, NR10 3PX

Tel: 01603 898483/Fax: 01603 893372

Email: head@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

: office@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term the children's enquiry questions is 'What does light mean to you?' There has already been some fantastic work happening in classrooms from firework pictures to Diwali cards and lots of drama in relation to the Gunpowder Plot. This half term we will also be busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations and our Christmas topic will begin on 8th December. You should have already received letters regarding the Christmas plays and the Christmas lunch. If you have not received these letters please speak to Mrs Halton in the school office who will organise you another copy.

Attendance

Each year the Governors set an attendance target. This year the target is 95.5% attendance. So far we have an average attendance of 97% which is brilliant! You may have noticed that each week we are displaying our attendance figures outside classrooms for your information. We have also introduced weekly class attendance certificates for the class with the best attendance and half termly and termly certificates for individual children. Children will receive one of these certificates if their attendance is above 95.5% as we recognise that most children become ill at some point during the year. In order to achieve our attendance target please try to make doctors and dental appointments outside school hours. We understand that young children, especially those who have recently started school, pick up lots of bugs, but are happy to have children in school who have minor coughs and colds. We do ask that any child who has sickness or diarrhoea does not return to school until 48 hours after the last incident. Children who miss out on only a small amount of school find it difficult to catch up on the work missed and children who miss an average of 1 day per week miss out on half a term's worth of school over a year. Even 1 week a year adds up to nearly half a term of missed learning before they leave Junior School. We look forward to working with you to achieve our attendance target this year.

Parents Meetings

We will be holding several meetings for parents next term to help enable you to support your child at home in a number of subject areas. Please find dates below. If you are unable to attend then feel free to speak to your child's class teacher. Notes from the meeting will be placed on the website and you will be notified by e mail once they are on the website.

How to support with phonics – Thursday
21st January 9.05am

How we teach maths in school – Thursday
4th February 9.05am

How to support your child with reading at home – Wednesday 2nd March 9.05am

House Points

The children have been very enthusiastic about earning house points in the classes and around the school. Each week the House Captains have added up their house points and the winning House has received a certificate each week. The house with the most points over last half term was '**Finches**' Well done!

Wellies

Now that the weather is turning colder please could all Year 2 children have their wellies in school every day so that they can use the field at play time. Reception also continue to need their wellies in school every day.
Thanks.

Sharing Afternoons

In response to the parent questionnaire, from January we are opening the school to parents/carers on the last Thursday of the month from 2.45pm. This will enable you to spend some quality time with your child sharing reading and looking at your child's work either in their books in Year 1 and 2 or having the opportunity to look at Tapestry in Reception. Staff will be available to answer any questions you may have about supporting your child with reading in school and general questions about what your child is doing in class. Please note that this will not be an appropriate time to discuss individual questions about your child's progress, however teachers would be more than happy to speak to you about this after school.

Sharing afternoons will be on the following dates:

28th January
25th February
24th March
28th April
26th May
30th June

Holidays in term time.

As you are aware holidays in term time are now unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are:

- Armed forces personnel returning from a tour of duty
- Police or other service personnel whose leave has been cancelled during school holidays
- Family wedding/funeral.

If you are intending on taking your child out of school on a family holiday please write a letter to myself stating the dates you are requesting to take your child out of school and the reason for your request. Any child who misses 10 consecutive sessions (5 days) or has 10% unauthorised absence in a 6 week period (4 ½ days) will meet the criteria for legal intervention which could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Christmas Plays

Don't forget the children will be performing their Christmas plays on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December. These are ticket only performances. Please make sure you have completed and returned your ticket order by Wednesday 18th November. You will receive your tickets on Friday 20th November.

Year 2 visit to St Mary's Care home

On Friday 18th December the Year 2 children will be visiting St Mary's to perform some Christmas songs. They will walk there at around 9.30am and will return in time for lunch.

Library Van

The Norfolk Library van visits the school every other Wednesday from 3pm-3.30pm. It is free to join and the next visit is on Wednesday 25th November.

Coming into school

Well done to all the Year 1 and 2 children who are now coming into school by themselves. It would be great to see some of the Reception children beginning to come into school on their own now that they are settled into their classes and routines.

Parking

Please could I remind you not to park on the yellow lines around the school at drop off and pick up times and be considerate to our neighbours when finding somewhere to park. Please could I also ask that you also ensure that buses can drive both along Lilian Road and Ivy Road. Parents and carers should not be parking in either our car park or the Junior school car park and should not use either car park as a place to turn around. Parking around both our school and the Junior School is a focus of the local PSCO and Jan Moore will have a heightened presence over the coming weeks to address parking issues. I thank you for your help to keep our children safe.

Term Dates

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.