



# Information for Parents/Carers.

**January  
2017**

## **Spixworth Infant School**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I would like to thank again all parents, Friends and staff for their additional efforts in making all of our Christmas events so special for the children at the end of last term. I hope you all had a happy and healthy festive season and that the children have all managed to recharge their batteries ahead of this new term. The school topic for this half term is Space with the enquiry question 'Who was the bravest explorer: Neil Armstrong or Ranulph Fiennes?' We have lots of exciting experiences planned (see below) and look forward to working with you in 2017!

### **Staffing**

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Murphy gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Dylan, at the end of last term. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Murphy and her family all the very best for the coming months, and indeed years, and we look forward to a visit in the near future!

This term, to cover Mrs Murphy's maternity leave, we warmly welcome Miss Thompson to our teaching team. Having joined us from a larger, inner city school, Miss Thompson brings many skills and experiences to Spixworth. After meeting the children and many families at the end of last term, Miss Thompson has been looking forward to teaching in Oak Class. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Miss Thompson yet, she will be working Monday – Wednesdays and will be outside the classroom at the beginning and end of the day as usual. I am sure she will feel 'at home' at Spixworth in no time.

### **Planetarium Visit**

To enhance our Space topic, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January, Immersive-Theatres will be bringing one of their inflatable, projection domes to our school. Throughout the morning, each class will have the opportunity to experience space flight and explore our solar system and beyond from the safety of the school hall! If you would like to see what the planetariums look like, please visit [www.immersive-theatres.com](http://www.immersive-theatres.com) We are sure this experience will excite and inspire our children's learning. There will be no cost to families for this visit.

### **Bad weather**

In the event of heavy snowfall we may have to close the school for health and safety reasons. If bad weather does occur then local radio stations will be listing schools that are closed in alphabetical order. You will also be able to check the Norfolk County Council website. If we get snow after school has started we anticipate that the school will remain open as normal.

### **Mathseeds**

Our home/school links supporting English (through Pobble) and Computing (through Purple Mash) have been hugely popular with many of our children and are enabling families to get more involved with their children's learning in a fun and accessible way. After significant research and evaluation, we are now able to offer home access to Mathseeds – a fantastic app for practising and developing Maths skills at home. Miss Buller will be providing more information and your child's login details. If you have any questions or feedback, please see Miss Buller or myself.

### **Age inappropriate computer games and films**

It has come to our attention that several children appear to have an in depth knowledge of characters and events in computer games and films rated 12, 15 or 18. Some children have been role-playing events and talking about these games/films at play times which has led to rough play in some instances and other children becoming upset or worried. In line with our duty to safeguard children, if a child talks about playing or having access to such games and films then in addition to informing you we will have to refer the incident to Children's Services.

### **Parking**

Safe and considerate parking is always a priority around our school. We thank you for not parking on the yellow markings or in the Junior School or resident's car park opposite our school.

Can I also clarify that parking in our car park is for staff only at all times. This includes when picking up children at the end of their after school clubs. It is essential that emergency vehicles can have clear and direct access to the school at all times.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Governor's Decision on Younger Siblings Attending Cafes**

The Governors of Spixworth Infant School are always keen to hear your feedback and regularly review their decisions in light of this. Following a small number of requests for younger siblings, including babies, to be able to attend cafes the Governors have decided to maintain the current procedures in this case. The main reasons for this decision are: to ensure the school children and their learning remains the priority and to ensure the health and safety of younger siblings (resources used are not always suitable for younger children/tripping hazards for mother's carrying babies).

### **Growth Mindset**

I hope you have had the opportunity to look at the new Growth Mindset section of our website. The Growth Mindset working party will be meeting again on Thursday 26th January at 2pm. We will be talking about how we can develop our own growth mindsets to benefit those of our children. If you have ideas, suggestions or just a general interest, please join us.

### **Gymnastics**

All Year 2 children will participate in a cluster sporting event as part of their PE curriculum this year. The first event, Football, was hugely successful. The next event is Gymnastics and will take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. If your child has been allocated this event, you will shortly be receiving a permission letter. Please ensure this is returned promptly to allow us to finalise the event.

### **Curriculum Meetings**

This term we will be holding several curriculum meetings. Each meeting is suitable for parents/carers of children in all year groups. We aim to share how we teach children in these key areas across the year groups at Spixworth Infant School, our expectations (including National expectations where appropriate) and how you can support at home. There is always time for questions and we welcome your comments and feedback. Please join us if you can. Dates below.

### **Key Spring Term Dates**

School reopens Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Curriculum Meeting: Phonics for parents: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.05am

Curriculum Meeting: Maths for parents: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.05am

Curriculum Meeting: Reading for parents: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.05am

Sharing afternoons: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Coffee morning: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Class Assemblies: Oak: 27<sup>th</sup> Jan, Beech: 10<sup>th</sup> March; Maple: 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb; Horse Chestnut: 17<sup>th</sup> March

Cafes: Reception: 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and 16<sup>th</sup> March; Year 1: 25<sup>th</sup> Jan and 9<sup>th</sup> March; Year 2: 18<sup>th</sup> Jan and 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Parents Evenings: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.30 – 6pm and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 4 – 7pm

Half Term: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. School reopens Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Easter: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. School reopens Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.